

DISABILITY RIGHTS

1 Hadassah, the Women's Zionist Organization of America, has long fought for equal
2 opportunity for all Americans and has long opposed all forms of discrimination – in
3 particular, discrimination based on health conditions. Hadassah, therefore, is deeply
4 concerned about the rights of the 54 million Americans living with disabilities.

5

6 The *Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990* (ADA) and the New Freedom Initiative of
7 2001 have resulted in significant improvements for people with disabilities. Nevertheless,
8 there is still much work to be done toward eliminating barriers to employment,
9 accessibility, housing, education, health care, transportation and voting. Moreover,
10 federal courts continue to weaken disability rights.

11

12 Hadassah, therefore, calls upon:

- 13 • the federal government to continue to expand and strengthen the full range of
14 disability rights.
- 15 • the federal courts to strictly enforce disability rights and to more broadly construe the
16 definition of who qualifies as disabled.
- 17 • state and local governments to comply with the ADA and to enact legislation
18 expanding and strengthening the full range of disability rights.

19