

DE SILC Advocacy Committee Meeting Minutes
February 13, 2024
via Zoom

Minutes from DE SILC Advocacy Committee Meeting of March
12, 2024

Held via Zoom starting at 12:00 PM

Members Present: Daniese McMullin-Powell (Advocacy Committee Chairperson), Sandra Farina (DE SILC Chairperson), Elizabeth (Lizzy) Phillips (DE SILC member) and Blake Roberts (DE SILC Secretary).

Meeting Commencement

Today's Advocacy Committee meeting commenced at 12:00 PM. Blake made a motion to accept the agenda; Sandra seconded. The agenda was accepted with no changes, corrections or questions.

Approval of Minutes

Daniese had a question about a sentence in February Minutes focused on parking. Blake will modify the Minutes based on change recommended today by the Committee Chairperson. Sandra made a motion to approve the Minutes with this correction to be made by the Secretary post-meeting. Blake seconded. There were no additional corrections, questions or changes.

Discussion

Daniese stated there are now 196 Congressional co-sponsors of the Latonya Reeves Freedom Act. As of the February Advocacy Committee meeting, the number of Congressional sponsors of the bill was 193. The number of co-sponsors has increased by 3 during the past 30 days. For the bill to come to the House floor, 218 Congressional representatives must be sponsors. One of the current Congressional sponsors is Delaware Representative Lisa Blunt-Rochester.

Currently, a caravan for this bill is going throughout the United States for one year. Daniese stated she will be the host for the caravan when it comes to Delaware. This will happen on September 5 and 6.

Discussion then focused on a statewide perspective. The assisted suicide bill was discussed by the Advocacy Committee Chairperson.

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Daniese stated that effective advocacy means knowledge about the subject. This involves listening, learning and knowing where to find information. Daniese stated it is important for younger generations to know about the struggles which have occurred for disability rights to be achieved. Daniese also stated that change involves collaboration and cohesiveness. Sandra agreed about the importance of working together. Different methods of advocacy were discussed during today's meeting. The Committee Chairperson said advocacy methods can include knowledge, justice and working for positive change.

Next Committee Chairperson

Blake reminded everyone that this is the final Advocacy Committee meeting which Daniese will be chairing during her current term appointment by the Governor. Blake also stated he will not be seeking the Advocacy Committee Chairperson role because he already has enough to do on SILC as Secretary and Chairperson of another SILC Committee. Sandra responded that the Executive Committee will need to nominate someone to be the next Advocacy Committee Chairperson. That can be done during the March 26 Executive Committee meeting.

Meeting Adjournment and Next Meeting

Today's meeting adjourned at 2:10 PM. The next Advocacy Committee meeting is scheduled to occur on April 9, 2024 at noon.

Respectfully submitted,

Blake Roberts, DE SILC Secretary