

Document 0694

[20694002]

Perhaps even more offensive is the statement, "It is surprising that George Bush and the White House inner circle would ally themselves with this crabby philosophy."

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Quite the contrary -- it results from years of work by members of the National Council on the Handicapped, all appointed by President Reagan.

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The opposite is true: It's the product of many meetings with administration officials, Senate staffers, advocates, and business and transportation officials.

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Many congressmen are citing the compromise on the "Americans With Disabilities Act of 1989" as a model for bipartisan deliberations.

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Most National Council members are themselves disabled or are parents of children with disabilities.

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We know firsthand the discrimination addressed by the act: to be told there's no place for your child in school; to spend lonely hours at home because there is no transportation for someone in a wheelchair; to be denied employment because you are disabled.

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Your editorial mockingly entitles this legislation the "Lawyers' Employment Act."

[20694011]

For the 43 million people with disabilities and their families, this legislation is the "Emancipation Proclamation."

[20694012]

Sandra Swift Parrino

[20694013]

Chairperson

[20694014]

National Council on the Handicapped