

# ADA NEWS FROM OHIO

Hi. My name is Rev. Jim Sutter. I am an ordained Catholic minister, serving as chaplain at a local hospital, also as chaplain to a terminal care support group and a national advocacy organization.

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For the past several years, I have worked aggressively to encourage compliance with civil rights laws that require equal rights for persons with disabilities (PWD) . My hometown of Lakewood, Ohio has been the biggest offender in Northern Ohio, since the city administration here is strongly anti-ADA. The city administration has even gone so far as to take down handicapped parking signs and paint over pavement markings.



I myself am a PWD, fighting congestive heart failure, SVT episodes, chronic hypoxemia, diabetes, hearing impairment, unstable asthma, coronary artery disease, sleep apnea, an incomplete SCI at T-12, and neuromuscular disabilities.

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Despite all this, I strap on my wheelchair and portable respirator each day and go about my ministry work. I visit hospital patients, nursing homes and a local prison, to bring compassion, understanding and hope to those who suffer. ... The latest developments in my fight to get my hometown to comply with federal accessibility laws, during the weeks of late Sept/early October, 1995, see the local police telling me they have been "ordered" to find something or make up something to force me to stop my advocacy, even if it involves placing me in jail.

In reaction to these latest threats, a large group of advocates, attorneys, politicians, professionals and disabled persons has come riding to the rescue ! An aggressive campaign of letter writing, petitions, media and congressional contacts is in full swing, and these wonderful people, who are doing almost all this work over the Internet, are working hard to relieve some of the load on me. This may be an historic event, when many different people and groups work together on the internet to achieve a common goal.

My doctors tell me that I will most probably die soon, because my heart has been damaged too far to repair. I pray every day that I can leave some small mark on mankind, even if it's just getting my hometown to obey the law and become accessible.

More to follow... ..

Today my favorite web pages are

[Disability News](#) and [American Association of Disabled Persons](#).

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