


**EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT**

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 44

WHEREAS, the rights of persons with developmental disabilities are often denied, abridged or imperiled; and persons with developmental disabilities have a right to appropriate treatment, services and habilitation so that their basic human rights are meaningful; and

WHEREAS, "the Developmentally Disabled Assistance and Bill of Rights Act" (P.L. 94-103) was enacted to promote the development of statewide systems to protect and advocate the rights of persons with developmental disabilities; and

WHEREAS, there is presently no agency or organization in Wisconsin which meets the requirements of the federal law in providing protection and advocacy functions for the developmentally disabled and (1) has the authority to pursue administrative, legal and other appropriate remedies to ensure the protection of the legal and human rights of persons who are developmentally disabled and (2) is independent of any state agency which provides treatment, services or habilitation to persons with developmental disabilities.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, MARTIN J. SCHREIBER, Acting Governor of the State of Wisconsin, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and Statutes of this state, do hereby order and direct:

1. That the Wisconsin Coalition for Advocacy is designated under P.L. 94-103 as the Wisconsin Protection and Advocacy Agency for the developmentally disabled with the primary purpose of assuring that adequate services for the promotion, protection and advocacy of the legal and human rights and interests of developmentally disabled persons are accessible throughout the state, and that said Coalition be chartered as a private, non-profit corporation so that it is independent of any state agency which provides treatment, services or habilitation to persons with developmental disabilities, and

2. That said Coalition shall be governed by a board of directors whose initial members shall be appointed by the Governor, and whose subsequent members shall be selected by the Board, and

3. That said Coalition is endowed with the authority to pursue the full range of administrative, legal and other appropriate remedies to ensure the protection of the rights of persons with developmental disabilities throughout Wisconsin, and



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4. That said Coalition may conduct investigations of alleged abuses not only with respect to persons receiving treatment, services or habilitation within the state, but also with respect to those persons outside the service delivery system on whose behalf intervention has been requested.



IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Wisconsin to be affixed. Done at the Capitol in the City of Madison this 1st day of August in the year of Our Lord one thousand nine hundred and seventy-seven.

Martin J. Schreiber
MARTIN J. SCHREIBER
Acting Governor

By the Acting Governor:

DOUGLAS LAFOLLETTE
Secretary of State