

Deaf Blind Bills Signed into Law!

Two bills which are very important to DBMAT were signed into law in May 2009. These are:

SENATE BILL 37

This bill allows children to be served by the Deafblind Medicaid Waiver. DBMAT feels that it is very important that deafblind children receive quality services at the earliest point possible. Moving the age of eligibility from 18 to the age of diagnosis will make this dream possible. Thanks go to many people, but especially:

*House bill author Representative Naishstat of Austin

*Co-author Representative King of Abilene,

*Senate author Senator Zaffirini of Laredo, and

*Governor Perry who signed the bill.

SENATE BILL 63

This bill sets up a career ladder for interveners (the direct care workers who help deafblind individuals relate to their environment.) This bill encourages interveners to get training to increase their skills. As interveners get more training and skill, the career ladder should allow them to earn more money.

Senator Zaffirini and Representatives Naishstat and King also worked their hearts out to be sure these bills made it all the way through the session.

Much more information on how this came to be will be in our upcoming DBMAT Newsletter.