

# DISABILITY RIGHTS

The Texas Democratic Party believes in the right of every Texan to lead a productive life, enjoy liberty, and to pursue happiness. Texas Democrats want all Texans with disabilities, including veterans, to have a sustainable quality of life in the least restrictive environment possible and to have accessible community settings that are functional to their everyday life. This is not only a basic civil right, but is also part of the economic vitality and interest of Texas. No person should face discrimination based on disability status.

Texas Democrats support the following to impact this sector of our population and enact necessary change to promote social justice for all disabled persons:

- the preservation and enforcement of all state and federal disability rights laws, particularly the landmark Americans with Disabilities Act;
- access to Medicaid in Texas to cover an estimated 1.8 million disabled Texans, and helping Medicaid to support home and community-based services to keep people in their communities functioning in their natural environment. Essential to maintaining independence is the availability of caregivers who are paid a \$15/hr minimum wage;
- promoting and educating all Texans about early diagnosis of diverse disabilities and access to adequate treatment and adequate home care support for children, veterans, and other disabled Texans;
- ensuring that students with disabilities receive an appropriate early childhood, secondary, and postsecondary education in the least restrictive environments, including access to the full range of services and supports called for in their individual education plans at all learning institutions;
- promoting and broadening financial aid or loan assistance for accessible housing, vehicles, durable medical equipment, and technology which would give much-needed assistance for individuals to pay for improvements to their life functionality;
- opposing the harsh cuts to Medicaid that are leading to no or significantly less health care for millions of Texans with disabilities, workers with disabilities, and families raising children with autism, Down Syndrome, and other serious disabilities;
- the Help America Vote Act and removing the obstacles and onerous burden placed on Texans with disabilities to obtain a valid Texas I.D. card;
- the Convention on the Right of Persons with Disabilities, its expansion and ongoing mission to deliver quality support to all disabled Texans; and
- full extension of benefits to veterans and families of veterans who sustain partial or permanent disabilities, including post injury and Post Traumatic Stress Disorder individual and family counseling, cost of living monthly allowances, childcare assistance, tuition assistance for dependent children, and assistance in job training or referral for the spouse of the veteran.