



**Statewide Independent Living Council – Public Policy Committee Meeting  
Unapproved Minutes for Wednesday, April 26, 2017 (2:00pm-3:30pm)  
Meeting Held Via Teleconference  
To connect via teleconference dial 1-866- 848-2216, pin code 8099566334#**

**Committee Attendees Present:** Peter Fischer, Wendy Swager, Sonya Perduta, Joy Johnson Labarge, Randy Russel

**Staff Present:** Lilia Zacchia, Larry Wanger

**Public Present:** Karen Thomasson

**Welcome and Introductions:**

Wendy Swager, Committee Chair, called the meeting to order at 2:05 p.m. Wendy welcomed all to the meeting and introductions were completed.

**Current AZ Bills of Significance (SB1406):**

Wendy Swager provided a legislative update regarding Senate Bill 1406. Mrs. Swager reported that the bill was signed into state law in mid-April by Governor Doug Ducey.

Wendy summarized that SB1406 requires that people who have disabilities notify businesses in writing if they face any barrier in a parking lot, building, or facility and give the business at least 30 days, and often times longer, to make the business accessible before they can sue in court.

Wendy stated that advocates feel that no minority class or other protected group is required to notify a business or organization if they intend to exercise their civil rights.

Larry reported that the SB1406 floor amendment also states that websites are not required to be accessible to people who have disabilities and that a number of federal courts have ruled that making websites accessible is the law.

**Current Federal Bills of Significance (HB620):**

Wendy provided an update on federal House Bill 620. Wendy summarized that HR 620 requires a person with a disability to provide written notice to a business where they encounter barriers to access. The notice must provide sufficient detail to identify the prohibited act and how to comply with the law. The business would then have 60 days to acknowledge that there is a problem and then another 120 days to begin to fix it.

Wendy stated that advocates feel that HR 620 shifts the burden of protecting the right to access to the person with the disability, who first has to be denied access; then must determine that violations of the law have occurred; then must provide the business with specific notice of which provisions of the law were violated and when; and finally, the aggrieved person with the disability must afford the business a lengthy period to correct the problem.

Larry reported that Arizona Representative Kyrsten Sinema has sponsored HR 620. Additionally, Arizona Representatives Trent Franks and Andy Biggs are members of the House Judiciary Committee, which will vote on HR620 as early as the first week of May.



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Larry announced that the Arizona Disability Coalition (ADC) will convene later this week to discuss HB 620.

**Future Areas of Focus for the Committee and Next Meeting:**

Committee members decided to prioritize the development of an advocacy agenda that focuses on legislative priorities, with an approximate completion date of Fall 2017. Larry announced that he will report back to the committee after the upcoming ADC meeting, which he stated will be held later this week.

Sonya Perduta expressed that she would like the committee to focus on healthcare and specifically the procedure required to file a complaint with the Arizona Attorney General's Office.

The committee expressed an interest in reviewing the prior Health Care survey that was completed by the SILC in late 2015, early 2016, in order to establish related health-care priorities.

Larry stated that he will email the committee the Health Care Survey that was completed in early 2016. Larry summarized the purpose of this questionnaire, highlighting that the results of the survey conducted by the AZSILC focused on people who have disabilities living in Arizona and the experiences that they have had with medical providers. The survey received approximately 230 responses from people who have a variety of disabilities.

After significant discussion, the committee agreed upon a meeting date of May 17<sup>th</sup>, 2017 from 2:00-3:30pm.

**Announcements:**

No announcements were made.

**Public Comment:**

No public comments were received.

**Adjournment:**

Wendy Swager entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting. A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Sonya Perduta. Joy Johnson Labarge seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously, passing with 5 voting in favor, 0 against, and 0 abstaining.