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James D. Crawford
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MEMORANDUM

TO: MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE
FROM: JONNA REVITZ, LEGISLATIVE ASSISTANT
DATE: JULY 6, 1998
RE: HOUSE BILL 2620

As you may know, a public hearing regarding House Bill 2620 has been scheduled for Thursday, July 16, 1998 from 10:00 to 12:00 pm. Although the ACLU will not be presenting testimony at the hearing, we would like to express our position on this legislation.

The ACLU supports House Bill 2620 which requires police officers to receive instruction and training on interacting with persons with various disabilities. This training will provide officers with the necessary skills to effectively respond to citizens with disabilities in a way that promotes awareness, recognition and sensitivity. This legislation should result in people with disabilities enjoying the same access, services and protection that is provided to all other citizens. Furthermore, House Bill 2620 includes a continuing education program so that officers can maintain and renew their response to those with disabilities.

The public hearing for House Bill 2620 is an opportune time to hear from the those that will be effected by and benefit from this legislation. The ACLU believes that this hearing will show that the rights of people with disabilities remain a priority in this Commonwealth .

Thank you for considering our views.