United Spinal Association Broadens Its Reach with Users First: Giving Voice to All Wheelchair Users

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NEW YORK, May 12, 2011 /PRNewswire-USNewswire/ -- United Spinal Association [1] has announced the inclusion of Users First as a new program that advocates for improved access to seating and mobility equipment by empowering wheelchair users, clinicians, and providers.

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Users First, formerly Users First™ Alliance - a national non-profit formed in 2007, focuses on uniting and strengthening the voice of mobility device consumers, such as wheelchair users. These people with disabilities have had limited freedom when choosing equipment critical to their quality of life and independence due to government and health insurance company restrictions.

As a program of United Spinal -- the single, largest membership organization dedicated to improving the lives of people with spinal cord injuries and disorders nationwide -- Users First initiatives will be supported by the organization's expansive peer support network, wide-range of national programs, and over 60 years of experience in the advocacy arena.

"By combining our resources, we are now in position to spark change in the long-established 'one-size-fits-all' mentality when it comes to mobility equipment," said Paul J. Tobin, president and CEO of United Spinal.

"With United Spinal Association's legacy and strong programs that infuse our community's efforts, from grassroots initiatives and community building to legislative issues, we can offer people with disabilities comprehensive support and community resources on a national level never seen before," said Users First executive director, Ann Eubank, LMSW, OTR/L, ATP.

"People should not have to sacrifice functional outcomes and performance when choosing their equipment. We are committed to ensuring people with disabilities nationwide have access to
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