

## President Obama Releases Agenda for Disability Concerns

On January 20<sup>th</sup>, President Obama released his Administration's agenda for ensuring equal rights for Americans with disabilities. The President's plan addresses the following key issues:

- Education: Expand funding for IDEA, early intervention for children with disabilities and universal screening. Authorizes “a comprehensive study of students with disabilities and issues relating to transition to work and higher education.”
- Healthcare: Restore and enforce the ADA, fund the Genetic <http://thomas.loc.gov/cgi-bin/bdquery/z?d110:H.R.493>: Information Nondiscrimination Act of 2007, improve mental health care, and provide “affordable, accessible health care for all.”
- Employment: Enact new laws “that require the federal government and its contractors to employ people with disabilities,” offer accommodations to private-sector employees to hire people with disabilities, and encourage “employers to use existing tax benefits to hire more workers with disabilities.”
- Residences: Enforce the Community <http://thomas.loc.gov/cgi-bin/bdquery/z?d110:s.799>:> Choice Act of 2007, streamline the Social Security approval process, and create a “national insurance program to help adults who have or develop functional disabilities to remain independent and in their communities.”

The Administration specifically addresses autism in its disability platform:

- Boost funding for autism research, treatment, screenings, public awareness and support services.
- Improve lifelong autism treatments, interventions and services.
- Enforce universal screening of all infants and rescreening for all 2-year-olds.

For more information, click <http://www.whitehouse.gov/agenda/disabilities/>