

## Disability Outreach Center Lobby Day Agenda

### Improved Funding for Accessibility and Disability Services at Public Colleges and Universities.

Public colleges and universities need to do a lot of upkeep in order to ensure that they are fully accessible to people with disabilities, this includes the costs of accessibility devices such as elevators and door opening buttons. The maintenance and replacement of such features often goes beyond a school's budget and thus such features are not updated, leading to frequent breakdowns and diminished accessibility. Also, limited funding prevents adequate support for disability services offices that provide accommodations to school students and staff. This results in limited ability to enforce accommodations and work with students as additional needs arise.

### Employment Equity for People with Disabilities.

Employment equity needs to be improved for people with disabilities to better accommodate varying workplace needs. Also, oppose and change existing legislation WAC 296-128-050 and WAC 296-125-043 that allows employers to pay people with disabilities below minimum wage. Such changes will help ensure that individuals with disabilities are treated fairly in their places of work, and that their time is valued in such a way so as to help support a livable wage for people with disabilities.

### The Model Toxins Control Act.

The Model Toxics Control Act (MTCA) passed in the early 90s in order to identify where revenue from taxes on hazardous substances get directed. MTCA has been incredibly successful in identifying and cleaning up hazardous sites, as well as been dedicated to protecting water quality and supporting local communities as they address hazardous waste threats. This is imperative to maintaining community health and limiting environmental triggers for chronic and acute illnesses. A detailed report done by Front and Centered concluded that half of all toxic sites in WA are located in areas that are disproportionately non-white and/or low income, only 5% of grants from Public Participation Grants were prioritizing environmental justice concerns, and that MTCA has positively impacted vulnerable communities at risk of hazardous waste threats. MTCA relies on a tax that is imposed on hazardous substances that have extremely volatile prices making its revenue extremely unreliable. We encourage legislators to impose a tax surcharge to ensure that funding is more stable and predictable for coming years as well as help solve shortfalls in funding in order to continue the positive progress MTCA has made in protecting vulnerable communities.

## Improve Disability Aid.

Support House Bill 2667. This bill will alter the Essential Needs and Housing Support Program (HEN) to include those eligible for The Aged, Blind, or Disabled Program (ABD). This change would provide additional support to people with disabilities at risk of becoming homeless including rental support and additional housing support. This will help supplement the financial need that many low income people with disabilities have due to an inability to work. This need is often not sufficiently met by ABD cash assistance alone. The addition of HEN benefits will help decrease rates of homelessness within the disability community.