

BOB DOLE
KANSAS

United States Senate

OFFICE OF THE REPUBLICAN LEADER
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

March 20, 1991

Senator Ernest F. Hollings
Chairman
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, State and Judiciary
Committee on Appropriations
S-146 U.S. Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Fritz:

Last year, Congress demonstrated its commitment to ensuring equality of opportunity for citizens with disabilities. With the support of President Bush, Congress passed the Americans with Disabilities Act (P.L. 101-336), an historic civil rights law that prevents discrimination against people with disabilities in employment, public accommodations and services, transportation and telecommunications. This landmark law is intended to establish an inclusive society where all individuals -- regardless of disability -- have the opportunity to participate in the mainstream of American life.

During Congressional consideration of ADA, I successfully offered a technical assistance amendment to design a government-wide technical assistance program. This program disseminates information to educate people with disabilities about their rights and the business community about their obligations under ADA. Many private sector entities desperately need information that answer their questions regarding compliance with the new law. For example, technical assistance is instrumental in assisting small businesses make necessary, cost-effective accommodations to achieve ADA's intent.

Therefore, I respectfully request that the inclusion of 6.2 million for ADA technical assistance in the Senate Supplemental Appropriations bill remain in the final conference report. This appropriation will enable both the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) and the Department of Justice to effectively implement the technical assistance program required under ADA.

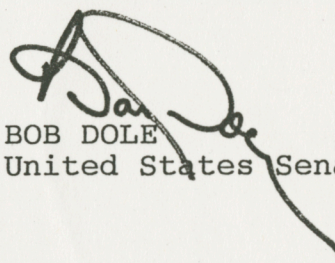
As you are aware, both agencies recently published their proposed regulations in the Federal Register. The expedient submission of regulations is very impressive and moves the nation closer to fulfilling the promise of a strong civil rights mandate for people with disabilities. A comprehensive technical assistance program, however, is still necessary to ensure

implementation of ADA's regulations. I am confident that the requested appropriation of 6.2 million will go a long way towards helping small businesses and people with disabilities plan and implement ADA.

For your information, I have enclosed a copy of the amendment language as well as the appropriation language included in the Senate Supplemental bill. Thank you in advance for your consideration of my request.

With warmest personal regards.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bob Dole", written over the typed name and title.

BOB DOLE
United States Senate

BD/mw