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## Introduction

In this issue we return to the theme of home modifications. We last focused on this theme in 1993, Issue 2:4. The importance of home modifications to quality of life, together with the difficulty many people face in securing appropriate solutions in their home, make this a critical area for policy and research.

Jon Pynoos, with Melissa Tabbarah, Joe Angelelli and Marian Demiere, opens the issue with an overview of the need for home modifications in the United States, what we know about home modification service delivery, the problems we face in developing a more effective system for providing home modifications, recent developments and recommendations of action. Dr Pynoos brings his many years of experience with home modification policy to the task of writing this excellent synthesis of the problems and the solutions.

Edward Steinfeld, with Danise Levine and Scott Shea, has written an article discussing the Fair Housing Law, particularly the Fair Housing Amendments Act of 1988, in relation to home modifications. He discusses how this Act has provided consumers the backing for demanding accessible housing. Dr Steinfeld goes into some detail about the types of home modifications that make homes more livable.

Funding for home modifications is a major problem for many people. Richard Duncan provides us with an excellent compilation of legislation and programs that offer assistance for home modifications. He includes comprehensive tables of home modification funding resources. He also

discusses other resources that can serve as mechanisms for funding home modifications.

Margaret Wylde's article complements the other articles in this issue with a discussion of consumer knowledge of home modifications. Dr Wylde suggests that home modifications have not achieved their full potential, in part, because of the way we view them, as corrective rather than preventive. She discusses her preventive model. In addition, she lists many valuable resources on home modifications.

Debra Sheets, together with Phoebe Liebig discuss the relationship of aging with a disability to aging and home modifications and assistive technology policy. They offer strategies improving the access of older persons to both home modifications and assistive technology.

The 'Blueprint for Action' prepared by Richard Duncan summarizes the 1996 policy conference: 'A Blueprint for Action: The Second National Working Conference on Home Modifications Policy'. Over 60 experts in disability, aging, home modifications, design and construction and housing finance, community development and long term care participated in the development of this Blueprint for Action.

We conclude this issue with an article that expands our perspective beyond the United States to models for the provision of housing in other parts of the world. Dr Stone, who serves as the Director of International Initiatives at the University of Buffalo Center for Assistive Technology, provides insight to the influence of culture on housing policy and contrasts practices in

developed and developing countries.

The papers in this issue reflect the concern and frustration felt by experts on home modifications policy. There is need for significant change. We can look at models in other countries. We can examine model programs that have been established in the United States. Hopefully, when *Technology and Disability* returns to the theme of home modifications in a future issue, we will have seen advances toward a more integrated system for the provision of home modifications.

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