

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-1502

COMMITTEES:
AGRICULTURE
APPROPRIATIONS
HEALTH, EDUCATION,
LABOR, AND PENSIONS
SMALL BUSINESS

September 8, 2011

Dear Friends:

I send my best wishes to the extended Fay family and friends as you gather to honor and remember the life and legacy of Dr. Fred Fay.

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. said, "Life's most urgent and persistent question is: What are you doing for others?" During his rich and memorable lifetime, Fred answered that question in powerful ways – as a dedicated organizer, a tireless advocate, a sophisticated strategist, and a fighter for the civil rights of people with disabilities.

Examples of his accomplishment are too numerous to mention, but here are a few.

Fred was part of a small group of dedicated activists who formed the Disability Rights Movement and helped drive this nation towards equal rights.

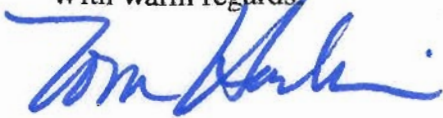
Fred's advocacy was instrumental in winning passage of Sections 503 and 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, the Architectural Barriers Act, the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, and the Americans with Disabilities Act – groundbreaking federal laws that ensure equal access and equal opportunities for people with disabilities.

Fred was a pioneer in advocacy by individuals with disabilities, founding or co-founding the Boston Center for Independent Living, the Massachusetts Coalition of Citizens with Disabilities, and the American Coalition of Citizens with Disabilities.

Fred is probably most widely known for launching the Justice For All forum (along with Justin Dart) which has connected the disability community and kept advocates apprised of developments in disability-related issues, laws and policies, since its inception in the mid-'90s.

Fred was an inspiring figure and his influence on disability policy will live on for future generations. Fred's work has helped transform our nation – making it more accessible, raising the expectations of people with disabilities about what they can hope to achieve at work and in life, and inspiring the world to view disability issues through the lens of equality and opportunity. As his friends and family, we can be truly proud of what he accomplished.

With warm regards,



Tom Harkin
United States Senator