

## Proposed Legislation -- "Transition toward Excellence, Achievement and Mobility" (TEAM Act)

### Groundbreaking Transition Legislation for Youth with Disabilities Introduced in House

Representative Gregg Harper (R-MS), father of a 21-year old son with Fragile X Syndrome, has introduced a legislative package of three bills- "Transition toward Excellence, Achievement and Mobility" (TEAM Act) - that would realign and strengthen federally funded programs to more successfully move youth with significant disabilities toward further education, integrated employment, and community living.

The TEAM Act includes the TEAM-Education Act (H.R. 602), the TEAM-Empowerment Act (H.R. 603), and the TEAM-Employment Act (H.R. 604). The Education Act would amend the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) to start transition activities at age 14 and allow local education agencies to use of funds to contract with experts in transition. The Empowerment Act creates an adult transition planning process and system of supports under the supervision of state intellectual and development disability agencies.

The Employment Act amends the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 to establish firmer accountability for systems charged with providing citizens with significant disabilities job training and support through state Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) agencies to ensure that the expected outcome for all individuals with significant disabilities receiving VR is economic advancement through pursuance of post-secondary education or integrated employment at minimum wage or higher.

More information is available on the National Collaborative on Work and Disability for Youth (NCWD/Youth) at <http://www.ncwd-youth.info/whats-new#20110218a>