

***Rally for COMMUNITY ATTENDANTS $13/hr !!!***

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**WHERE:** Austin, Texas

**DATE & TIME:**  Wednesday, March 8, 2017. 11am-1pm

**WHAT:** **Legislative Briefing** from 11 AM to 12:30 PM.

First United Methodist Church

1300 Lavaca (NW corner of 13th and Lavaca)

Schmidt-Jones Family Life Center, Great Hall (2nd floor)

**Rally** 1pm: **March** over to the North Steps of the Capitol!

**WHO:**

* **Community Attendants** will deliver thousands of petitions from across the state to Governor Abbott, Lt Governor Patrick and Speaker Strauss wanting to raise the base wage from $8 to $13 an hour;
* **Lex Frieden**, father of the ADA and leader in the Independent Living Movement, will address the critical role Community Attendants play in implementing the community integration vision in the Americans with Disabilities Act 1990 (ADA);.
* **Steve Gold,** nationally recognized disability rights lawyer, will outline the legal issues that result when Community Attendants are not adequately reimbursed.
* **Consumers & Community Attendants,** frustrated that their critical work gets no RESPECT by Texas policymakers;
* **People with disabilities and seniors,** whentheycan't find Community Attendants, they may be forced into a nursing facility or other institution which are more expensive;
* March 8th is also: **International Women’s Day--** The **majority** of Community Attendants are women, and many of them are the sole wage earners for their families, working multiple jobs to make ends meet; often eligible for and dependent on, the same federal and state public assistance on which their clients depend.

“Personal attendants and their clients are interdependent, so it is critical to educate the public and state officials on personal attendant work issues and economic survival. Both are intrinsically linked,” says longtime PAS user and TAP Organizer, Nancy Crowther.

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