

Handout: Areas of Social Justice Work Related to Disability

- **Economic Justice**

- Employment
 - 70% of working-age people with disabilities are unemployed; most are not in the workforce even if they want to work.
 - Unemployment rate has not gone down as the economy has improved.
- Medicaid.
- Benefit cuts.
 - Disproportionate cuts to community living.
 - Social Security Disability programs.
- Under attack using a “slacker” attack.
 - Benefit cuts.
- Chained Consumer Price Index.

- **Voting Rights**

- Voter ID disenfranchisement.

- **Reproductive Justice**

- In many states, living with a disability is, of itself, sufficient reason to terminate parental rights.
- Lack of access to reproductive health services and information.
- Adults with disabilities can have difficulty adopting.
- Sexual abuse.
- Selective abortion.

- **Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)**

- More than 20 years later, many businesses are not accessible.
 - Under the ADA, citizens must approach individual scofflaw businesses through lawsuits or public pressure (no enforcement and no other remedy in the legislation).
 - Restraints on process of suing for enforcement being considered/enacted.
- Industry efforts to turn back public accommodations regulations.

- Hotel lobby blocking implementation of regulations regarding accessible swimming pools.
- **Independent Living**
 - Olmstead decision.
 - Still being challenged.
- **Abuse**
 - In institutional settings (e.g., Judge Rotenberg Center, Massachusetts).
 - Day of Remembrance for people with disabilities killed by family members/caregivers.
- **Bullying**
 - Children with disabilities face bullying at markedly higher rates than other children.
- **Housing**
 - Most housing discrimination complaints are for discrimination based on disability.
- **Transportation**
 - Cuts to accessible public transit.
 - Long waits for Paratransit without shelter or safety.
 - New York City: lack of accessible cabs.
 - Not all public transit is accessible.