

2005 Legislative Report

79th Session

www.cotwd.org

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%

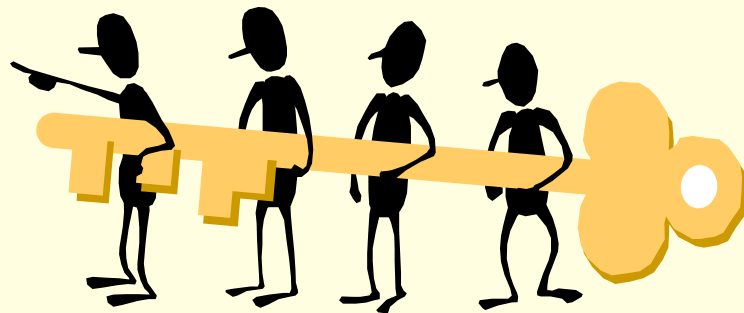
What This Means for You:

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

CTD was a lead advocate

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

Partners: Advocacy Inc., ADAPT, TX Center for Disability Studies, AARP, other disability organizations



CTD's 2005 Legislative Report

SB1

budget bill

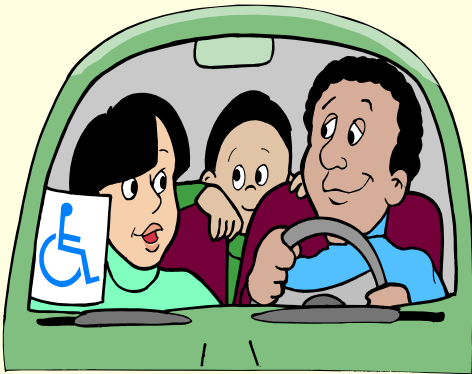
**CTD was the lead advocate,
going directly to the Governor**

***Family-Based
Alternatives***

***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

Lead advocates:

CTD & Brain Injury Assn. of TX

***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.***

Partners: Advocacy Inc., SILC

CTD's 2005 Legislative Report

SB1

budget bill

**CTD in strong support with testimony,
legislative office visits**

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

*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



CTD's 2005 Legislative Report

SB1128

CTD originated & wrote bill;
was primary advocate

Author:
Hinojosa

NOT PASSED

ADA Rights

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.

Partner: AARP

CTD's 2005 Legislative Report

HB 2819

CTD originated and wrote bill and
was primary advocate

Authors:

Rose/Madla

PASSED

**Electronic
Accessibility**

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

“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 a lead advocate: testimonies negotiating bill language*

- *Direct visits with legislative offices*

- *Obtained legislative intent letter*

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

CTD' s 2005 Legislative Report

SB187

Lead advocates:

CTD & Brain Injury Assn. of TX

Authors:

Zaffirini/Rose

**Protection of
Comprehensive
Rehab Services
funding stream**

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

CTD on design team,
supporting advocate, testimony

Authors:

Deuell/Delisi

PASSED

**Medicaid
Buy In**

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.

Partners: Advocacy
Inc., ADAPT, AARP,
Center for Disability
Studies, Natl.
Multiple Sclerosis
Society, DD Council

\$6M in budget to fund the program

CTD's 2005 Legislative Report

HB1867

CTD supported with testimony, office visits

Authors:
Naishtat
Zaffirini

PASSED

**Money
Follows
the Person**

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

NOT PASSED

**Voter ID
Bill**

***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 would made voting system more easily accessible for voters unable to vote at polls.

Partner: Advocacy Inc.

CTD's 2005 Legislative Report

HB 1994

CTD strongly opposed with testimony

Author:

Talton

NOT PASSED

Offense of Assisting Voters

Relating to the offense of assisting multiple voters who cast a ballot by mail.

Would disproportionately affect voters with disabilities needing assistance.

Partner:

Advocacy Inc



CTD's 2005 Legislative Report

HB1391

NOT PASSED

Author:
Leibowitz

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

**Accessible
Floor Plans**

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

Partner:

TX Paralyzed Veterans



CTD's 2005 Legislative Report

SB1586

CTD in strong opposition.

Author:
Carona

NOT PASSED

CBA

Wait List

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

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

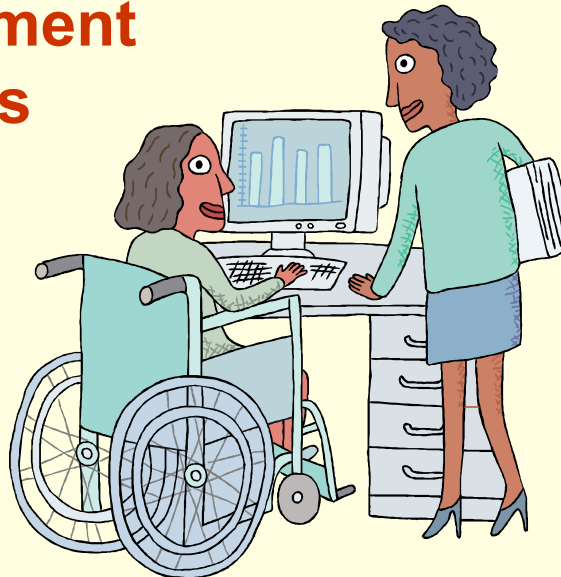
CTD in support, testimony

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

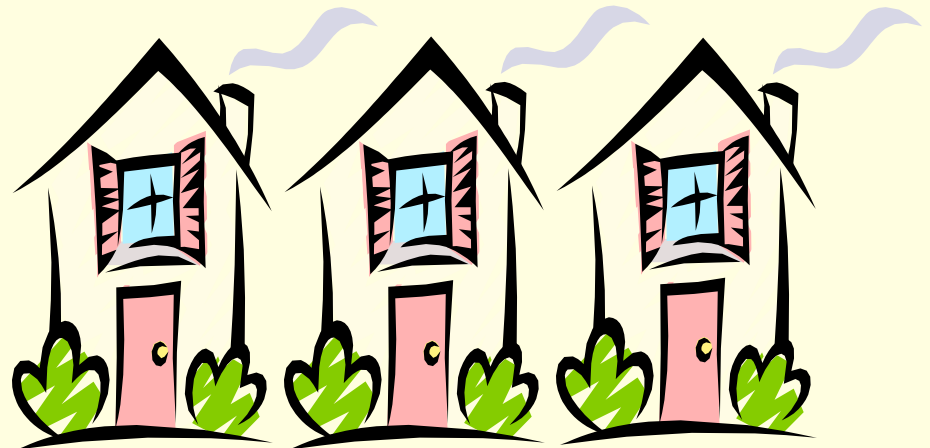
Authors:
Zaffirini
Davis

Eliminate Cost Caps

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

PASSED

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



CTD' s 2005 Legislative Report

HB 315

Opposed by CTD by testimony,
legislative office visits

Author:
Olivo

NOT PASSED

**State
School
Admissions**

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

Partners: ARC of Texas,
ADAPT, Advocacy Inc.,
TX Ctr for Disability Studies

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

CTD in support, testimony

Authors:

Zaffirini/Naishtat

Illegal

PASSED

Restraints

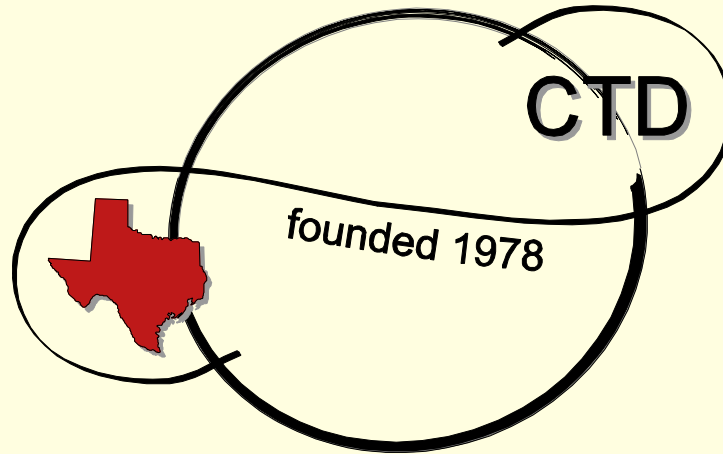
Prohibits asphyxiating choke holds and face-down physical restraints for people in institutions.

Partners:

Advocacy Inc.,

TCDS, ADAPT

316 W. 12th St. #405
Austin, TX 78701
512.478.3366



For more information or to join CTD:

www.cotwd.org