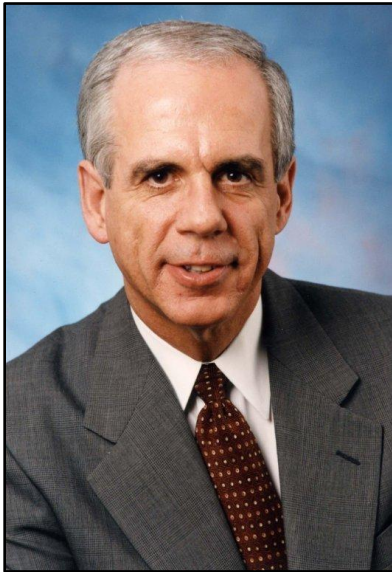


2013 Henry Viscardi Achievement Award Recipient



Tony Coelho

Former U.S. Rep. from California and sponsor of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990.

Tony Coelho is a former U.S. Rep. from California, and lead author and sponsor of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Congressman Coelho's epilepsy diagnosis as a youth put his life on a trajectory that would have him fight for equal rights for all Americans with disabilities.

Although he left office in 1989, he was a primary sponsor of the landmark ADA, which President George W. Bush signed into law in 1990. He also fought in subsequent years to block proposed amendments that would have weakened the law.

His work on behalf of people with disabilities did not end when he left office. President Clinton appointed him to chair the President's Committee on Employment of People with Disabilities. Among his many accomplishments, he also served as vice chair of the National Task Force on Employment of Adults with Disabilities.

"I am honored to share the Viscardi Award with so many outstanding people who have made lasting impacts in the disabilities movement," Coelho said. "The Americans with Disabilities Act was a milestone moment, but we are far from done. The United States must make it a priority to ratify the disabilities treaty, which would extend our leadership and give the world greater assurance that people with disabilities will no longer be mistreated or discriminated against in other nations."