



CIVIL RIGHTS

The Council recognized that people with developmental disabilities are at a high risk of having their civil rights violated or removed, especially people who also are of a racial or ethnic minority. The Council is invested in the protection and enforcement of these rights for all people with developmental disabilities.

- ✓ The Council will advocate for the training of appointed counsel, mental hygiene commissioners, and judges on the necessity to explore least restrictive alternatives that preserve as many decision making rights as possible.
- ✓ The Council will advocate for supported decision-making as an alternative to guardianship. Supported decision-making allows adults who want assistance in making decisions to choose a group of trusted supporters to assist them with making and communicating decisions.
- ✓ The Council will advocate for people with disabilities to have informed consent to services and treatment.

PUBLIC FUNDING

The Council will continue to advocate for the restoration of, and increases in, State and Federal funding necessary to maintain or enhance critical support services that allow all people with developmental disabilities to live, learn, work, and fully participate in the community.

- ✓ The Council will advocate for adequate funding for home and community-based services that allows people with developmental disabilities to remain in their homes.
- ✓ The Council will advocate to expand availability, knowledge, skills, and compensation of professionals, paraprofessionals, and direct care staff to build the workforce capacity.
- ✓ The Council will advocate for universal design adult size changing tables in public settings so that people with disabilities have access to safe, dignified, and hygienic toileting.
- ✓ The Council will advocate for policies, initiatives, and services that lead to more valued, integrated employment with competitive wages.
- ✓ The Council will advocate for tax breaks and other incentives that would encourage employers to hire people with developmental disabilities.



HEALTH

The Council is concerned about the very lives of people who are generally perceived to have lower social status, particularly those who have developmental disabilities. The Council is committed to advocating for policies that improve the overall health of people with developmental disabilities.

- ✓ The Council will support legislation that would uphold the principle that people with developmental disabilities should receive medical treatment at the same standards of service and access as other residents in the community.
- ✓ The Council will safeguard limitations of treatment policies that inadvertently harm or even hasten death by medical professionals who have the legal authority to judge the value of a person's life by invoking "quality of life" concerns.
- ✓ The Council will advocate for legislation that requires emergency personnel and first responders to receive training about developmental disabilities as part of their continuing education in order to more effectively and safely support those individuals during a crisis situation.

EDUCATION

The Council is concerned that students with developmental disabilities are not receiving a free and appropriate public education in the least restrictive environment in order to access their education and receive the supports and services they need to succeed.

- ✓ The Council will advocate for full implementation and enforcement of ALL state and federal education laws and policies.
- ✓ The Council will advocate against students with developmental disabilities, particularly students of a minority race or ethnicity from being harmed by suspension, expulsion, out of school environment/alternative placement due to their behavior that is likely related to their disability.
- ✓ The Council will advocate for appropriate and effective training and professional development for teachers, aides, and other service personnel in the area of special education.
- ✓ The Council will advocate for appropriate standards for preparing students with disabilities for post-secondary training and experiences that are person-centered that will lead to integrated employment and meaningful inclusion in the community.