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ALABAMA DISABILITIES ADVOCACY PROGRAM  
April 24, 2013

The Alabama Disabilities Advocacy Program (ADAP) is part of the nationwide federally mandated protection and advocacy (P&A) system. ADAP's mission is to provide quality, legally based advocacy services to Alabamians with disabilities in order to protect, promote and expand their rights.

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[www.adap.net](http://www.adap.net)

## “EMPLOYMENT FIRST” IN ALABAMA!

Good news! We have an Employment First bill – Senate Bill 464 – introduced by Senator Vivian Figures of Mobile. The Alabama Employment Initiative Act authorizes state agencies to work together to consider employment as the first option when serving persons with disabilities. The bill is the result of cooperation among state agencies, including the Alabama Department of Mental Health, the Alabama State Department of Education, the Alabama Department of Rehabilitation Services, the Alabama Medicaid Agency, and other organizations and advocacy groups.

The Alabama Employment Initiative Act will assist the service system in devising ways to get jobs for people with disabilities by ensuring state agencies collaborate, and that policies, procedures, and funding support competitive and integrated employment of individuals with disabilities.

Please contact your Legislators NOW. The Legislative Session will end May 20, and your efforts can pay off with Alabama becoming a state which provides more jobs for people with disabilities!

People with disabilities in Alabama need your advocacy help with this bill.



**HAVE PRESENTATION. WILL TRAVEL.**

Are you a member of a group that needs a speaker for an upcoming meeting? If so, ADAP can fill this need. ADAP staff provides education/training sessions on a wide variety of disability-related topics including, but not limited to: the Americans with Disabilities Act, Medicaid waivers, guardianships, special education, general disability rights, and transition services for youth who will soon become adults. We will also speak on specifically requested, disability-related topics. If you are interested in making arrangements for ADAP to come speak at one of your meetings, please contact Anita Davidson, one of ADAP's Legal Assistants, by calling 205-348-5093, or emailing her, [vhubbard@adap.ua.edu](mailto:vhubbard@adap.ua.edu)



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