



Self Advocate Priorities

People with Developmental Disabilities

SPEAK OUT!

Working in Harmony with state legislators to provide quality supports and services in local communities. Their voices need to be at the table!

Include Them in the Process!

BUDGET PRIORITY: Fund COMMUNITY services, NOT RHCs!

In Washington State, there are 4 Residential Habilitation Centers (RHC) or state institutions for people with developmental disabilities (DD). Yakima Valley School, Rainier School, Fircrest School and Lakeland Village are called schools for a reason: they were created as a place for children with I/DD to go learn skills such as getting dressed, sewing, farm chores, etc., then return home. Back in the 1950s, parents were encouraged to leave their children at the RHC and move on with their life, so now the parents and guardians think the RHC is the person's home. However, the Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA) says now CMS has re-emphasized the "intermediate" aspect of institutional care. They have told our state "it is the responsibility of the RHC not to house and protect people, but rather to be actively preparing them for leaving the RHC and integrating into the community."

With the unacceptable abuse, neglect and death rates at RHCs (see **"No Excuses" and "No More Excuses" reports by Disability Rights Washington at www.disabilityrightswa.org/reports**) and the continued need for millions of dollars each year to comply with CMS, as well as the capital costs for the aging structures, its time for our state to increase the pay for direct-care workers in community services and expand community options.

HB 1139/SB 5447: Guardianship Reforms

Full Guardianship is necessary for the protection of some adults with DD, but many only need support in their decision-making. Provide the option of less restrictive guardianship (and less costly to the state) like representative payees or Power of Attorneys.

HB 2262/SB 6015: Wrongful Death

Individuals with I/DD have value! Currently, if a person is killed, their families have no legal recourse because the person does not have anyone financially dependent on them. This leaves families devastated emotionally, yet the law determines their loved one had no value. This needs to change!

HB 2822: Define Service Dogs

People often take animals into businesses claiming they are a service dog, when they are not. The bad behavior of those untrained animals makes life difficult for people who do need their trained service animal.

SB 5414: Transportation

Transit systems imposing a sales and use tax under RCW 82.12.045 should be required to provide transportation services, such as paratransit or dial-a-ride, throughout their entire service areas to people with DD such as epilepsy, cerebral palsy, and autism; people over 70 and people with physical disabilities.

Expand Community Services!

PFAS in Fast Foods Now in Compost Too! HB 2658/SB 6396



Working in Harmony with state legislators to protect children and adults with developmental disabilities and not expose their often fragile immune systems to chemicals in their food and water.

A recent study (January 2018) done by Linda S. Lee (Professor in the Department of Agronomy, College of Agriculture, Purdue University) and Heather Trim (Zero Waste Washington) reported the analysis of ten compost samples from across the United States for perfluoroalkyl acids (PFAAs), which range in carbon chain length from 4 to 16 carbons. The results are disturbing!

PFAAs are a subclass of chemicals of the broader class of per/polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) that are fire-resistant and repel water, fat and other substances. They are used in many commercial applications including food serviceware products such as fast food wrappers and popcorn bags that are often present in wastes that are composted for reuse as fertilizers. Compost samples were collected from Washington, Oregon, California, Massachusetts and North Carolina at the consumer point of acquisition with assistance of nonprofit Zero Waste Washington. Nine of the samples were generated by commercial compost facilities and one was from a backyard compost bin.

PFAAs levels were found in much higher quantities in the seven samples that had mixed food and yard waste and included compostable food serviceware. In contrast, low levels of PFAS were found in the three samples which did not include compostable food serviceware in them.

PFAA Highlights

- ⇒ PFAAs are persistent
- ⇒ *Short chain PFAA are more mobile from soil: 'Stickiness' to soil/media is proportional to organic carbon content and chain length*
- ⇒ Crop uptake potential is higher *for the shorter chain PFAAs*
- ⇒ Leaching to groundwater and *stormwater has been documented (further research is needed)*
- ⇒ These toxic nonstick chemicals are emerging as a major public health threat
- ⇒ They can be particularly damaging to people with a compromised immune systems, including many people with developmental disabilities
- ⇒ These cancer-causing chemicals don't breakdown, which means they stay in our bodies and the environment for as long as 8 years

The study results are especially concerning with the desire for many Washingtonians to grow and purchase organic foods. Through compost they purchase, they can unknowingly be adding these bad chemicals to the organic foods they eat, thinking they are spending extra money and time to be healthy! Help your constituents have one less harmful chemical to ingest by passing HB 2658/ SB 6396.

No PFAS in our Food Chain through Compost! Please Pass HB 2658/SB 6396

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Self-Advocates in Leadership (SAIL) is a coalition of over 200 people with developmental disabilities who are interested in shaping public policy in Washington State.

Welcome To Advocacy Day— Self Advocacy Pride

These are some of SAIL's priorities for this year:

Residential Habilitation Centers (RHC):

We at SAIL believe the RHC's are a dangerous place to live. There have been chokings that have resulted in death, sexual assaults a near drowning, where a person was tied in a wheelchair and rolled off a pier.

- 1) Let's fund the 47 people who have been waiting to leave the Institution,
- 2) Rainier and Fircrest need to follow their Master Plan of consolidating services within the grounds, opening up opportunities for community participation,
- 3) Create a plan for closure, including a target date.

Sub-minimum Wage:

We at SAIL want to end the ability of employers to pay less than minimum wages or sub-minimum wages.

- 1) Elimination of the use of 14c forms used by the Department of Labor and Industries issued to employers to permit them to pay sub-minimum wage,
- 2) The Rehabilitation Act should be amended to prohibit placements in jobs that pay less than minimum wage,
- 3) All sheltered workshops should be phased out.

Sterilization:

The State of Washington is considering a proposal to create a form to make it easier for their guardians to obtain permission to sterilize people who cannot give consent. Currently, it is only lawful to do by obtaining a court order.

- 1) A form will make it easier to justify sterilization,
- 2) It has been reported that doctors have done so illegally without a court order,
- 3) Doctors need to be educated on the law, as it should never be easy to do.



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