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NEWS RELEASE
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NORTHEAST REHABILITATION ASSOCIATION NAMES ROBERT J. MCKENNA
OUTSTANDING LEGISLATOR OF THE YEAR

State Senator Robert J. McKenna was named Outstanding Legislator of the Year by the Northeast Rehabilitation Association (NERA) at its 1982 awards banquet held Thursday, May 27 in Bretton Woods, New Hampshire.

McKenna was named this year's recipient for his sponsorship of legislation for the independent living program for handicapped individuals, and more specifically, for his work on the Personal Care Attendant (PCA) program.

This program provides funds for disabled individuals to hire personal care attendants to assist them in various ways. With this program, physically disabled individuals need not be institutionalized, and are able to enjoy fairly normal lifestyles.

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Earlier this year, McKenna was named the Outstanding Rhode Island Legislator of the Year by the Rhode Island Rehabilitation Association. Again, this award was made in recognition of McKenna's legislative leadership and achievement in facilitating rehabilitation opportunities for the disabled.

This will be the third award McKenna has received in the last two years for his work in this area. In 1980 McKenna received the Hubert H. Humphrey award from the Rhode Island Handicapped Action Committee for his work on PCA legislation.

McKenna has served as a state senator for five terms, representing District 50 in Newport. He is chairman of the senate finance committee and is a member of the senate labor committee. He is also director of college and community relations at Salve Regina - The Newport College, Newport, Rhode Island, and a professor of history and politics.

McKenna received his baccalaureate degree from Brown University and his masters degree from Catholic University of America. He was awarded an honorary doctoral degree from Our Lady of Providence College Seminary in 1975.

He is married and has seven children.