

# *Disability History Bill Passes in Senate!!!*

Congratulations to all involved with *Act Today Influence Tomorrow*, initiative of Easter Seals and BCIL to promote youth empowerment and leadership. Our bill to establish October as Disability History Month in Massachusetts passed the Senate yesterday. Many thanks are due Senator Steve Tolman for shepherding this through – send your thanks to him at [Steven.Tolman@state.ma.us](mailto:Steven.Tolman@state.ma.us).

We're making fantastic progress!

- 04/09 Bill was assigned a bill number
- 05/09 Bill was assigned to the Joint Committee on State Administration and Regulatory Oversight
- 06/08/09 Youth Leadership Forum participant spoke to their legislators in support of S. 1469/Rally in support of a Disability History Month
- 07/16/09 The Joint Committee on State Administration and Regulatory Oversight held a public hearing at which after hearing amazing testimony they voted in session to move the bill to the Senate
- 07/23/09 S. 1469 was assigned to Referred to Senate Committee on Ethics and Rules
- 07/28/09 Senate Committee on Ethics and Rules Passed to be engrossed (35/0), so it was moved on to its third reading.

The bill now goes to the House, where it has the attention of our chief House sponsor, Representative Barbara L'Italien.

It often takes months and often years for a bill to work its way through the legislature. What often takes months, our bill did in weeks thanks to all of your hard work! Our work isn't finished; we need your continued support and energy to help push the bill through the House. We will let you know when S. Bill 1469 has been assigned to its House Committee and the date and time of the next public hearing. In the meantime, let's keep our bill, which establishes a Disability History month fresh in our representatives' minds.