



**CONSORTIUM FOR CITIZENS
WITH DISABILITIES**

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**CONSORTIUM FOR CITIZENS WITH DISABILITIES AND
MEMBERS OF CONGRESS CELEBRATE THE
15TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT**

(Washington, DC) – The Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities and the U.S. House of Representatives Bipartisan Disabilities Caucus welcomed Matthew Whaley, an 8-year-old Kansas boy with cerebral palsy, to Capitol Hill today to remind Members of Congress that the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA) provides critical protection for our nation's citizens with disabilities.

"Matthew Whaley is brave young man," said Curt Decker, Chair of the Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities. "Matthew is a prime example that the Americans with Disabilities Act works."

Whaley successfully filed suit against the Scott City Recreation Commission, after it denied his application to play little league baseball because of his disability. The Commission said his participation would alter the game, even though Matthew asked for no rule changes or accommodations.

Matthew was joined by Congressman James Langevin (D-RI), Former Congressman Tony Coelho (D-CA) and Bobby Silverstein, Director of the Center for the Study and Advancement of Disability Policy (CSADP) and former Chief Counsel to the U.S. Senate Subcommittee on Disability Policy during passage of the ADA.

Former Congressman Tony Coelho, who helped author the landmark civil rights law, praised the ADA and urged Members and activists to do more to affirm the legislation's original intent to advance the full citizenship of Americans with disabilities.

"Too many people with disabilities are still not employed, even when they choose to work because businesses still fail to employ them. Too many children are still turned away from daycare centers or preschools because the facilities and curriculum are not accessible, and even some of our places of worship are struggling to accommodate their congregants with disabilities," said Coelho.

The Americans with Disabilities Act, the world's first comprehensive civil rights law for people with disabilities, was passed with broad bipartisan support and signed into law by President George H.W. Bush on July 26, 1990. The legislation prohibits discrimination against people with disabilities in employment, public services, public accommodations and telecommunications. For more information on the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, visit www.c-c-d.org.

About the Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities

The Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities is a coalition of over 100 national consumer, provider and advocacy organizations working together to advocate for national public policy that ensures the self determination, independence, empowerment, integration, and inclusion of the 54 million children and adults with disabilities living in the United States. For more information, visit www.c-c-d.org.

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