



## **Florida Independent Living Council, Inc.** **2005 Legislative Support Issues**

### **Tax Refunds for Hiring Persons with Disabilities**

This legislation would create a tax refund program for businesses that hire persons with disabilities. It would also provide additional refunds for employers who provide employee health insurance.

This bill died during the 2004 Legislative Session.

Senator Lawson is sponsoring SB 0206, “An Act Relating to Tax Exemptions” for the 2005 Legislative Session.

### **Network of Centers for Independent Living**

- Increase the General Revenue Funding for Centers for Independent Living from \$700,000 to \$800,000.
- Provide adequate funding for the Florida network of Centers for Independent Living. Centers provide core services that promote independence and pre-employment readiness for persons with all types of disabilities. According to the US Census bureau 19.3 percent of the population has a significant disability. This means there are approximately 3.8 million Floridians who have a significant disability. Support the current and growing population of persons with disabilities in Florida.
- Create separate line item for Centers for Independent Living in the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Budget.
- Support proviso language that directs the Div. of Vocational Rehabilitation to use the CIL general revenue to draw down Federal match dollars. Suggested proviso:

*From the funds in Specific Appropriation \_\_\_\_ \$800,000 in General Revenue funding from the base allocation for the Centers for Independent Living shall be used as match for the Basic Support Program. Funding from the Social Security Reimbursements (program income) in an amount up to \$6,000,000 shall be allocated to the Centers for Independent Living, providing that the Social Security reimbursements are available.*

## **Accessible Electronic Information Technology for Persons with Disabilities**

The proposed legislation would require the state to purchase accessible technology when purchasing new technology. It does not however require the state to purchase technology that does not exist.

This legislation would require that all contracting requirements and procurements include accessibility provisions to the limit of the technology. This is based on the premise that accessible technology creates equal access persons with disabilities and inaccessible technology is punitive in the extreme.

A bill number has not yet been assigned.

\*Other proposed legislation will be added to this document recommended by the Council.