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**WGBH: "Lives Worth Living" Not Worth Prime Time**

October 27,  
2011

**MetroWest**  
Center for Independent Living, Inc.



## Lives Worth Living

Greetings!

On behalf of the Disability Community, I would like to say how deeply disappointed I am in WGBH's poor prioritizing in showing the new Independent Lens film: "[Lives Worth Living](#)". This movie tells the story of the disability rights movement which led to the Americans with Disabilities Act. The film is dedicated to a local hero, Fred Fay, who just passed away in August, and who "fought tirelessly for decades for equal rights, access, and opportunity for the disabled, including advocating for programs allowing the disabled to live independently."

Nationally, the movie is scheduled to be shown tonight on Independent Lens at 10 p.m. We assumed, with Channel 2 being the dominant PBS station in the Boston area, that of course it would be on. No - **it is not being shown at all on Channel 2**, and was deferred to a later time (10:26 p.m.) on Channel 44 (and again Friday at 2 a.m., and Sunday at 3 a.m.!!!).

The Disability Community continues to struggle with invisibility issues, misunderstandings about our needs and undervalued opinions of what we have to offer. This movie is an opportunity to celebrate how far we've come and at what cost, and to educate viewers about independence, inclusion and abilities. We are extremely disappointed in WGBH's lack of understanding about the importance of this film to the whole greater Boston community.

If you agree, please contact WGBH, and let them know what you think. We want to know why this important film was given such low priority, and what we need to do to get it shown in prime time.

Phone: 617-300-5400 (Choose 2 for Programming, and then 2 to speak with a person)

Email via their contact form:

<http://www.wgbh.org/about/contact.cfm>.

Springfield's [Channel 57](#) is showing the film at the nationally scheduled 10 p.m. tonight (*kudos to WGBY!*).

Please contact WGBH to get "Lives Worth Living" into the prime time schedule!

from Paul Spooner, Executive Director

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