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VOR Weekly E-Mail Update
October 30, 2009

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State Advocacy Worth Copying

1. Mayson H. Foster, Mayor for the City of Hammond, Louisiana issues a Proclamation Supporting Developmental Disability Awareness Month (2009), Supports Choice.

2. Correction: H.R. 1255 cosponsors

VOR Membership and Contribution Form
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1. Mayson H. Foster, Mayor for the City of Hammond, Louisiana issues a Proclamation Supporting Developmental Disability Awareness Month (2009), Supports Choice.

Mayor Foster of Hammond, Louisiana recently issued this proclamation supporting the rights of all people with disabilities; including support for Louisiana's Supports and Services Centers (state operated ICFs/MR). **Would the Mayor of your town consider a similar proclamation?**

CITY OF HAMMOND

A PROCLAMATION
DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES AWARENESS MONTH, 2009

WHEREAS, Fair access is a fundamental right of every American, including 54 million people in this country living with disabilities, and

WHEREAS, In the past half-century, we have made great strides toward providing equal opportunities for those with disabilities in America, but much work remains to be done, and

WHEREAS, In recognizing the need for greater opportunities for persons with disabilities, we must also strengthen and expand the educational opportunities for all individuals, and

WHEREAS, Each day, Americans with disability play a critical role in forging and shaping the identity of our Nation. Their contributions touch us all through personal experience or through that of a family member, neighbor, friend, or colleague. We grow stronger as a Nation when Americans feel the dignity conferred by having the ability to support themselves and their families through productive professional resources and expertise to their residents, individuals in the surrounding communities, and their families with dignity and respect;

WHEREAS, The Louisiana Supports and Services Centers are critical partners with other programs serving citizens with developmental disabilities, providing professional resources and expertise to their residents, individuals in surrounding communities, and their families with dignity and respect;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Mayson H. Foster, Mayor of the City of Hammond, do hereby proclaim October 2009, as Developmental Disability Awareness Month, and I call on all citizens of the Hammond area to celebrate the contributions of individuals with individuals with disabilities to create a better, more inclusive community, one in which every person is rightly recognized for his or her abilities and accomplishments.

2. Correction: H.R. 1255 cosponsors

Last week the list 71 cosponsors of H.R. 1255 was circulated. This list incorrectly indicated that cosponsor Rep. Paul Kanjorski was from Michigan. He is, in fact, a Democrat from Pennsylvania.

An updated cosponsor list is attached.

Thanks to all who have worked so hard to enlist H.R. 1255 cosponsors. Keep up the great work!

Editor: Tamie Hopp, VOR Director of Government Relations & Advocacy

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

TO JOIN OR CONTRIBUTE: \$25 per individual, \$150 per family organization, or \$200 per provider/professional organization. Extra donations are welcome!

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