



With Liberty and Access For All

# Michigan Disability Rights Coalition

August 14, 2002

To Whom It May Concern:

David McCloud has had brain damage for nearly half a century from an automobile accident that triggered his birth. He has multiple disabilities affecting many things, but most especially movement and visual analysis. This combination of disabilities makes it difficult for him to read anything other than letters, and makes use of a mouse problematic for him as well. At the same time, though his spoken speech is impaired, he understands language well, and he can see well except for print.

David experiences the kind of severe isolation typical of persons with his level of disability. He also finds it impossible to get more than token work. In many respects, the internet would help him establish and maintain relationships and help him perform paid work from his home. Our organization (MDRC) has much experience in using assistive technology to make it easier for David to avoid mouse overshoot, to be able to listen to text, to be able to use voice commands with applications, but we have no way of getting David a computer that can support building those skills.

I would be happy to talk to anyone who could help David work toward his dreams.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Norman G. DeLisle, Jr.", written over a white background.

Norman G. DeLisle, Jr.  
Executive Director



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# Michigan Disability Rights Coalition

August 26, 2002

Dr. James R. Payne, D.D.S.  
P.O. Box 739  
434 North Center  
Northville, MI 48167

Dear Dr. Payne:

I wanted to thank you personally for your work to build a computer for David. He has lived an isolated and frustrating existence for most of his nearly 50 years. He has a combination of disabilities resulting from his history of brain damage that make it very difficult for him to use a computer as it is normally configured.

We feel comfortable that we can create a set of technical and physical accommodations that will allow David to use the computer for the same things for which everyone else uses them. But the lack of a moderately fast system to handle the screen reader and voice recognition software was a major barrier, until you built exactly what David needs.

We also believe that David will show us how to support many other people with severe disabilities who run into the same barriers that David has faced. So, thank you for your hard work for David and those others. I will let you know how our efforts with David evolve. And, I would be glad to speak to anyone about the importance of your work, if that would help you get the resources you need.

Sincerely,

Norman G. DeLisle, Jr.  
Executive Director

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