

TOM HARKIN
IOWA

Attachment VII

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COMMITTEES
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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

Action Office: fas
Referral Code: 35



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.

Sincerely,

Tom Harkin
United States Senator

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UNIT

TH/CS: jlw
Enclosure

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

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