CTD’s 2005 Legislative Report

**SB1**
budget bill

Funding for community services

- CTD testimonies
- letter writing
- direct visits with legislative offices
- lead organizer of Capitol Day of Advocacy
- ten presentations
- work shops
- press conferences

What This Means for You:

*Restoration of cuts to community services*

Preserved attendant care hours for current clients

Restoration of eyeglasses, hearing aids, mental health counseling for adults on Medicaid

Preserved In-Home and Family Support funding, very at risk.

Additional $54 M for demographic growth in community waivers.
CTD’s 2005 Legislative Report

**SB1**
budget bill

*Reduce community services waiting list by 10%*

CTD was a lead advocate

- Testimonies
- Letter writing
- Visits w/ legislative offices
- Capitol Day of Advocacy
- Presentations
- Work shops
- Press conferences

**What This Means for You:**

$300 M in total new funding to reduce the waiting lists

Partners: Advocacy Inc., ADAPT, TX Center for Disability Studies, AARP, other disability organizations
CTD’s 2005 Legislative Report

SB1 budget bill

Family-Based Alternatives

CTD was the lead advocate, going directly to the Governor

Program funded, moved into base budget

This program helps kids in institutions move to alternative family settings

Partner: TX Center for Disability Studies
CTD’s 2005 Legislative Report

**SB1**

budget bill

End wait lists for Comprehensive Rehab Services and Independent Living Services

$5.7 M in new funding to end the waiting list for CRS (intensive early rehab of traumatic brain and spinal cord injuries) and Independent living services.

Lead advocates: CTD & Brain Injury Assn. of TX

Partners: Advocacy Inc., SILC
CTD’s 2005 Legislative Report

**SB1**
budget bill

**Rider for pilot of money**
follows the person to move kids from institutions

CTD in strong support with testimony, legislative office visits

*Will allow 50 kids in ICFs/MR to move out and have their services funding transferred to community based services.*

Partners:
TX Center for Disability Studies, Advocacy Inc
SB1128

CTD originated & wrote bill;
was primary advocate

Author:
Hinojosa

NOT PASSED

This bill would have held the State of Texas accountable for violations of the ADA.

Opposition by Attorney General Abbott.

CTD rejected a compromise bill as inadequate.

CTD succeeded in publicizing this little-known issue and will continue to work on guaranteeing the right to be free from discrimination.
CTD’s 2005 Legislative Report

HB 2819
Authors: Rose/Madla

Electronic Accessibility

CTD originated and wrote bill and was primary advocate

PASSED

Will improve accessibility for people with disabilities by aligning Texas standards for state websites, telecommunications and information technology with the federal 508 standards.
CTD’s 2005 Legislative Report

HB 1771
Authors: Delisi/Nelson

Integrated Care Management

- CTD a lead advocate: testimonies negotiating bill language
- Direct visits with legislative offices
- Obtained legislative intent letter

Partners: ADAPT, AARP, Advocacy Inc., TCDS, TCDD

“The Battle of the Titans” on the expansion of Medicaid Managed Care to most urban areas. Advocates for aging and disability communities actively engaged both sides: Doctors and Hospitals v. the HMOs.

- Secured safeguards for consumer education and outreach.
- Worked with Sen. Zaffirini to record a statement of legislative intent in the Senate journal that managed care should end CBA wait lists.

Next Steps: CTD and disability organizations are monitoring this monumental change in service delivery. Particular interest: CBA services, relocation, consumer education and outreach.
CTD’s 2005 Legislative Report

SB187

Authors: Zaffirini/Rose

Protection of Comprehensive Rehab Services funding stream

Lead advocates: CTD & Brain Injury Assn. of TX

PASSED

Reversed a provision passed in 2003 that would have allowed the CRS (intensive early rehab of traumatic brain and spinal cord injuries) funding stream, based on traffic fines, to be diverted. The CRS funds are now much more secure.

Partner: Advocacy Inc.
**CTD’s 2005 Legislative Report**

**SB566**

Authors: Deuell/Delisi

**Medicaid Buy In**

CTD on design team, supporting advocate, testimony

**PASSED**

Important employment bill allows working people to retain Medicaid coverage despite exceeding income threshold.

Removes the huge disincentive to work for people with chronic illness and permanent disability.

$6M in budget to fund the program
CTD’s 2005 Legislative Report

HB1867

Authors:
Naishat
Zaffirini

Money
Follows
the Person

CTD supported with testimony, office visits

PASSED

Places into state law the expiring money follows the person riders for people moving from nursing facilities to community placements

Partners: Advocacy Inc., ADAPT, AARP, Center for Disability Studies, Natl. Multiple Sclerosis Society, DD Council
CTD’s 2005 Legislative Report

HB1706

CTD supported with testimony, office visits

Author: Denny

Voter ID Bill

NOT PASSED

Extra ID requirements and procedures would have made it more difficult to vote.

Partners: Advocacy Inc., AARP
CTD’s 2005 Legislative Report

HB 768

Author: Villarreal

Vote by Mail

CTD supported with testimony

NOT PASSED

Authorizing county clerk to mail an application to vote by mail to all voters with disabilities or 65+.

Would have made voting system more easily accessible for voters unable to vote at polls.

Partner: Advocacy Inc.
CTD’s 2005 Legislative Report

HB 1994
Author: Talton
Offense of Assisting Voters
Partner: Advocacy Inc

CTD strongly opposed with testimony

NOT PASSED
Relating to the offense of assisting multiple voters who cast a ballot by mail.
Would disproportionately affect voters with disabilities needing assistance.
CTD’s 2005 Legislative Report

HB1391

Author: Leibowitz

Accessible Floor Plans

NOT PASSED

This bill would have required that any large builder in the Veterans Housing Assistance program have at least one accessible floor plan available.

Next Steps: CTD & the TX Paralyzed Veterans will work in the interim with the state agency.

Partner: TX Paralyzed Veterans
SB1586
Author: Carona

CBA Wait List
Partners: ADAPT, TX Center for Disability Studies, Advocacy Inc., AARP

CTD in strong opposition.

NOT PASSED
This bill would have allowed residents of certain assisted living centers to move to the top of the CBA wait list ahead of those staying in their own homes.
CTD’s 2005 Legislative Report

HB481

CTD in support, testimony

Authors: Hochberg Zaffirini

PASSED

Unemployment Benefits

Allows a person with a disability to collect unemployment benefits based on past employment, while looking for part-time work.
CTD’s 2005 Legislative Report

SB626

Authors:
Zaffirini
Davis

Eliminate Cost Caps

Passed

Allows a person with high needs to remain in the community even if more costly than an institutional placement.

Partners: ADAPT, Advocacy Inc., TX Center for Disability Studies
HB 315

Author: Olivo

State School Admissions

Opposed by CTD by testimony, legislative office visits

NOT PASSED

This bill would have promoted the institutional bias by easing admission standards and requiring that only state school information be provided to families.
CTD’s 2005 Legislative Report

**SB40**
Authors: Zaffirini/Dukes
Permanency Planning
Partners: Advocacy Inc., TCDS

**CTD in support**
PASSED
Allows for independent planners to work with kids “aging out” of children’s programs

**HB2579**
Authors: Rodriguez/Zaffirini
Parental Involvement
Partners: Advocacy Inc., TX Center for Disability Studies

**PASSED**
Strengthens parental involvement of minor children in institutions.
CTD’s 2005 Legislative Report

SB325
Authors: Zaffirini/Naishtat

Illegal Restraints
Partners: Advocacy Inc., TCDS, ADAPT

CTD in support, testimony

PASSED
Prohibits asphyxiating choke holds and face-down physical restraints for people in institutions.
316 W. 12th St. #405
Austin, TX 78701
512.478.3366

For more information or to join CTD:
www.cotwd.org