

NEW FREEDOM INITIATIVE NATIONAL LISTENING SESSION

SEPTEMBER 5, 2001
9:30 A.M. TO 5:00 P.M.

Welcome by Deputy Secretary Allen and other Federal Staff
Pages 1-29

>>> GOOD MORNING.

LET'S TRY THAT AGAIN.

GOOD MORNING.

>> GOOD MORNING.

>> HOW IS EVERYONE THIS MORNING?

MY NAME IS CLAUDE ALLEN.

I'M FROM THE GOVERNMENT.

I'M HERE TO HELP YOU THIS MORNING.

NO, ACTUALLY IT'S MY PRIVILEGE TO WELCOME YOU ALL HERE THIS MORNING AND THANK YOU FOR COMING TO THIS VERY IMPORTANT AND HISTORIC EVENT.

I AM CLAUDE ALLEN, AS I SAID EARLIER, AND I AM THE DEPUTY SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES.

AND IT IS MY DISTINCT HONOR AND PRIVILEGE TO HOST TODAY'S MEETING, ALONG WITH MY COLLEAGUES FROM NINE OTHER FEDERAL AGENCIES, THE OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET AND THE WHITE HOUSE.

AT THIS TIME, I WOULD LIKE TO JUST SHARE WITH YOU A COUPLE OF THOUGHTS.

SECRETARY THOMPSON SENDS HIS REGRETS THAT HE COULD NOT BE HERE WITH US THIS MORNING TO LAUNCH THIS VERY IMPORTANT EVENT.

BUT HE WAS CALLED BY CONGRESS AT THE LAST MINUTE TO TESTIFY THIS MORNING ON THE STEM CELL RESEARCH ISSUE.

THE SECRETARY WILL BE JOINING US LATER THIS AFTERNOON, AND HE WILL BRING SOME CONCLUDING REMARKS. AND HE WILL ALSO WANT TO HEAR YOUR COMMENTS AND YOUR CONCERNS AS WE ADDRESS THIS NEW FREEDOM INITIATIVE.

HE SHOULD BE WITH US AROUND 4:00, 4:30, AND WE'LL CLOSE OUT SO I WANT TO ENCOURAGE YOU TO REMAIN HERE.

HE WOULD WANT TO INTERACT WITH YOU PERSONALLY AND TALK WITH AS WELL.

ADDITIONALLY, PRESIDENT BUSH SENDS HIS REGRETS THAT HE COULD NOT BE HERE WITH YOU TODAY.

WE HAVE A VISITOR FROM -- OUR NEIGHBOR FROM THE SOUTH, THE PRESIDENT VISITING FROM MEXICO.

AND PRESIDENT BUSH IS ENTERTAINING HIM TODAY.

AND HE IS VERY BUSY WITH A VERY HECTIC SCHEDULE IN DEALING WITH OUR FOREIGN VISITORS.

HE HAS, HOWEVER, SENT A LETTER OF WELCOME THAT I WOULD LIKE TO READ TO YOU AT THIS TIME.

PRESIDENT BUSH SAYS, "I AM PLEASED TO SEND WARM GREETINGS TO ALL THOSE ATTENDING AND PARTICIPATING IN THE NATIONAL LISTENING SESSION ON COMMUNITY-BASED ALTERNATIVES WITH PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES.

YOUR EXPERIENCES AND PERSPECTIVES ARE CRITICAL TO UNDERSTANDING AND SOLVING THE CHALLENGES THAT AFFECT THE LIVES OF MILLIONS OF AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES.

THE EXECUTIVE ORDER I ISSUED IN JUNE DIRECTED MY CABINET MEMBERS TO SOLICIT AND LISTEN TO THE VIEWS OF CONSUMERS,

ADVOCATES AND PROVIDERS REGARDING BARRIERS TO COMMUNITY LIVING FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES.

THE HIGH RANKING OFFICIALS HERE TODAY ILLUSTRATE THE COLLABORATIVE AND COORDINATED EFFORT NEEDED TO ADDRESS THE IMPORTANT TASK AT HAND.

THEY WILL BE WORKING WITH YOU AND THEIR STATE AND LOCAL COUNTERPARTS TO ACHIEVE FULL COMPLIANCE WITH TITLE II OF THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT.

THIS JOINT EFFORT ALSO WILL FACILITATE OPPORTUNITIES FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES TO LIVE, WORK, AND RECEIVE SERVICES IN THEIR OWN OWN COMMUNITIES.

YOUR INPUT WILL BE PART OF A REPORT THAT I HAVE ASKED MEMBERS OF MY ADMINISTRATION TO SUBMIT TO ME BY OCTOBER 16TH EXAMINING BOTH THE BARRIERS TO COMMUNITY LIVING AS WELL AS SOLUTIONS TO THOSE BARRIERS.

THIS REPORT WILL REPRESENT JUST ONE OF MANY STEPS THAT I AM COMMITTED TO TAKING TO CARRY OUT MY NEW FREEDOM INITIATIVE.

I LOOK FORWARD TO RECEIVING THE RECOMMENDATIONS IN THIS REPORT AND TO IMPLEMENTING QUICK ACTION THAT MORE FULLY OPENS THE DOOR TO COMMUNITY LIVING FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES. BEST WISHES FOR INFORMATIVE AND PRODUCTIVE SESSIONS, GEORGE W. BUSH."

TODAY MARKS THE FIRST TIME THAT FEDERAL AGENCIES HAVE GATHERED TOGETHER TO HEAR THE VIEWS OF CONSUMERS, ADVOCATES AND PROVIDERS FROM ACROSS THE NATION ABOUT BARRIERS TO COMMUNITY LIVING FOR

PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES AND HOW TO REMEDY THESE BARRIERS.

AS YOU KNOW, WE ARE HERE TODAY AS A RESULT OF EXECUTIVE ORDER NUMBER 13217 ON COMMUNITY-BASED ALTERNATIVES FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES THAT PRESIDENT BUSH SIGNED ON JUNE 18TH.

THE ORDER UNDERSCORES THE ADMINISTRATION'S COMMITMENT TO FULL IMPLEMENTATION OF THE AMERICAN WITH DISABILITIES ACT AND TO BREAK DOWN BARRIERS TO COMMUNITY LIVING.

THE EXECUTIVE ORDER IS PART OF THE NEW FREEDOM INITIATIVE, WHICH THE PRESIDENT ANNOUNCED AS ONE OF HIS FIRST ACTS. THE NEW FREEDOM INITIATIVE PLEDGES THE ADMINISTRATION'S SUPPORT TO MAKE THE ADA A REALITY AND TO BREAK DOWN THE REMAINING BARRIERS THAT PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES FACE IN TODAY'S SOCIETY.

COMMUNITY INTEGRATION, THAT IS ALLOWING PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES TO BE FULL, CONTRIBUTING MEMBERS OF SOCIETY IN THEIR OWN COMMUNITIES, IS AN IMPORTANT PART OF THE NEW FREEDOM INITIATIVE AND THE EXECUTIVE ORDER.

THE PRESIDENT HAS ASKED US TO DO A NUMBER OF IMPORTANT TASKS IN CONJUNCTION WITH OUR SISTER FEDERAL AGENCIES TO PROMOTE COMMUNITY INTEGRATION.

ONE OF THESE TASKS IS TO SUBMIT THE REPORT, AS THE PRESIDENT REFERENCED IN HIS LETTER, TO HIM BY OCTOBER 16 THAT LAYS OUT AND IDENTIFIES THE BARRIERS AND SOLUTIONS TO ACHIEVE COMMUNITY INTEGRATION.

IT IS VITALLY IMPORTANT TO THE PRESIDENT, AND IT IS IMPORTANT TO THE TEN FEDERAL AGENCIES THAT ARE PARTICIPATING IN TODAY'S

LISTENING SESSION, TO HEAR FROM YOU ABOUT THE REAL LIFE
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CHALLENGES YOU FACE AND THE SOLUTIONS YOU PROPOSE.

THAT IS WHY THE PRESIDENT SPECIFICALLY REQUESTED THAT WE
GET THE INPUT OF CONSUMERS, ADVOCATES, AND PROVIDERS TO
DEVELOP THE REPORT.

TODAY'S NATIONAL LISTENING SESSION IS THE CULMINATION OF A
COMPREHENSIVE AND MULTIFACETED PUBLIC INPUT PROCESS THAT
HAS INCLUDED A NUMBER OF DIFFERENT FORUMS, FROM A TOLL FREE
CONFERENCE CALL TO A SOLICITATION OF WRITTEN AND E-MAIL
COMMENTS.

ANOTHER IMPORTANT ASPECT OF THE EXECUTIVE ORDER IS THAT IT
FOCUSES ON INTERAGENCY COLLABORATION.

THE PRESIDENT HAS ASKED FEDERAL AGENCIES TO WORK TOGETHER,
WITH HHS AS THE LEAD, AND HAS ASKED FEDERAL AGENCIES TO
WORK WITH STATES TO FACILITATE COMMUNITY INTEGRATION AND
SWIFT IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SUPREME COURT'S OLMSTEAD
DECISION.

TOWARD THIS END, WE HAVE FORMED AN INTERAGENCY COORDINATING
COUNCIL ON COMMUNITY LIVING THAT INCLUDES, NOT ONLY THE SIX
FEDERAL AGENCIES THAT THE PRESIDENT INITIALLY NAMED IN HIS
EXECUTIVE ORDER, BUT ALSO FOUR ADDITIONAL FEDERAL AGENCIES
THAT HAVE VOLUNTARILY JOINED THIS EFFORT.

WE WILL HAVE REPRESENTATIVES FROM THESE AGENCIES HERE WITH
US TODAY THROUGHOUT THE DAY.

AND I WOULD LIKE TO INTRODUCE THE REPRESENTATIVES WHO ARE
HERE TODAY ON THE DIAS STARTING THIS LISTENING SESSION THIS
MORNING.

LET ME GO DOWN THE LIST HERE, DOWN THE DIAS.

I HAVE JOANNE WILSON, WHO IS THE NEWLY APPOINTED -- FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION -- COMMISSIONER FOR REHABILITATION SERVICES.

AS I UNDERSTAND, JOANNE WAS JUST CONFIRMED LAST MONTH, AND SHE'S NEWLY ON BOARD.

WELCOME WITH US, JOANNE.

AND I WANT TO GIVE YOU AN OPPORTUNITY, IF YOU HAVE A FEW WORDS TO SAY VERY BRIEFLY AS WELL, TO ADDRESS THE AUDIENCE.

>> SECRETARY ROB PAGE, SECRETARY OF EDUCATION, REGRETS THAT HE COULDN'T BE HERE THIS MORNING.

BUT I KNOW THAT HE WOULD WANT ME TO SAY THAT HE HAS A FIRM COMMITMENT, WHICH HE HAS TOLD ME LOTS OF TIMES, THAT NO PERSON WITH A DISABILITY WILL BE LEFT BEHIND.

MYSELF, I'M, AS YOU WERE JUST TOLD, THE COMMISSIONER OF THE REHABILITATION SERVICES ADMINISTRATION.

BUT MY BACKGROUND IS FOR YEARS I HAVE BEEN A CONSUMER AND AN ADVOCATE, AS A PERSON WITH A DISABILITY AND AS A PERSON THAT FOR YEARS, BEFORE I GOT TO BE IN THIS POSITION WITH AN ADVOCATE LIKE YOU FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES, I'M HERE TO REALLY LISTEN AND TO HEAR WHAT YOU HAVE TO SAY AND TO TAKE SOME ACTION AND DO WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE.

BOB PASTERNAK, THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR THE OFFICE OF SPECIAL EDUCATION REHABILITATION SERVICES WILL BE SWITCHING OFF WITH ME TODAY DURING THE DAY.

HE'LL BE HERE THIS MORNING, AND I WILL BE BACK AGAIN THIS AFTERNOON.

AND BOTH OF US WANT TO CARRY THE MESSAGE THAT WE'RE HERE TO LISTEN TO YOU AND TO TAKE SOME ACTION IN OUR NEW POSITIONS. THANK YOU.

>> I SEE THAT MY COLLEAGUE FROM HUD IS HERE THIS MORNING, ALPHONSO JACKSON IS THE DEPUTY SECRETARY OVER AT HUD, A MAN WHO IS ALWAYS BUSY RUNNING AROUND TOWN, AROUND THE COUNTRY, PROVIDING OPPORTUNITIES IN HOUSING.

I WANT TO GIVE HIM AN OPPORTUNITY TO GET SETTLED IN. ALPHONSO, DID YOU HAVE A COMMENT THAT YOU WANTED TO SHARE WITH US THIS MORNING?

>> GOOD MORNING.

I HOPE YOU ALL REALLY, THIS MORNING, APPRECIATE MY GREENNESS. AND I WANT TO SHOW YOU THIS SHIRT BECAUSE MY WIFE BOUGHT IT FOR ME.

SO MOST MEN KNOW WHEN YOUR WIFE BUYS YOU SOMETHING, YOU HAVE TO WEAR IT.

SO AFTER A WHILE, YOU KNOW, YOU TRY TO AVOID IT, BUT EVENTUALLY SHE ASKS YOU, WHEN ARE YOU GOING TO WEAR THE SHIRT?

AND SHE SAYS, OH, YOU HAVE GOT THIS GREEN SUIT, THAT SHIRT WOULD GO GREAT. SO HERE I AM. [LAUGHTER].

LET ME SAY ON BEHALF OF SECRETARY MARTINEZ AND THE DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, I WOULD LIKE TO THANK SECRETARY THOMPSON AND DEPUTY SECRETARY ALLEN FOR THEIR LEADERSHIP IN DEVELOPING INTERAGENCY COUNCIL ON COMMUNITY LIVING AND FOR

CONVENING THIS CONFERENCE.

HUD IS COMMITTED TO OPENING THE DOORS OF AFFORDABLE HOUSING OPPORTUNITIES FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES.

HUD SECTION EIGHT HOUSING VOUCHER PROGRAM IS ONE OF THE BEST FOR ACHIEVING THIS GOAL.

SINCE 1997, WE HAVE DISPENSED WITH SOME 50,000 VOUCHERS AS OF FISCAL YEAR 2000.

WE ARE NOW IN THE PROCESS OF DISPENSING 14,000 MORE VOUCHERS.

WE BELIEVE THAT IT IS IMPORTANT TO HAVE ACCESSIBILITY TO HOUSING IN THIS COUNTRY FOR EVERY AMERICAN.

I CAN TELL YOU THAT HUD IS COMMITTED TO A SWIFT

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE EXECUTIVE ORDER 13217 AND WILL DILIGENTLY WORK WITH THE

FEDERAL AGENCIES, OTHER FEDERAL AGENCIES, TO MAKE SURE THAT IT IS CARRIED OUT.

IT IS SECRETARY MARTINEZ' BELIEF THAT EVERY AMERICAN IS

JUST AS IMPORTANT AS EVERY OTHER AMERICAN AND THAT WE WILL WORK WITH

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, WITH SECRETARY ALLEN, SECRETARY THOMPSON, AND THE OTHER AGENCY

HEADS TO MAKE SURE THAT YOUR NEEDS ARE ADDRESSED.

THANK YOU SO MUCH.

AND I WOULD LIKE TO SAY THIS, THAT IF YOU NEED TO TALK TO ANYONE AT HUD, WE'LL HAVE

A NUMBER OF PEOPLE HERE TO ADDRESS YOUR NEEDS OR YOUR CONCERNS. THANK YOU SO MUCH.

>> THANK YOU, SECRETARY JACKSON.

I ALSO WANT TO INTRODUCE A COLLEAGUE FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF

JUSTICE, LORETTA KING IS THE DEPUTY ASSISTANT ATTORNEY
GENERAL FOR CIVIL RIGHTS.

LORETTA?

>> GOOD MORNING, EVERYONE.

>> GOOD MORNING.

>> ON BEHALF OF THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE, JOHN ASHCROFT,
RALPH BOYD, THE ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL FOR CIVIL RIGHTS,
WHO WILL JOIN US SOME TIME LATER TODAY, I WANT TO WELCOME
YOU TO THIS SESSION.

I PARTICIPATED IN THE TELECONFERENCE THAT WAS HELD A FEW
WEEKS AGO AND WAS VERY HEARTENED BY THE FACT THAT WE HEARD
VERY CONSTRUCTIVE COMMENTS AND CONCERNS ABOUT OUR EFFORTS
TO INTEGRATE DISABLED PERSONS INTO SOCIETY AND TO REMOVE
BARRIERS

THAT HAVE EXISTED FOR FAR TOO LONG.

SO TODAY I WOULD ALSO WELCOME YOUR INPUT IN OUR PROCESS.

THIS IS A VERY IMPORTANT PROCESS TO ELIMINATE THESE BARRIERS
TO COMMUNITY LIVING FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES.

WE CANNOT SOLVE PROBLEMS AND REMOVE BARRIERS WITHOUT
HEARING FROM YOU: PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES, PEOPLE WHO
ADVOCATE ON

BEHALF OF OTHERS WITH DISABILITIES, AND THOSE OF YOU WHO
WORK WITHIN STATE GOVERNMENT AND THE HEALTH CARE SYSTEM.

WE ARE HERE TODAY TO LISTEN.

I ALSO HAVE MY COLLEAGUE JOHN WODATCH HERE AND OTHER PEOPLE
FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE.

PLEASE FEEL FREE TO APPROACH US DURING THE INTERMISSIONS

AND ANY
OTHER TIME.

PLEASE FEEL FREE TO CALL US WITH YOUR IDEAS.

TOGETHER, WE CAN PLAY AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN REUNITING AMERICA'S FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES WHILE PROVIDING PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES OPPORTUNITIES TO LIVE INDEPENDENTLY AND WITH DIGNITY. I LOOK FORWARD TO HEARING FROM YOU.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

>> AND REPRESENTING THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR, SECRETARY CHAO, IS HER DEPUTY SECRETARY, D. CAMERON FINDLAY.

>> GREAT PLEASURE FOR ME TO BE HERE ON BEHALF OF THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND MY BOSS, SECRETARY ELAINE CHAO, WHO REGRETS SHE CAN'T BE HERE TODAY.

SHE TOO IS WITH HER COUNTERPARTS FROM MEXICO.

AS SOME OF YOU MAY KNOW, SECRETARY CHAO CHAIRS THE PRESIDENTIAL TASK FORCE ON THE EMPLOYMENT OF ADULTS WITH DISABILITIES.

IT'S A VERY IMPORTANT ASSIGNMENT FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR BECAUSE A BIG PART OF OUR PORTFOLIO IS PROVIDING TRAINING AND EMPLOYMENT SERVICES TO ALL AMERICANS, INCLUDING THOSE WITH DISABILITIES.

AND LET ME SAY THAT WE ARE ABSOLUTELY COMMITTED TO HELPING DISABLED PEOPLE GET THE SKILLS THEY NEED TO SUCCEED IN THE 21ST CENTURY WORK FORCE.

JUST LAST WEEK, WE FINISHED CONDUCTING AN AGENCY-BY AGENCY REVIEW AT THE DEPARTMENT TO DETERMINE HOW ALL OF OUR PROGRAMS CAN BETTER SERVE THE DISABLED COMMUNITY.

FOR EXAMPLE, WE WANT TO MAKE SURE THAT OUR ONE-STOP EMPLOYMENT

CENTERS, WHICH ARE THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY, AGGRESSIVELY REACH OUT TO THE DISABLED COMMUNITY.

ANOTHER EXAMPLE, WE ARE VERY INTERESTED IN HELPING DISABLED VETERANS THROUGH OUR MANY VETERANS TRAINING PROGRAMS, INCLUDING SOMETHING CALLED DVOP, AND THE CLASSIC WASHINGTON ACRONYM.

THAT'S THE DISABLED VETERANS OUTREACH PROGRAM.

THE DEPARTMENT'S ONE-STOP EMPLOYMENT CENTERS IN PARTICULAR ARE VERY GOOD RESOURCES FOR IDENTIFYING JOBS AND UPGRADING SKILLS.

AND WE BELIEVE THEY ARE A VERY IMPORTANT COMPONENT OF THE PRESIDENT'S NEW FREEDOM INITIATIVE THAT CAN HELP THE DISABLED REACH THEIR FULL POTENTIAL.

LET ME BE VERY CLEAR.

WE BELIEVE THAT INTEGRATING THE DISABLED INTO THE WORK FORCE IS NOT MERELY THE RIGHT THING TO DO, IT IS AN ABSOLUTELY CRITICAL

THING TO DO FOR THE 21ST CENTURY WORK FORCE.

ONE OF THE THINGS THAT WE FACE AT OUR DEPARTMENT IS A GROWING SKILLS GAP.

AND WE SIMPLY CAN'T AFFORD TO IGNORE A LARGE PERCENT OF OUR POPULATION THAT CAN FILL THAT SKILLS GAP MERELY BECAUSE OF OUTMODED THINKING OR UNNECESSARY IMPEDIMENTS.

SO TOGETHER WITH MY COLLEAGUES, GARY REED AND BILL MCKINNON, WHO WILL BE HERE FOR THE ENTIRE DAY, I LOOK FORWARD TO HEARING FROM ALL OF YOU.

AND I WANT TO THANK YOU IN ADVANCE FOR PARTICIPATING IN THIS VERY IMPORTANT FORUM.

THANKS.

>> THANKS, CAM.

AND WE ALSO HAVE OUR ACTING COMMISSIONER FOR THE SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION, LARRY MASSANARI..

LARRY?

>> GOOD MORNING.

IT IS GOOD TO BE WITH YOU THIS MORNING.

THOSE OF US FROM SOCIAL SECURITY ARE VERY PLEASED TO BE A PART OF THIS INTERAGENCY EFFORT THAT IS FOCUSED ON IMPROVING THE AVAILABILITY OF COMMUNITY-BASED SERVICES. AND WE ARE NOW CONDUCTING A THOROUGH REVIEW OF OUR PROGRAMS WITH THIS GOAL IN MIND.

I WOULD LIKE TO THANK SECRETARY THOMPSON AND DEPUTY SECRETARY ALLEN FOR CONVENING THE SESSION TODAY.

THEY ARE VERY GRATEFUL AT SOCIAL SECURITY FOR THEIR VERY STRONG AND FOCUSED -- AND I WOULD QUICKLY ADD, THEIR VERY CREATIVE LEADERSHIP OF THIS GOVERNMENT-WIDE EFFORT.

I THINK MOST OF YOU HERE THIS MORNING KNOW HOW IMPORTANT THE SOCIAL SECURITY AND SSI PROGRAMS CAN BE TO PROMOTING COMMUNITY LIVING.

THEY ARE THIS NATION'S TWO LARGEST CASH BENEFIT PROGRAMS FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES.

AND SOCIAL SECURITY AND SSI ALSO PROVIDE THE GATEWAY TO MEDICARE AND MEDICAID.

AND THESE CASH BENEFIT AND MEDICAL BENEFIT PROGRAMS ARE OFTEN ESSENTIAL TO INDIVIDUALS AND INDIVIDUAL'S ABILITY TO LIVE IN THE LEAST RESTRICTIVE SETTING.

WE ALSO KNOW HOW IMPORTANT EMPLOYMENT CAN BE IN HELPING
FOSTER INDEPENDENCE.

AND ONE OF OUR HIGHEST PRIORITIES AT SSA IS ENCOURAGING AND
HELPING PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES FIND OR RETURN TO WORK.

THE CORNERSTONE OF OUR EFFORTS, OF COURSE, IS THE TICKET TO
WORK AND WORK INCENTIVES IMPROVEMENT ACT.

AND PRESIDENT BUSH, AS YOU KNOW HAS MADE THE SWIFT AND
EFFECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS ACT

ONE OF THE KEY COMMITMENTS IN HIS NEW FREEDOM INITIATIVE.

WE ARE ALSO WORKING AT SSA TO STRENGTHEN OUR OUTREACH
EFFORTS, TO MAKE PEOPLE AWARE OF OTHER POLICIES THAT CAN
PROMOTE COMMUNITY-BASED ALTERNATIVES AND THAT CAN
FACILITATE THE TRANSITION FROM AN INSTITUTIONAL SETTING TO
A COMMUNITY SETTING.

WHILE WE BELIEVE THAT WE HAVE MANY POLICIES IN PLACE THAT
SUPPORT PRESIDENT BUSH'S EXECUTIVE ORDER, WE ARE
UNDERTAKING A THOROUGH AND WHAT WILL BECOME AN ONGOING
REVIEW OF OUR PROGRAM RULES.

OUR GOAL WORKING WITH OUR OTHER FEDERAL PARTNERS HERE THIS
MORNING IS TO REMOVE BARRIERS AND TO ENCOURAGE THE FULL
INTEGRATION OF OUR BENEFICIARIES IN THE COMMUNITY LIFE.

AND WITH THAT IN MIND, LET ME JUST SAY THAT WE WELCOME YOUR
THOUGHTS ON HOW WE CAN BETTER SUPPORT PRESIDENT BUSH'S
INITIATIVES.

AND I LOOK FORWARD TO HEARING FROM YOU THROUGHOUT THE DAY.

I WILL BE HERE THIS MORNING AND OUR ACTING DEPUTY
COMMISSIONER
FOR POLICY, PAUL VAN DE WATER, WILL BE HERE FOR THE BALANCE

THE DAY.

AGAIN, WE LOOK FORWARD TO HEARING FROM YOU.

>> THANK YOU, LARRY.

LET ME MAKE TWO ANNOUNCEMENTS BEFORE I INTRODUCE OUR NEXT MEMBER.

WE HAVE SOME SIGNED CAPTIONING TAKING PLACE OVER HERE ON THE RIGHT SIDE OF THE STAGE, MY LEFT, YOUR RIGHT.

AND PLEASE PARDON US WHILE WE ARE TRYING TO GET OUR -- WE ARE HAVING SOME TECHNICAL DIFFICULTIES WITH THE VIDEO.

WE WILL GET THAT UP AS SOON AS POSSIBLE FOR THOSE WHO NEED THAT FOR INTERPRETATION.

OUR NEXT DIAS MEMBER IS MARIA MERCEDES OLIVIERI, WHO IS WITH THE OFFICE OF PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT.

SHE IS DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE OF DIVERSITY.

>> GOOD MORNING.

MY NAME IS MARIA MERCEDES OLIVIERI, AND I AM THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR FOR DIVERSITY IN THE OFFICE OF PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT. OPM DIRECTOR, K. COLES JAMES, REGRETS THAT SHE WON'T BE HERE TODAY.

BUT I WANT TO MAKE SURE THAT I TELL YOU SOMETHING THAT I KNOW SHE WOULD HAVE TOLD YOU.

THE OFFICE OF PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT IS VERY COMMITTED TO ENSURING THAT PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES HAVE ACCESS TO FEDERAL EMPLOYMENT.

WE ARE HELPING FEDERAL AGENCIES IDENTIFY AND REMOVE BARRIERS IN THAT REGARD.

I AM HONORED TO BE HERE.

THANK YOU FOR INVITING ME.

>> AND WE HAVE WITH US AGAIN FROM THE OFFICE OF CIVIL

RIGHTS DEPUTY DIRECTOR, MARIA WHIGHAM JONES.

>> GOOD MORNING.

I'M MARIA, BY THE WAY.

I GUESS WE COULD SAY IT IN SPANISH, MARIA.

I AM PLEASED TO BE HERE WITH YOU THIS MORNING REPRESENTING
SECRETARY NORMAN MINETA OF THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION.

AS ONE OF THE ORIGINATORS OF THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES
ACT

WHILE HE WAS IN CONGRESS, SECRETARY MINETA IS AN
ENTHUSIASTIC

AND COMMITTED SUPPORTER OF DISABILITY RIGHTS AND INCLUSION
OF

PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES IN ALL ASPECTS OF AMERICAN SOCIETY.

SECRETARY MINETA'S ADVOCACY ON DISABILITY ISSUES DATES BACK
MORE

THAN THIRTY YEARS TO HIS SERVICE AS MAYOR OF SAN JOSE.

WE LOOK FORWARD TO LISTENING TODAY TO LEARN EVERYTHING WE
CAN

ABOUT LOWERING BARRIERS TO COMMUNITY INCLUSION.

WE WANT TO INTEGRATE THESE IDEAS INTO THE DEPARTMENT'S
DISABILITY ACCESS INITIATIVES IN TRANSPORTATION,
INFRASTRUCTURE,

AND WITH TRANSPORTATION PROVIDERS.

ALSO, ON BEHALF OF SECRETARY MINETA, I WISH TO EXPRESS MY
APPRECIATION TO THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
FOR

INVITING US TO JOIN IN THIS MOST IMPORTANT ENDEAVOR.

UNDER SECRETARY MINETA'S LEADERSHIP, THE DEPARTMENT OF
TRANSPORTATION IS COMMITTED TO INCREASING MOBILITY FOR ALL
AMERICANS.

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OUR PROGRAMS AND ACTIONS MUST DEMONSTRATE A FULLY ACCESSIBLE
TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM: PEDESTRIAN, RAIL, TRANSIT, HIGHWAY,
WATER IS ESSENTIAL AND OBTAINABLE.

THE
HIS
USABLE BY

TOWARD THIS END, SEVERAL WEEKS AGO, SECRETARY MINETA SIGNED
DEPARTMENT'S NEW ACCESSIBILITY POLICY STATEMENT, SIGNIFYING
COMMITMENT TO THE ENFORCEMENT OF ADA STANDARDS AND ENSURING
TRANSPORTATION IS NOT ONLY SAFE AND EFFICIENT BUT ALSO
ALL INDIVIDUALS.

WAY.

AGAIN, I WISH TO EXPRESS TO YOU THE DEPARTMENT OF
TRANSPORTATION'S SERIOUS COMMITMENT TO SEEKING SOLUTIONS TO
ADDRESS THESE VARIOUS CHALLENGES IN A REAL AND MEANINGFUL

THE

WE OWE IT TO OUR COMMUNITY AND TO OURSELVES TO GIVE EVERYONE
OPPORTUNITY TO SUCCEED.

AGAIN, THANK YOU.

AND WE LOOK FORWARD TO HEARING FROM YOU TODAY.

ARLENE

AND WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION TODAY, WE HAVE
SESSION.
PATELL, WHO WILL BE SITTING IN FOR A GOOD PART OF THE

I'M GOING TO BE HERE PART OF THIS MORNING, BUT SHE WILL BE

SITTING IN.

CHIEF. SHE IS OUR INTERNAL POLICY AND PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT ACTING

POLICY AND MARK BRENMAN, WHO MANY OF YOU MAY KNOW, IS OUR SENIOR

ADVISOR.

HE IS HERE AS WELL.

SO FEEL FREE TO CATCH UP WITH ANY OF US AT ANY TIME.

THANK YOU.

>> THANK YOU, MARY.

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DEPUTY NEXT WE HAVE FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS, THE

SECRETARY FOR HEALTH, DR. FRANCES MURPHY.

DR. MURPHY.

>> GOOD MORNING.

TONY ON BEHALF OF THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS, SECRETARY

ADD PRINCIPI AND THE DEPUTY SECRETARY, LEO MCKAY, I'M HAPPY TO

MY WELCOME TO YOU THIS MORNING TO THIS NATIONAL LISTENING
SESSION.

NATION, V.A. IS THE LARGEST INTEGRATED HEALTH CARE SYSTEM IN THE

VETERANS WE'RE A DIRECT PROVIDER OF HEALTH CARE AND BENEFITS TO

WITH OVER 1,300 SITES OF CARE.

PROGRAM V.A. ALSO ADMINISTERS A LARGE DISABILITY COMPENSATION

FOR AND VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION PROGRAM AND EDUCATION PROGRAMS

VETERANS.

TO WE'RE A RECOGNIZED LEADER IN SPINAL CORD INJURY AND MOBILITY
PROSTHETICS THIS SORT OF TREATMENTS, CARE FOR BLINDED VETERANS,
OTHER DEVELOPMENTS, PSYCHIATRIC DISORDERS AND A WIDE VARIETY OF
HEALTH CARE AND REHABILITATION PROGRAMS.
LIVING WE'RE VERY COMMITTED TO REDUCING BARRIERS TO COMMUNITY
VETERANS. FOR THE IMPORTANT POPULATION THAT WE SERVE, AMERICA'S
AND WE LOOK FORWARD TO HEARING YOUR COMMENTS TODAY AND
PARTICIPATING IN THIS IMPORTANT ENDEAVOR.
THANK YOU VERY MUCH.
>> THANK YOU, DR. MURPHY.
AND FROM THE SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION, WE HAVE THOMAS
PENANO, WHO IS THE SENIOR POLICY ADVISOR.

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>> GOOD MORNING.
BUSH OUR NEWLY CONFIRMED ADMINISTRATIVE BARADO IS WITH PRESIDENT
AND PRESIDENT FOX THIS MORNING AND UNABLE TO ATTEND.
BUT REST ASSURED THAT AMERICAN'S ENTREPRENEURS ARE OUR
CUSTOMERS.
A I THINK THAT'S WHAT MAKES THE SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION
THAT LITTLE BIT UNIQUE, IS THAT OUR MANDATE IS TO HELP PEOPLE
WANT TO OPEN A BUSINESS.
WE HAVE 12,000 SCORE VOLUNTEERS IN EVERY COMMUNITY IN THE

THEIR

COUNTRY, THEIR MANDATE IS TO HELP PEOPLE THAT WANT TO OPEN

SMALL BUSINESS AND THAT MEANS PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES.

WE ARE THERE, WE ARE HERE TO LISTEN, WE WANT TO HELP.

OUR WEB SITE, WWW.SBA.GOV IS A GREAT WEBSITE FOR PEOPLE TO
ACCESS OUR SERVICES.

OUR SBDCS, SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CENTERS, ARE THERE TO
HELP.

ACCESS THE CAPITAL, ACCESS TO TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE ARE
PRIORITIES THAT THE ADMINISTRATOR WANTS TO OFFER TO YOU AND

IS

COMMITTED TO HELPING YOU OPEN YOUR SMALL BUSINESS.

SO WE ARE HERE TO LISTEN TODAY AND PLEASE USE US AND AGAIN
WELCOME.

THANK YOU.

>> THANK YOU, THOMAS.

AND OUR LAST MEMBER OF THE DIAS FOR PROBABLY SOMEONE WHO IS
GOING TO BE VERY INFLUENTIAL IN ASSISTING US AND SEEING THAT

THE

NEW FREEDOM INITIATIVE GETS IMPLEMENTED AND IMPLEMENTED WELL

IS

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JENNIFER SHEEHY.

SHE IS THE DOMESTIC POLICY COUNCILMEMBER IN THE WHITE HOUSE,
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT.

JENNIFER, I HAVE HAD THE PRIVILEGE OF WORKING WITH JUST VERY
BRIEFLY AND I KNOW THAT SHE IS DEEPLY COMMITTED TO SEEING

THIS

INITIATIVE BECOME A SUCCESS.

DISCUSSION. SO, JENNIFER, IF YOU WILL CLOSE US OUT WITH THE DIAS

>> CLAUDE, THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

I AM VERY PLEASED TO BE HERE.

I ALSO WANT TO THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR COMING IN PERSON AND TRAVELING FROM LONG DISTANCES TO GET HERE.

AS A QUADRIPLAGIC, I KNOW WHAT A HASSLE IT CAN BE.

SO THANK YOU VERY, VERY MUCH.

THIS THE NEW FREEDOM INITIATIVE THAT EVERYONE IS TALKING ABOUT
WAS PRESIDENT BUSH'S MULTI-BILLION DOLLAR INITIATIVE TO MAKE
SURE PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES ARE TRULY INTEGRATED INTO THE
COMMUNITY AND INTO THE WORKPLACE AND HE SUPPORTS THESE
ISSUES AND CARES VERY DEEPLY ABOUT THESE ISSUES.

HIS HE HAS HIRED SEVERAL PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES LIKE MYSELF ON

HIS STAFF AND AS LEADERS AND AS ADMINISTRATION, TO DEMONSTRATE

AGENCIES COMMITMENT AND I LOOK FORWARD TO WORKING WITH ALL THE

REPORT REPRESENTED HERE TO DEVELOP THE RECOMMENDATIONS IN THE

AND PRESIDENT BUSH IS LOOKING FORWARD TO TURNING THAT REPORT
AROUND INTO QUICK ACTION AFTER THE RECOMMENDATIONS ARE MADE.

AS IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, I WILL BE HERE AS MUCH OF THE DAY

I POSSIBLY CAN AND I LOOK FORWARD TO TALKING TO YOU.

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THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

>> THANK YOU, JENNIFER.

WITHIN WE ALSO HAVE REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE VARIOUS COMPONENTS
WOULD THE AGENCIES THAT YOU HAVE HEARD DISCUSSED ALREADY, AND I
VARIOUS LIKE TO HAVE THOSE INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE REPRESENTING THE
TO DEPARTMENTS, RATHER THAN INTRODUCE EACH OF YOU INDIVIDUALLY,
JUST SIMPLY STAND SO WE CAN IDENTIFY.
THESE ARE OUR PARTNERS THROUGHOUT THE ADMINISTRATION.
IF YOU WILL PLEASE STAND NOW.
THANK YOU VERY MUCH.
SECRETARY THOMPSON WILL BE JOINING US AGAIN AT THE END OF
THE DAY TO SHARE HIS THOUGHTS.
VERY INDEED HE IS VERY COMMITTED TO COMMUNITY INTEGRATION AND
SOLUTIONS COMMITTED TO CARRYING OUT THE EXECUTIVE ORDER AND THE NEW
THAT YOU HAVE TO OFFER.
THOSE AS YOU CAN SEE, THE DEMONSTRATION OF PARTICIPATION BY THE
ADMINISTRATION, BY THESE INDIVIDUALS HERE ON THE DIAS AND
IN THE AUDIENCE, OUR JOB IS TO LISTEN TODAY.
AT THE END OF MY DISCUSSION HERE, HOPEFULLY THIS WILL BE THE
LAST TIME TO YOU HEAR US TALK.
WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU.
COUPLE I HAD THE PRIVILEGE OVER THE LAST COUPLE OF WEEKS TO DO A
OF THINGS.
AND I WANT TO NOTE HERE IN THIS AUDIENCE THAT WE HAVE PEOPLE
FROM AROUND THE COUNTRY.

INDEED, WE ACTUALLY HAVE PEOPLE FROM AROUND THE WORLD HERE.
I UNDERSTAND WE'VE GOT VISITORS FROM THE CAMEROON AND INDIA.
WE HAVE VISITORS AND FRIENDS FROM OUR TRIBAL GOVERNMENTS
HERE AS
WELL WHO WANT TO TALK ABOUT AND HAVE US HEAR FROM THEM ABOUT
THEIR NEEDS AND TRYING TO ADDRESS BARRIERS TO ACCESS TO
COMMUNITY LIVING.
SO WITH THAT, I WOULD LIKE TO TAKE THIS TIME NOW TO TURN
OVER TO
OUR MODERATOR, LARRY BARTLETT, WHO WILL INITIATE THE PUBLIC
TO BE
COMMENTS AND JUST SIMPLY SAY IT'S A PRIVILEGE AND AN HONOR
TO
WITH YOU THIS MORNING AND I AND MY COLLEAGUES LOOK FORWARD
TO
YOUR VIEWS.
SOME OF THE MEMBERS ON THE DIAS WILL BE COMING IN AND OUT.
THERE WILL BE SOME TRAFFIC IN AND OUT.
BUT I WANT YOU TO UNDERSTAND THAT WE HAVE PEOPLE HERE WHO
WILL
BE HERE THROUGHOUT THE DAY HEARING YOUR COMMENTS AND
INTERACTING
WITH YOU.
WE HOPE TO GET UPWARDS TO EIGHTY TO A HUNDRED DIFFERENT
COMMENTS
TODAY.
SO WE WILL BE MOVING VERY SWIFTLY THROUGH THIS PROGRAM.
WE WANT TO GIVE YOU TIME TO STATE YOUR COMMENTS FOR US.
SO WITH THAT, LARRY, THANK YOU VERY MUCH.
>> THANK YOU VERY MUCH, SECRETARY ALLEN.
GOOD MORNING, EVERYBODY.

WHO MY ROLE TODAY IS REALLY GOING TO BE TO FREE UP THE PEOPLE
THE WILL BE ON THE DIAS AND THE OTHER FEDERAL OFFICIALS AROUND
ROOM TO DEVOTE THEMSELVES TO NOTHING BUT LISTENING TO YOUR

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INPUT, TO YOUR RECOMMENDATIONS AND ALL.
TO WHAT I WOULD LIKE TO DO BEFORE WE TURN TO THE TESTIMONY IS
FOR TAKE JUST A FEW MINUTES AND GIVE YOU A SENSE OF THE AGENDA
HOPE THE DAY AS WELL AS THE PROCESS FOR THE DAY AND ALL OF YOU I
HAVE GOTTEN A PACKET.
AT THE FRONT OF THE PACKET, YOU WILL FIND THE AGENDA ITSELF.
AND IT'S RELATIVELY STRAIGHTFORWARD.
FOR WE WILL THIS MORNING AND THIS AFTERNOON HAVE TWO SEGMENTS
PUBLIC TESTIMONY FOR THOSE PEOPLE WHO REQUESTED AND WERE
ALLOCATED TIME TO GIVE THEIR REMARKS PRIOR TO THE MEETING.
AT NOONTIME, WE ARE ALSO GOING TO HAVE AN OPEN MIKE SESSION.
ALSO AND IN THAT SESSION, PEOPLE HAVE SIGNED UP THIS MORNING TO
PROVIDE THEIR TESTIMONY.
AND FINALLY AT THE END OF THE DAY, BEGINNING AT ABOUT 3:45,
TO WE'LL HAVE ANOTHER OPEN MIKE SESSION AND WE ARE REALLY GOING
NOT TARGET THAT SESSION TO THOSE OF YOU IN THE AUDIENCE WHO HAVE
HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO PROVIDE YOUR INPUT OR TESTIMONY AT
THAT TIME.

AND SO WE HAVE THOSE FOUR SEGMENTS DURING THE COURSE OF THE DAY,
AT 4:30, WE WILL BE MOVING TO THE FINAL SEGMENT OF THE
AGENDA, WHICH WILL BE THE CONCLUDING REMARKS.
LET ME TELL YOU, SECRETARY ALLEN TALKED ABOUT A LOT OF
COMING AND GOING, A LOT OF MOVEMENT.
AND INDEED THIS IS A CHALLENGING PROCESS THAT WE HAVE
ESTABLISHED.
FOR THE PUBLIC TESTIMONY SEGMENTS AS WELL AS THE OPEN MIKE

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SEGMENT AT NOONTIME, WE ARE ORGANIZING THOSE OF YOU WHO ARE
PROVIDING TESTIMONY INTO GROUPS OF FOUR -- OF EIGHT.
AND WHAT WE HAVE DONE IS ACTUALLY SORT OF ASSIGNED EACH OF
THOSE GROUPS A CARD.
SO DURING THE COURSE OF THE DAY, YOU WILL HEAR ME SAYING,
CAN THE YELLOW GROUP ASSEMBLE IN THE BACK AND CAN THE GREEN
GROUP DO SUCH AND SUCH.
WE WANT TO MAKE THE MAXIMUM USE OF THE DAY, SO WE ARE GOING
TO TRY TO HAVE NOT A LOT OF DEAD SPACE, DEAD AIR TIME.
WE ARE GOING TO JUST KEEP MOVING PEOPLE THROUGH AND MAKING
SURE THAT EACH OF YOU GET YOUR MAXIMUM OPPORTUNITY TO PROVIDE
YOUR INPUT.
WHAT WE'LL DO, AND AT THIS POINT IN TIME, I WOULD ACTUALLY
LIKE

IF THERE IS ANYBODY ELSE FROM THE RED GROUP THAT HAS NOT YET
COME TO THE FRONT, IF YOU COULD DO THAT.

AT THE SAME TIME, I AM GOING TO ASK THE YELLOW GROUP IF THEY
WOULD ASSEMBLE IN THE REAR OF THE ROOM.

AT
WHEN WE FINISH, WE ARE GOING TO TAKE THE TESTIMONY STARTING
THIS END OF THE TABLE AND MOVING ACROSS.

AND AFTER WE GO THROUGH EVERY FOUR PEOPLE WHO HAVE HAD THE
OPPORTUNITY TO TESTIFY, I'M GOING TO ASK YOU IF YOU WOULD
JUST
TRANSITION OUT AND WE'LL BRING THE NEXT GROUP IN SO WE CAN

CONSTANTLY BE MOVING THROUGH.

SO I'LL BE, IN A SENSE, TRYING TO KEEP TRACK OF ALL THAT AND
GIVING SOME GUIDANCE ALONG THE WAY.

MEETING
I WANT YOU TO UNDERSTAND THAT AGAIN THE DESIGN OF THIS

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IS TO PROVIDE THE MAXIMUM OPPORTUNITY TO HEAR THE DIFFERENT
VOICES THAT ARE REFLECTED IN THE ROOM.

TO DO THAT, WHAT WE HAVE DONE IS ESTABLISHED SOME TIME
GUIDELINES.

PEOPLE
IN EACH OF THE PUBLIC TESTIMONY SEGMENTS, WE ARE ASKING

TO CONFINE THEIR REMARKS TO NOT MORE THAN THREE MINUTES.

WE
WE HAVE THESE -- SOME OF YOU MAY NOT BE FAMILIAR WITH THEM,

HAVE THE SPEAKER TIMER LIGHTS.

THE
AND I HOPE THEY DON'T MAKE YOU CRAZY DURING THE COURSE OF

DAY.

I APOLOGIZE FOR THEM.
BUT I THINK THEY SHOULD JUST HELP YOU IN TERMS OF MANAGING
YOUR
TIME.
THEY WILL SHOW GREEN IN PUBLIC TESTIMONY SEGMENTS, THIS ONE
AND
THE ONE STARTING AT 1:30.
THEY WILL SHOW GREEN AS YOU BEGIN.
WHEN THERE IS ONE MINUTE LEFT IN YOUR THREE MINUTES, THEY
WILL
TURN YELLOW.
WHEN YOUR THREE MINUTES ARE COMPLETED -- AND AT THAT POINT
WHEN
THEY TURN YELLOW, YOU SHOULD BE THINKING ABOUT SUMMING UP.
AT THE END OF YOUR THREE MINUTES, THEY WILL TURN RED.
AND MY HOPE IS THAT YOU WILL HAVE CONCLUDED YOUR REMARKS BY
THEN.
I APOLOGIZE IN ADVANCE IF I AM MAKING ANYBODY FEEL LIKE I'M
HUSTLING THEM THROUGH.
I WANT TO EMPHASIZE THE IMPORTANCE OF THESE TIME LINES.

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WE HAVE SO MANY DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVES, SO MANY DIFFERENT
VOICES
TO HEAR.
THE CONCERN THAT WE HAVE IS THAT IF PEOPLE AT THE FRONT END
START RUNNING OVER, THE PEOPLE WHO ARE SCHEDULED TO TESTIFY
LATER IN THE DAY ARE THE ONES THAT FIND THEMSELVES AT A
DISADVANTAGE.
SO I HOPE YOU WILL BE RESPECTFUL OF OUR COLLEAGUES WHO WILL
BE

ADHERE PRESENTING DURING THE COURSE OF THE DAY AND REALLY TRY TO
TO THESE GUIDELINES.
WHEN WE MOVE TO THE OPEN MIKE SESSION AT NOONTIME, WE WILL
BE GOING TO TWO MINUTES AND, AGAIN, I WILL TALK MORE ABOUT THE
TIME.
WE'LL JUST MODIFY THINGS SLIGHTLY.
WHEN YOU BEGIN YOUR TESTIMONY, WE'LL JUST AGAIN START --
WE'LL BE STARTING WITH MR. CLARK IN THIS NEXT SESSION.
IF YOU WOULD INTRODUCE YOURSELF AND IF THERE IS AN
AFFILIATION THAT'S APPROPRIATE TO MENTION, PLEASE DO SO AT THE TIME.
AND, AGAIN, WE'LL GET THE MECHANICS OF MOVING IN AND OUT AS
WE GO.
I WOULD LIKE TO PERHAPS -- I HOPE THIS GIVES YOU SOME SENSE
OF THE FLOW OF THE DAY.
AGAIN, WE'LL BE HEARING FROM LOTS OF PEOPLE DURING THE
COURSE OF THE DAY.
LET ME CLOSE THE LOGISTICAL COMMENTS WITH A COUPLE OF
OVERARCHING QUESTIONS.
LET ME REMIND YOU THAT TODAY'S LISTENING SESSION IS BEING
VIDEOTAPED.
AND, IN FACT, BY COMING AND PRESENTING TESTIMONY TODAY, YOU
ARE

BE

AGREEING TO ALLOW THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO USE, WHETHER IT
AUDIOTAPES OR VIDEOTAPES OR WRITTEN TRANSCRIPTS AND SOME
ACTIVITIES RELATED TO THE NEW FREEDOM INITIATIVE.

LET ME ALSO POINT OUT, AS HAS BEEN SAID, THAT THERE WILL BE
MOVEMENT AT THE FRONT DIAS AS WELL.

OFFICES

PEOPLE FROM THE DIFFERENT DEPARTMENTS AND DEAR FRIEND
AND AGENCIES REPRESENTED WILL BE TRANSITIONING TO A CERTAIN
EXTENT DURING THE DAY.

AND I AM GOING TO TRY TO FIND A MOMENT, THE APPROPRIATE TIME
WITHOUT CUTTING ANYBODY OFF TO LET THE PEOPLE WHO ARE TAKING
THOSE SEATS VERY BRIEFLY INTRODUCE THEMSELVES.

AND

FROM YOUR SEATS, IF YOU WILL, JUST SORT OF NAME AND TITLE
ORGANIZATION.

SO, AGAIN, WE CAN KEEP THE FOCUS ON THE COMMENTS COMING FROM
THOSE OF YOU WHO TRAVELED HERE TODAY.

WOULD

I WOULD ALSO LIKE TO POINT OUT THAT FOR THOSE OF YOU WHO

IN

LIKE THE ADDITIONAL OPPORTUNITY TO PROVIDE WRITTEN COMMENTS,

UP

THE REGISTRATION AREA, THERE ARE A NUMBER OF COMPUTERS SET

TO

AND THERE IS STAFF AVAILABLE TO HELP YOU IF YOU WOULD LIKE

SUPPLEMENT ANY COMMENTS OR PROVIDE ANY OTHER THOUGHTS IN
WRITING, THAT OPTION WILL BE AVAILABLE TODAY.

AND LET ME JUST POINT OUT I THINK WHAT IS OBVIOUS FROM THIS
AGENDA, THIS IS AN EXTREMELY, AMBITIOUS AND FULL AGENDA.

WE HAVE NO BREAKS SCHEDULED.

WOULD WE'LL BE TAKING TESTIMONY THROUGHOUT THE LUNCH HOUR, AND I
ENCOURAGE THOSE OF YOU WHO HAVE TO GET UP AT ANY PARTICULAR
POINT IN TIME TO INDEED DO SO.
THERE ARE REFRESHMENTS OUT IN THE HALL, THERE IS A FOOD
COURT DOWN THE HALL WHERE YOU CAN HAVE LUNCH.
BUT KNOW THAT THERE WILL NOT BE NECESSARILY ANY BREAK.
WE WANT TO, AGAIN, JUST USE THE MAXIMUM OPPORTUNITY TO HEAR
FROM YOU.
AND FINALLY, LET ME JUST SAY IF THERE ARE ANY NEEDS THAT YOU
HAVE, ANY LOGISTICAL ISSUES OR THE LIKE, PLEASE LOOK FOR THE
STAFF WITH THE BLUE TAGS AND JUST APPROACH THEM AND TELL
THEM WHAT YOU NEED AND I'M SURE THEY WILL ACCOMMODATE YOU.
I WANT TO MOVE TO THE TESTIMONY IN JUST A SECOND.
HOPEFULLY THAT'S GIVEN YOU SOME SENSE OF THINGS, BUT I THINK
DIAS THAT THERE MAY EVEN HAVE BEEN SOME TRANSITIONS AT THE FRONT
AS I WAS SPEAKING.
ARE THERE SOME NEW FOLKS WHO HAVE JOINED US?
AND CAN I ASK THEM TO JUST VERY BRIEFLY INTRODUCE
THEMSELVES,
PLEASE?
>> I'M DR. JOSEPH AUTRY, THE ACTING ADMINISTRATOR OF THE
SUBSTANCE ABUSE AND MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES ADMINISTRATION.
AND I'LL BE SITTING IN FOR CLAUDE ALLEN FOR JUST A FEW
MINUTES.
>> OKAY.
THANK YOU.

>> GOOD MORNING.

MY NAME IS FLOYD MAY.

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I'M THE ACTING ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR THE OFFICE OF FAIR HOUSING AND EQUAL OPPORTUNITY, UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT.

>> PLEASE.

>> HI, I'M BOB PASTERNAK.

I'M THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR THE OFFICE OF SPECIAL EDUCATION

AND REHABILITATIVE SERVICES AT THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION.

>> I'D LIKE TO CLOSE AND MOVE OUT OF THE WAY AND MOVE TO THE TAKING

HOPE

TIME OUT OF YOUR BUSINESS SCHEDULE TO PARTICIPATE IN WHAT I

IS GOING TO BE A VERY INFORMATIVE AND VERY USEFUL SESSION. AND WITH THAT, MR. CLARK, IF I CAN TURN TO YOU TO BEGIN THE TESTIMONY, PLEASE.

To view the other parts of the listening session, click on the links below.

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