

THE ASSEMBLY

Washington Assembly for Citizens with Disabilities
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Assembly Legislative Accomplishments 1983 1984 1985 1986 1987 1988

Special Education

Preschool Mandate (1984): Mandates availability of preschool programs for three and four year old children with disabilities.

Transition Resolution (1987): Requires SPI-DDD-DVRR-DDPC to develop a plan to create an effective state-wide transition system for special education students leaving the public schools and to gather data on competitive, supported or sheltered employment for these students.

Learning Assistance Program (1987): Formally called 'remedial assistance' and only mandated for grades two through six, the LAP program will now serve students in Kindergarten through the ninth grade. This program expansion was the result of a three year Assembly effort.

Special Education Funding Format (1983): Eliminates block grant funding.

Retention of Special Education Office (1985): Maintains a 'special education office' within the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction.

Early Intervention Program for Children with Deafness (1987): Retained state funding for early intervention program for children with deafness at the University of Washington Experimental Education Unit.

Catherization for Students in School (1988): Establishes a procedure involving the cooperation of the family, physician, school nurse and public school employee in performing intermittent clean catheterization for students with such needs during the school day.

CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

FAMILY SUPPORT - HOME AID FUNDING (1987): Strengthens and expands program support and access by increasing the Division of Developmental Disabilities Home Aid Budget by \$500,000.

Prevention of Parent Pay (1987): Referred to as 'financial responsibility', The Assembly successfully defeated a legislative attempt to charge families with children having a developmental disability for basic family support and out-of-home services. The Assembly will be pursuing additional legislation exempting parents from having to pay for basic services related to caring for all chronically disabled children.

Foster Care Revisions (1983): Eliminates need for parents to declare their "incompetency" when seeking placement of their disabled child into foster care.

Insurance Rights Conversion (1983): Allows parents to continue health insurance when their 'dependent child' with disabilities turns age 18.

PKU Insurance (1988): Requires special food formulas necessary for the treatment of children with phenylketonuria to be a mandated benefit as part of insurance contracts.

Prenatal Testing Labs (1988): Creates an advisory committee to establish standards for performing the maternal serum alpha feto protein screening test to insure accuracy of its use thereby insuring appropriate medical intervention to eliminate or ameliorate the possibility of children being born with certain disabilities.

ADULT SERVICES

Employment Program Funding for Unserved Adults with Developmental Disabilities (1987): \$647,000 was secured for 52 unserved DDD eligible adults for employment training and placement support.

Employment Program Stabilization (1987): The Assembly supported the leading work done by Rehabilitation Enterprises of Washington (REW), a member group on the board of directors of The Assembly, in obtaining \$2.5 million for employment program stabilization.

Employment and Economic Participation: The Assembly supported the leading work done by the Governor's Committee on Disability and Employment Issues, a member group on the board of directors of The Assembly, in passage of the following legislation designed to reduce and eliminate disincentives to employment:

SSB 5326 directs Employment Security to establish an information clearinghouse and establish an interagency task force to promote greater employment

SSB 5329 directs DSHS to conduct a study of state policies and public benefits programs to determine disincentives to work for persons of disability.

SB 5327 requires Employment Security to provide ongoing reports on its accomplishments in serving persons with disabilities and creating opportunities.

SB 5331 directs Employment Security to collect data and report on employment of persons of disability by December 1, 1987, for the Commerce/ Labor and Ways & Means Committees.

SSB 5330 creates disability accommodation revolving fund for state agencies to accommodate unanticipated job site or equipment needs of persons of disability.

ADULT SERVICES . . . CONTINUED

Dental Services (1984 - 1987):

Title 19 Medicaid Funded Dental Services (1987): The Assembly worked closely with the Fair Budget Action Coalition to secure \$13 million in state matching fundings to restore this program (discontinued in 1981) serving persons with disabilities and/or low income persons eligible for medicaid.

DECOD FUNDING (1985-1986, 1987-1988): Over \$500,000 was obtained for four years to match and later replace federal funds for the University of Washington specialized professional dental training program.

Dental Services for DDD Clients (1984): Unanticipated Title 19 funds were added to the DDD Home Aid budget for dental services.

Residential Staff Salary Increases (1984, 1986): Increases over \$1.00 an hour were obtained for staff working in residential programs with persons with developmental disabilities.

Self Medications (1985): Allows people with mental or physical disabilities who can self-medicate with training to live in community settings other than nursing homes.

Community Residential Placement (1986): Funding was secured that allowed 42 individuals to move from Rainier School into community programs and for 16 persons living at home to move into a needed residential placement.

Sexual Offenses Against Persons with Developmental Disabilities (1988): Amends existing state statutes regarding sexual offenses making a person guilty of rape in the second degree or guilty of indecent liberties (Class B Felony) when the victim is developmentally disabled and the perpetrator is not married to the victim and has supervisory authority over the victim.

Residential Services (1988): Worked with the L'Arche community in Spokane to become a DDD funded program (\$116,000) and parents in Pierce County attempting to establish a program for persons with autism (\$100,000).

GENERAL

Habilitation Rights (1983): States that it is the intent of the legislature that all persons with developmental disabilities have a right to rehabilitative services in the least restrictive setting regardless of age, degree of disability or place of residence.

Malicious Harrassment (1984): Amends state discrimination law making verbal or physical harrassment of persons with physical, mental or sensory disabilities a criminal offence (Class C Felony).

Qualified Interpreters (1985): Insures that persons who are deaf or hard of hearing have appropriately certified interpreters when involved with the criminal justice system and administrative procedures.

Telecommunications Support (1987): Provides adaptive telecommunications devices at public expense for persons who are deaf or hard of hearing through a telephone user fee. The Assembly worked closely with representatives of the deaf community in passage of this bill.

Developmental Disabilities Definition (1983): Includes in the state definition of developmental disabilities "persons with neurological conditions" who need services similar to those of persons with mental retardation.

Public Records Disclosure Protections (1985): Provides protection for client privacy when DSHS client records are used for research purposes.

Occupational Therapy Act Revisions (1985): Establishes scope of practice for occupational therapists without prohibiting similar work being done by other professionals and staff. The Assembly worked closely with REW on this bill.

Program Options (1983, 1986 & 1987): Establishes procedures for DDD clients who have a service and their families to design alternative less restrictive programs and to have program funding follow the client in implementing the alternative. Law was modified in 1986 limiting rights, notification and implementation. 1986 & 1987/88 budget gives DDD transfer authority when doing program options.

Disability Revised References (1988): Places on the November ballot a resolution that would change the terminology in Article VI, section 3 and Article XIII, section 1 of our state constitution replacing terms such as "idiots," "insane," "defective," or "imbecile" with such appropriate terms as "mentally incompetent," "mentally ill," "developmentally disabled."

Developmental Disabilities Statute Revisions (1988): Creates a new title in the Washington State Code unifying and updating the statutory authority for state programs, policies, and services provided to persons with developmental disabilities by the Department of Social and Health Services. This new title provides a uniform system of disability services, describing clients and services they are to receive, clarifying the authority of the Department to provide certain services, and specifying the services clients are eligible to receive.