

**Statement of Senator Larry Craig
Senate Special Committee on Aging
Long Term Care After *Olmstead*: Aging and Disability
Groups Seek Common Ground
September 24, 2001**

I would like to thank Chairman Breaux for calling this third hearing in our series on long-term care. I would also like to thank the witnesses for agreeing to testify before the Senate Special Committee on Aging's hearing "Long-Term Care After *Olmstead*: Aging and Disability Groups Seek Common Ground."

Over the past months we have examined many aspects of long-term care. We have gained an understanding of the immense challenges facing our system in the coming years. We have discovered innovative ways states are preparing their systems. With this last hearing, we hope to learn from the experiences of the disability community so we can build a foundation for working together.

People with disabilities have been receiving services in the home and community setting for many years. It is appropriate for older Americans to look to this group for guidance on effective ways to deliver quality care to individuals. One of the ways the disability community has been receiving these services is through private-public partnerships, and I am especially excited to hear about these types of approaches.

Through this series of hearings we have learned invaluable information about our nation's long-term care services. I - working with my colleague Senator Breaux - will now be evaluating this information and looking to construct legislation to make the long-term care system more adaptable to a changing society, while ensuring accountability and high quality care.

Again, I would like to thank the witnesses and I look forward to hearing your testimony. Thank you.