**2014 Disability History Essay Contest**

Dear West Virginia High School Seniors:

The Disability History Contest Committee is proud to announce the 2014 Disability History Essay Contest in West Virginia. This contest is designed to provide you an opportunity to showcase your writing skills, share what you have learned about the Disability Rights Movement, use your ability to form and express opinions, and perhaps to earn some money to help you into your future!

This contest is a collaborative effort of the West Virginia Division of Rehabilitation Services, the Statewide Independent Living Council and the State Rehabilitation Council, with cooperation from the West Virginia Department of Education and the West Virginia Department of Education and the Arts.

All high school seniors are invited to submit an entry. Contest rules are located on the bottom of the included entry form. **All entries must include the completed entry form and must comply with all contest rules.** The essay topic is:

*“Discuss the opportunities for people with disabilities that have evolved from the Disability Rights Movement.”*

The top award will be presented to the state winner, and awards may be presented to first-place and second-place entries from six Districts of our state. The awards are as follows:

State Winner $2,000

District First Place (6) $1,000

District Second Place (6) $500

Funding for all awards is provided through a generous grant from the West Virginia Division of Rehabilitation Services.

All entries must be postmarked, faxed, or emailed by October 31, 2014 and be submitted to:

WV Statewide Independent Living Council

PO Box 625

Institute, WV 25112-0625 E-mail: kathi.young@wvsilc.org

ATTN: Essay Contest Fax: 304-766-4721

