

History of Disability Legislation (Laws)

Following is a list of federal laws developed through the efforts of the self-advocacy and the civil rights movement.

1973 Section 501 of the Rehabilitation Act

This law does not allow discrimination in employment by federal agencies of the executive branch.

1973 Section 503 of the Rehabilitation Act

This law does not allow discrimination in employment for any agency receiving federal money with contracts over \$10,000.

1975 Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)

This law was brought out by parents who believed that their children with disabilities should have the same rights as non-disabled children to receive the same education in the least restrictive way for the child's needs. Schools have to develop individual educational plans for each child.

1984 Voting Accessibility for the Elderly and Handicapped Act

This law requires that voting places must be physically accessible to people with disabilities.

1986 Architectural Barriers Act

This law required all public buildings with federal dollars to become fully accessible to people with disabilities. Public buildings or buildings leased by a federal agency have to become accessible.

1986 Air Carrier Access Act

This law does not allow discrimination for physically or mentally disabled individuals who want to travel on airplanes.

1988 Fair Housing Amendments Act

This law does not allow discrimination in housing based on a persons disability. This includes private housing, housing that gets federal financial assistance, and state and local government housing.

1990 The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)

This law provides us with the same civil rights as all citizens in this country. It has four parts to it:

ADA does not allow discrimination on the basis of having a disability in 1. Employment, 2. Public accommodations and commercial facilities, 3. Public transportation and 4. Telecommunications. It also applies to the United States Congress.

1997 Civil Rights of Institutionalized Persons Act

This law gave the US Attorney General the ability to investigate conditions where people with disabilities are institutionalized, such as public operated nursing homes and other institutional settings for people with disabilities. The Attorney General is responsible for investigating and making sure that unsafe and unhealthy conditions are corrected.

2002 Help American Vote Act (HAVA)

This law requires at least one accessible voting system (machine) to be available for people with disabilities so that they are able to vote independently.