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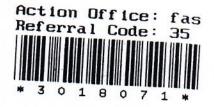
United States Senate...

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

March 11, 1993

The Honorable Mike Espy Secretary of Agriculture 14th Street and Independence Avenues, SW Washington, DC 20250

Dear Secretary Espy,



I am writing to you in regard to a situation that has been brought to my attention. The matter involves James Patterson, an employee of the Foreign Agricultural Service.

Mr. Patterson believes that he has been denied a promotion due to the fact that his daughter has a disability. As an employee of the federal government, Mr. Patterson may be protected against discrimination of this nature under Section 501 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. For your reference, I have enclosed a copy of the correspondence he sent to me regarding this matter.

As chief sponsor of the Americans with Disabilities Act, I am very interested in Mr. Patterson's situation. Federal employees have been protected from discrimination based on a disability since 1973, and I am very concerned to learn that this type of discrimination may still be occurring. I knew that you would want matters of discrimination brought to your attention. I would appreciate your assistance by requesting that this matter be reviewed by the proper officials. A response to their findings should be directed to the attention of Denita Swenson in my Des Moines office.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

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Sincerely,

Tom Harkin

United States Senator

TH/ds:jlw Enclosure

307 FEDERAL BLDG -

cc Charles Goldman, attorney
Richard Schroeter, Acting Administrator of the Foreign
Agricultural Service

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