Speak Up for Public Policy & Systems Advocacy
Agenda

• Who are policymakers
• Key points in the spring session to speak up
• Why and how it is important to create relationships with legislators
• Top Policy Issues we expect for the 2020 Legislative Session
• Get involved!
What is Public Policy?

Public policy is how a government meets the needs of its people

• Actions
• Funding priorities
• Laws
• Regulations
Who Creates Public Policy?

Elected officials create public policy but Advocates can help!

Elected officials are also called
• Policy makers
• Legislators
• Decision makers
Illinois Elected Officials

J B Pritzker
Governor

Juliana Stratton
Lt Governor
Illinois State Legislature
I Illinois Representatives and Senators

118 House Members
- New: 30

59 Senators
- New: 12

BIG CHANGES!
2020 Election
We Must Advocate To:

• Change how Illinois spends its money
• Increase funding for what you care about
• Make sure you get the supports to do the things YOU want to do.
How a Bill Becomes a Law

1. Citizens develop or suggest an idea for a bill.

2. Members of the House of Representatives or the Senate propose the bill.

3. The House and the Senate vote to approve the bill.

4. The governor signs the bill. If he or she chooses not to sign the bill, it is called a veto.

5. If the bill is vetoed, another vote can be taken. If more than 2/3 of the House and the Senate vote to approve it, the bill becomes a law.
Specifically:

✓ *Identify Ideas??
✓ Write the Bill (LRB).
✓ *Find Sponsor(s).
✓ File the Bill. (House and/or Senate)
✓ Bill is introduced.

✓ Vote on Bill.
✓ Bill moves to Other Chamber.
✓ Other Chamber Votes on Bill.
✓ Bill Sent to Governor.
✓ Governor
Budget Is Slightly Different

• In September of the year preceding the start of the new fiscal year, the governor sends budget instructions to state agencies.

• In October and November, agencies submit their budget requests to the governor.

• Budget hearings with the public are held from February through May.

• On the third Wednesday in February, the governor submits his or her proposed budget to the Illinois General Assembly.

• The General Assembly passes a budget in May.
Witness Slips – How to Find Them

• Go to www.ilga.gov and searching for the Senate or House bill.

• Once you have determined which committee will consider the legislation, go back to the homepage of www.ilga.gov and click “GA Dashboard” under “Reports and Inquiry” in the middle column. Or http://my.ilga.gov/.

• How to guide: http://www.senatorsteans.com/constituent-resources/how-to-submit-a-witness-slip
Witness Slips - How to Fill Them Out

• To submit your own witness slip, go to http://my.ilga.gov/ and click “Create Witness Slip” in the right column of the legislation that interests you.

• Enter your information, the names of the groups or firms you represent and your position (support or oppose) on the legislation.

• “What type of testimony you’d like to submit.”
  • “Record of Appearance Only”
  • “Oral”
  • “Written statement filed” – It is your responsibility to get a copy of your written statement to the chairman or chairwoman of that committee.

• Once you have completed the required information, click “Create (Slip)” at the bottom of the page.
How to Track a Bill

- The first step is to identify which legislation you are interested in supporting or opposing, then finding out which committee will hear it. You can do that by going to [www.ilga.gov](http://www.ilga.gov) and searching for the Senate or House bill.

- Left hand side – search the bill number

- Top bar – search under House and Senate for committee schedules and if you want to listen to a committee hearing.
How do I find my legislators?

Go to http://cqrcengage.com/thearc/?6

Plug in your zipcode and a list of your Federal, State, and Local representatives will come up.
Finding Your Legislators

• You can also look at: https://www.illinoispolicy.org/maps/
Prepare to Talk to Legislators:

1. Tell them who you are, that you are constituent
2. What your issue of concern is and how they might help
3. Make the ask – ask them to support your issue, work with you or keep talking to you about it
Tips to Remember

1. Always be polite.
2. Say thank you.
3. Be prepared and keep your story straight.
4. Never make up an answer.
5. Expect to have 10-15 minutes only.
6. Be patient.
7. Ask how you can help them.

From http://www.cthealthpolicy.org/toolbox/advocacy/tips.htm
Top 2020 Public Policy Issues

• Investment in Community Living
  • Address the staff crisis by getting wages above minimum wage
  • Increase rates for more individualized services and supports in the community

• Employment
  • Subminimum wage
  • Additional investments – customized employment, supported employment

• Transportation

• Education
  • Seclusion and Restraint
  • Transition age youth
• Supported Decision making – Guardianship and Advocacy
• PUNS waiting list
• Systems transformation
  • Fiscally responsible spending of dollars
  • Universal assessments and person centered plans for all people with I/DD regardless of where they live
  • Implementation of the HCBS settings rule
• Assistive Technology
  ❖ Other regulatory/administrative changes
  ❖ Implementation of previous year’s bills (criminal justice task force, customized employment pilot, funding diversion homes)
Federal Public Policy Issues

- Budget
- Income and asset limits
- Money Follows the Person
- Employment – subminimum wage
- Food stamps and other benefits
Join Us In Advocacy!

• The Arc of Illinois – action alerts
  • Stories or to Lead - Connect with meg@thearcofil.org
• Wages - They Deserve More – www.theydeservemore
  • Looking for people willing to share stories
• Going Home Coalition – www.goinghomecoalition.org
  • Community First Campaign - Nafia@thearcofil.org
  • April Rally – Date to follow
Become a Member!
Join The Arc Family

- **Make your voice heard** - Advocate with us for policy change, funding and legislation.
- **Be a part of community** - Get support and learn from other families.
- **Access resources when you need them** - Gain valuable online and program resources.
- **Learn and network** - Receive discounts on training and conferences.
- **Connect to The Arc of the United States** - Join a national network, and get news and resources from across the US.
- **Make a difference** - Be a part of protecting rights and advocate for improved services.
Call to Action: What will YOU do within 24 hours?

- For Yourself?
- For Your Family?
- For Your Community?
Thank You & Questions

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