



Advocating for  
disability civil rights  
since 1979

DISABILITY RIGHTS EDUCATION & DEFENSE FUND



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Disability Rights

## Health: Access to Care

It is widely recognized that the healthcare system in the United States is failing. No group is more affected by this failure than individuals with disabilities. For us, problems cut across every aspect of healthcare including:

- Lack of healthcare coverage
- Inadequate coverage
- Limits on benefits
- Architectural barriers in the facilities of healthcare providers
- Lack of accommodation and modification of policies and practices in healthcare settings such as:
  - lifting assistance
  - appointment flex-time
  - accessible examination tables, weight scales and diagnostic equipment
  - materials in accessible formats for blind or visually impaired patients
  - sign language interpreters for those who are Deaf or hard of hearing
- Lack of professional training to ensure culturally competent care
- Poor implementation of the 1990 Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)
- Restrictions on availability of assistive technology
- Exclusion from prevention programs
- Poor care and accommodations at school for children with diabetes and other chronic illnesses

Unequal treatment diminishes the opportunity of people with disabilities for longer, productive lives and can compromise the quality of those lives.

We are working to improve access to healthcare services and programs for people with disabilities by creating informational and training materials for advocates, parents and attorneys; creating assessment tools for health plans; drafting state and federal legislation; participating in the California Disability Health Coalition (DHC); and providing legal representation for children who require health services in school.