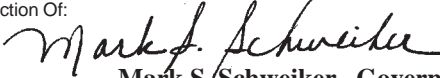


**Commonwealth of Pennsylvania**  
**GOVERNOR'S OFFICE**

**EXECUTIVE ORDER**

Subject:		Disability-Related Policy		Number:	2002-5
Date:	May 3, 2002	Distribution:	B	By Direction Of:	 Mark S. Schweiker, Governor

WHEREAS, Pennsylvania cannot be a Commonwealth to all of its people until all of its people enjoy the opportunity to participate fully in society; and

WHEREAS, Pennsylvania has a proud and distinguished history of protecting the rights of individuals with disabilities through such laws as the *Pennsylvania Human Relations Act* and the *Universal Accessibility Act, as amended, December 20, 1988*; and

WHEREAS, the *Americans With Disabilities Act of 1990, P. L. 101-336* and the *Rehabilitation Act of 1973, P. L. No. 93-112*, are intended to empower people with disabilities to lead independent and productive lives and to participate fully in the activities of their communities; and

WHEREAS, the *Americans With Disabilities Act* and the *Rehabilitation Act* complement those state laws and thereby further opens the doors of opportunity for Pennsylvanians who seek to be considered on the basis of their abilities and not their disabilities; and

WHEREAS, the *Americans With Disabilities Act* requires state services, programs, and activities, when viewed in their entirety, to be accessible to individuals with disabilities; and

WHEREAS, this Administration has an abiding commitment to the equal rights of all Pennsylvania's citizens.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Mark S. Schweiker, Governor of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and other laws, do hereby order and direct as follows:

1. No Commonwealth agency under the Governor's jurisdiction shall discriminate against any individual with a disability because of his or her disability. Individuals with disabilities shall be treated with respect and dignity and shall be provided access to Commonwealth services, programs, activities, and employment opportunities.

2. All Commonwealth agencies under the Governor's jurisdiction shall ensure that the programs they offer to the public are nondiscriminatory, accessible, and address the particular challenges faced by persons with disabilities.

3. Direction for disability-related policy will be assigned as follows:

a. **The Secretary of Administration**, as required by federal law and court decisions, shall be responsible for ensuring compliance with the employment provisions of the *Americans With Disabilities Act*, *Sections 504 and 508 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973*, and the *Pennsylvania Human Relations Act*, relating to Commonwealth employment and for ensuring public access to Commonwealth programs and services.

b. **The Secretary of General Services** shall be responsible for ensuring compliance with the provisions of *Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act* and other applicable laws relating to Commonwealth buildings and facilities and contract compliance.

c. **The Governor's Policy Office** shall coordinate the implementation of Commonwealth disability-related policies and assess the effectiveness of those policies.

d. **The Office of General Counsel** shall provide direction and guidance to executive agency legal counsel on handling disability-related litigation and review proposed disability-related rules and regulations of executive agencies before they are deposited with the Legislative Reference Bureau as required by the *Commonwealth Documents Law*.

4. The Governor's Policy Office shall coordinate regular meetings of the responsible agencies to discuss disability-related policy and resolve issues that may arise.

5. **Effective Date.** This order shall take effect immediately.

6. **Rescission.** *Executive Order 1996-11, Disability-Related Policy* dated December 20, 1996.