

VOR Weekly E-Mail Update
March 6, 2009

=====

ALERT: NEW FRANK BILL INTRODUCED!!!

March 6, 2009

Dear VOR Members and Choice Advocates:

Great news!

On March 3, 2009, Rep. Barney Frank introduced H.R. 1255, "to protect the interests of each resident of intermediate care facilities for the mentally retarded [ICFs/MR] in class action lawsuits on behalf of such resident."

We need your help enlisting **COSPONSORS**.

H.R. 1255 is identical to Rep. Frank's residents and family rights bill last session (H.R. 3995). H.R. 1255 supports the common sense principle that residents of ICFs/MR and their legal guardians (usually family members) should be the ones to decide whether a class action lawsuit proceeds on their behalf, not federally-funded attorneys.

H.R. 1255 already has 15 cosponsors (see below)! We need to maintain our **MOMENTUM** and quickly line up as many H.R. 1255 cosponsors as possible.

Below you will find template phone and email/fax messages, and a link to Congressional contact information. A copy of the bill is attached and can also be found at <http://thomas.loc.gov> (just choose "bill number" and type in H.R. 1255).

VISITS: When making contact with your Congressman/woman, also request a meeting in his/her District office. Members of Congress will be working in their District offices April 6 - 17, 2009.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH for all your efforts. Please let me know if you have any questions and/or if I can be of assistance in any way.

Sincerely,

Tamie Hopp
VOR
605-399-1624

CONGRESSIONAL CONTACT INFORMATION

<http://www.congress.org>

(type your zip code in the search box at the top of the screen OR click on "Congressional Directory" at the very bottom of the home page)

U.S. Capitol Switchboard: 202-224-3121

TEMPLATE PHONE MESSAGE

ASK FOR THE HEALTH LA:

I am calling to let you know that on Tuesday, March 3, Rep. Barney Frank introduced H.R. 1255, which aims to protect the interests of each resident of intermediate care facilities for the mentally retarded (ICFs/MR) in federally funded class action lawsuits by providing notice and opt out rights before a lawsuit is filed.

H.R. 1255 supports the common sense principle that residents of ICFs/MR and their legal guardians (usually family members) should be the ones to decide whether a class action lawsuit proceeds on their behalf, not federally-funded attorneys.

I would be honored if Rep. _____ would join COSPONSOR H.R. 1255. Contact Pilar Falo, Legislative Counsel to Rep. Frank, at 5-5931 to COSPONSOR H.R. 1255.

I would also like to request a meeting in the District. I understand my Congressman will be working in the District April 6 - 17.

TEMPLATE EMAIL/FAX MESSAGE

March 5, 2009

The Honorable
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Attn: *HEALTH LA*

Dear Rep. _____

I am excited to report that earlier this week Rep. Barney Frank introduced H.R. 1255 his resident and family rights bill. H.R. 1255 aims "to protect the interests of each resident of intermediate care facilities for the mentally retarded [ICFs/MR] in class action lawsuits on behalf of such resident."

Last session 42 cosponsors recognized the importance of this common sense legislation that supports the principle that residents of ICFs/MR and their legal guardians (usually family members) should be the ones to decide whether a class action lawsuit proceeds on their behalf, not federally-funded attorneys.

ICF/MR residents are among the neediest, most fragile and most disabled members of our society. According to a 2007 University of Minnesota study, nearly 80% of the nation's ICF/MR residents experience severe or profound mental retardation, functioning at an infant or toddler level into adulthood; they also endure multiple disabilities, chronic medical conditions and/or behavioral challenges, or a combination of these conditions. They rely on close relatives to make important decisions on their behalf and in their best interest.

Please act now and join a growing list of cosponsors of H.R. 1255. Please contact Pilar Falo, Legislative Counsel for Rep. Barney Frank, at 5-5931 with your support. If you would like to discuss this request in person, I would be honored to meet with you in your District office, April 6 - 17.

Respectfully,

Name
FULL CONTACT INFORMATION

H.R. 1255 COSPONSORS SO FAR

H.R. 1255 already has 15 cosponsors!

Moran (D-VA)*
Paul (R-TX)*
Cohen (D-TN)*
Lungren (R-CA)*
Poe (R-TX)*
Goodlatte (R-VA)*
Dreier (R-CA)*
Wasserman Schultz (D-FL)*
Kanjorski (D-PA)*
Culberson (R-TX)
Olver (D-MA)
Gutierrez (D-IL)
Capuano (D-MA)
Wolf (R-VA)
McGovern (D-MA)

[* = Original Cosponsors: These Members of Congress joined Rep. Frank as cosponsors upon introduction of H.R. 1255 on March 3].

=====
THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR YOUR HELP.

NUMBERS COUNT

HELP MAINTAIN THE MOMENTUM

CALL TODAY!!