

Fair Shake Network (FSN)

Legislative Survey for 2021 Disability Agenda

The FSN Legislative Committee is conducting a survey to get statewide input on legislative issues. The results of the survey will be compiled and analyzed by the FSN staff and the Legislative Committee. The information gathered will be used to assist in the development of the 2021 Disability Agenda. It is important that you complete and return this survey to the FSN office by no later than January 5, 2021. If you need assistance in filling out the survey, please call the FSN office at 304-766-0061.

Please share this survey with other individuals with disabilities, parents, or organizations that provide support/services to people with disabilities.

LET YOUR VOICE BE HEARD!

Please check the 5 most important issues from the list below that you or your organization would like to have included in the FSN 2021 Disability Agenda:

- Advocate for legislation that protects people with disabilities from abuse, neglect, exploitation, and other rights violations. (So, people with disabilities can live safe and free from abuse.)
- Advocate to Enact Paid Family and Medical Leave for West Virginia Workers to allow people to fulfill family care-giving responsibilities. (To allow people to take time off from work to care for a family member)
- Advocate for a Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) buy-in to address child health coverage gaps among moderate-income families who do not have access to affordable private coverage. (So that more children would be covered by insurance.)
- Advocate for and promote valued, integrated employment with competitive wages as a first and preferred outcome for all people with disabilities who want to work. Phase out sub-minimum wages for people with disabilities. Support policies, initiatives, and services that lead to more employment. Advocate for tax breaks and other incentives that encourage employers to hire people with disabilities. (So people with disabilities can have jobs with meaningful wages.)
- Advocate for Home and Community based services and other services to bring WV into compliance with Americans' with Disabilities Act (ADA). (So, people can live at home and not have to live in nursing homes, hospitals, large group homes etc.)
- Advocate for the civil commitment process in WV to maintain the due process protections currently in WV state code including probable cause hearings authorized by WV State Code Chapter 27. (People with mental health issues will not be committed to mental health hospitals without a fair hearing.)

(OVER)

- Advocate for housing legislation that increases the statewide availability of accessible, economical, integrated, and safe community-based housing. We will support any legislation that supports universal design in home construction (More housing for people with disabilities would be available)
- Advocate for the elimination of Out-of-State Placement of individuals with behavioral health issues and other disabilities, due to the lack of availability of services. (If home services were available in WV the state would have more money (\$) to provide services and help people stay in WV)
- Advocate for inclusive education and high academic standards for students with disabilities of all ages and all levels of need in their home or community schools to prepare them for adult life and active community participation. (School systems will be held accountable to provide a free and appropriate public education and to teach students with disabilities so they are prepared for post-secondary education and adult life.)
- Advocate for funding to expand the network of Centers for Independent Living (CILs) statewide to ensure every West Virginian with a disability has access to the services and resources provided by a CIL. (So that WV can have more Centers for Independent Living)
- Advocate for legislation that will prohibit discrimination in the Organ Transplant process to ensure people with disabilities organ transplants. (This would make sure that everyone was treated equal in the organ transplant process.)
- Advocate for legislation to establish Supported Decision Making as an alternative to guardianship, and to maximize autonomy for adults with disabilities by permitting the choice of a supporter to assist them with making their own decisions about their life. (So, people can make informed choices and control their own lives.)
- Advocate for Living Will legislation that makes directives clear regarding food and fluids in a living will, medical power of attorney, and combined medical power of attorney and increases the number of persons required to certify a person is in a persistent, vegetative state. (So that people's wishes will be carried out about what happens to them when they cannot communicate for themselves)
- Advocate for a Medicaid Buy-in for individuals who do not currently qualify for traditional Medicaid. (So that people who make more money than allowed to qualify for Medicaid could pay to have Medicaid services).

Return by Jan. 15, 2021 to: Email: fsn@fairshake.org, Fax: 304-766-2147, or mail to:

Fair Shake Network

PO Box 354

Institute, WV 25112.