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## State of Wisconsin Council on Physical Disabilities

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February 4, 2005

Senator Herb Kohl  
330 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Kohl:

Thank you for your January 5 letter inviting us to recommend projects that could be funded in the next federal budget.

The federal Developmental Disabilities Act and Mental Health Act offer the states millions of dollars to develop comprehensive state plans. States can collect data, evaluate programs and services, propose new initiatives and educate the public about these disability groups.

People with physical disabilities (spinal cord injuries, multiple sclerosis, muscular dystrophy, stroke, etc.) do not receive any federal assistance for planning activities. Our Council, for example, receives only \$10,000 in state funds annually for the cost of meetings.

We believe a systematic planning process could help find and fill gaps in services for people with physical disabilities. The planning process could also identify ways to consolidate services and save tax dollars.

Even a modest appropriation could improve the service and advocacy system for Wisconsin's citizens with physical disabilities. We would be pleased to work with you to achieve this goal.

Sincerely,

JorJan Borlin  
Chairperson