

*Remarks for the
Commission for Citizens with Disabilities
Press Conference
July 2, 2001*

Good morning. I'm proud to announce today the creation, by executive order, of the Governor's Commission for Citizens with Disabilities.

The purpose of this commission is to develop a system for program planning and advocacy on behalf of our citizens with physical, mental and/or developmental disabilities.

The commission will consist of fourteen members, representing a cross section of state authorities, individuals from advocacy organizations, and individuals with disabilities.

The chair of the commission will be Ms. Christy Dunaway, Project Director of Living Independence for Everyone, or LIFE.

It is important for every Mississippian to have a voice and an opportunity to be a part of resolving the issues faced in everyday life.

As we prepare to celebrate the anniversary of our nation's independence, it is only fitting that today we celebrate our individual independence – and we do that by recognizing that every individual in our great state deserves a chance to enjoy a high quality of life.

That recognition extends to all Mississippians with disabilities – and I know this commission will serve these citizens well.

I am proud to sign this executive order and, by doing so, ensure that every Mississippian is heard.

(sign executive order, and present to Christy Dunaway)

I'd like to introduce to you Christy Dunaway, Project Director for Living Independence for Everyone and Chair of the Governor's Commission for Citizens with Disabilities.

