



**THE ABILITY CENTER
OF DEFIANCE**

PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES MAKING INDEPENDENT LIVING A REALITY

516 Perry Street, Defiance, Ohio 43512 • 419.782.5441 (V/TTY) • 877.209.8336 (Toll-free) • 419.782.9231 (Fax)

May 7, 2002

The Honorable President George W. Bush
The White House
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. President:

We are writing to express our deep concern with and opposition to the nomination of Jeffrey Sutton to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit. Along with many other organizations from around the country, we are extremely troubled about his outspoken disregard for and opposition to congressional protection of the rights of people with disabilities through the Americans with Disabilities Act. This nomination has been extremely troubling and divisive here in Ohio and elsewhere.

A number of Ohio disability organizations have previously signed a petition in opposition of Mr. Sutton. These groups include:

- Ability Center of Defiance
- Access Center for Independent Living
- AXIS Center for Public Awareness of People with Disabilities
- Center for Independent Living Options, Inc.
- Irene M. Ward & Associates
- Lorain County Coalition of Citizens with Disabilities, Inc.
- Ohio Chapter of WAPD
- Ohio Coalition for the Education of Children with Disabilities
- Ohio Statewide Independent Living Council
- People First of Ohio
- Resource Linkage Association
- The Ability Center of Greater Toledo
- The Disability Coalition Movement of Cleveland
- The Independent Living Center Of North Central Ohio, Inc.
- The Ohio Women with Disabilities Network

We urge you to keep your pledge to unite Americans, not divide them, by withdrawing this nomination and seeking more moderate nominees for this and other important judicial positions.

Sincerely,

SERVING:
 Defiance, Fulton
 Henry and Williams
 Counties

The Independent Living Center of N.C.O., Inc.
 Jonnie Fisher, Director
 1 Marion Ave Suite 115C
 Mansfield, Ohio

Kristina Noe, Executive Director
Ability Center of Defiance
516 Perry Street
Defiance, Ohio

PROVIDING:
 Advocacy
 Peer Support
 Independent Living
 Skills Training
 Information and
 Referral

CC: Senator Patrick Leahy

Ray Jones, Chairman
Courage Incorporated
261 Marilla Road
Columbus, Ohio