

**MetroWest
Center For
Independent Living**

**People with Disabilities
Living in the Community**

March came in like a lion! Our fingers are crossed for more lamb-like exit!

IL Education Day at the State House is scheduled for Thursday. Our priorities for 2019 are:

- Align MA AAB regulations with the ADA. H.2019 / S.1441
- Increase Alternative Housing Voucher Program to 8 million dollars
- Access to Assistive Technology and Durable Medical Equipment
- Services and Supports for Youth
- Access to Health Care

Hope we see you Thursday!

Paul Spooner,
Executive Director



Crocuses poking through the snow (archives)

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Architectural Access Board Bill H.2029 / S.1441

Deja vu all over again. Please help us make 2019 the year that Massachusetts Architectural Access finally aligns with the Americans with Disability Act. This bill costs the state nothing, and will greatly improve housing and employment options for people with disabilities.

Download the [AAB/ADA.docx](#) document and share the information with your legislators! Help us dispel inaccuracies and promote all the benefits of this important legislation!

Newsline for MetroWest

Joe Weisse from Natick is working on adding the MetroWest Daily News to Newsline. He is fundraising \$10,000 for this project by getting pledges from local organizations. *Please let us know if you know of an organization who might contribute.* This is a wonderful opportunity for Newsline and Talking Book Library participants.

The \$10,000 is a one-time startup cost to Gateway news. Ongoing, the Perkins Library will fund annual costs of \$5000.

We have about 227 Newsline readers in our 26 town service area and approximately 1000 subscribers to the Braille and Talking Book Library. We are hoping that adding local news will increase Newsline subscriptions.

Who is eligible for the Talking Book Library at Perkins?

A person who is blind or visually impaired, who is unable to read regular print or unable to turn pages as a result of temporary or permanent visual or physical disabilities. They receive talking books and newsline among other library services. *This service is free.*

What is Newsline?

Newsline is a free national service provided by the National Federation of the Blind in conjunction with the Braille & Talking Book Library at Perkins school for the Blind in Watertown. The service enables the user to listen to more than 300 newspapers, numerous magazines, access state-specific information, tv listings, job postings along with grocery and shopping advertisements. This can be accessed in English and Spanish over the phone, online, downloaded to a portable device, an app on your phone and by email. You can take a favorites list based on the newspapers and

magazines you want to receive to be read or downloaded.

National IL Priorities from NCIL

The National Council on Independent Living has released their Spring 2019 Policy Priorities.

Healthcare and long-term services and supports are at the top of the list, with the Disability Integration Act, Money Follows the Person and more.

Our MA legislators are typically on-board with all of our priorities, but we encourage you to contact them on these issues. Legislators gain credibility when they have supporting data from constituents.

Link to the [NCIL website](#) to download the policies document in PDF, Word or Plain text.

Assisted Suicide - Again

In spite of losing in a statewide ballot in 2012, Assisted Suicide has been resurrected in MA as **An Act relative to end of life options** - [S1208](#) and [H1926](#). They are both listed under the Joint Committee for Public Health.

In 2012, the disability community was united against the ballot question, citing inadequate protections for people with disabilities. Many doctors and others have shown a pointed lack of respect for the lives of people with disabilities. Disabilities can be costly to families in both time and money, meaning family members could coerce a patient into choosing this option. Past bills have not required adequate mental health counseling to ensure that the patient really is in an unbearable amount of pain and is not just clinically depressed. Also, studies show that too many people end their lives in painful intensive care, rather than hospice care.

Does new version answer these concerns? And how do we balance these concerns with consumer choice which is at the core of independent living? Several MetroWest legislators have already signed on. If this goes forward, and we hope it does not, we will have hard conversations with our legislators.

Human euthanasia is legal in California, Colorado, the District of Columbia, Hawaii, Montana, Oregon, Vermont, and Washington.

For a deeper understanding of disability opposition to past assisted suicide bills, visit [second-thoughts.org](#).



Kristen McCosh and Julie _MWCIL_ in 2012

Say What??!!?

From the DPC newsletter:

In case you needed a blatant example of how disability gets left out of academic diversity and inclusion efforts, Bradley University just posted a job for an assistant director of diversity in which not being able to access inaccessible buildings literally disqualifies you from the job. It's no wonder students with disabilities feel unwelcome on so many campuses.

Job Posting:

Hello from Bradley University!

We are excited to announce an opening for an **Assistant Director of Diversity and Inclusion**. This position will be responsible for the development and implementation of programs and services targeting historically underrepresented student populations on campus, with a specific focus on Hispanic/Latinx student outreach and retention.

A master's degree is required upon start of the position. Preference will be given to candidates with experience in multicultural affairs within student affairs or a related field. ***Must be able to access non-ADA compliant building.***

Qualified applicants must electronically submit a cover letter addressing the qualifications for the position, a current resume and complete contact information for three professional references to vpsa@fsmail.bradley.edu.

A Skeptic's Journey with Alexa

From NewMobility.com

by Christina Cortez, February 21, 2019

The author received an Amazon Echo Show as a gift, and based on past voice recognition failures, tried to return it. Her brother convinced her to give it a try and helped her set it up. A month and a half later, and the author is singing Alexa's praises.

Read the article at NewMobility.com.

IL Education Day at the State House

Please join us in the Great Hall at the State House on Thursday, March 14 from 10:30-3. Download the pdf [Flyer](#) for more details. Invite your legislators.

Schedule:

- 10:30 a.m. - Registration
- 11:00 a.m. - Speakers
- 12:00 p.m. - Lunch
- 1-3 p.m. - Legislative Visits

Priorities:

- Align MA AAB regulations with the ADA
- Support Independent Living Centers
- Services and supports for Youth
- Access to Housing for People with Disabilities
- Access to Assistive Technology and Durable Medical Equipment
- Access to Health Care

For more information, contact Sadie at info@masilc.org.



IL Ed Day 2016

Activist Resources and Directories

National Contact Information

[Directory of House of Representatives](#)

[Directory of Senators](#)

Senator Edward J. Markey

Address:
255 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington DC 20510
Phone:
(202) 224-2742
Contact:
www.markey.senate.gov/contact
Website:
<http://www.markey.senate.gov/>

Senator Elizabeth Warren

Address:
317 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington DC 20510
Phone:
(202) 224-4543
Contact:
<https://www.warren.senate.gov/contact/shareyouropinion>
Website:
<http://www.warren.senate.gov/>

State Government Contact Information

[Directories of State Senators and Representatives](#)

[Contact Governor Baker](#)

[WhereDoIVoteMa.com](#) - Enter your address, and get a list of all of your elected officials.

National Resources

Indivisible - A practical guide for resisting the Trump agenda - Former congressional staffers reveal best practices for making Congress listen. [Download the pdf](#) or [Visit the website](#).

Save My Care - a movement to bring together families, advocates and health care providers to protect the health and financial security of all Americans. [Visit the website](#).

National Council on Independent Living has Action Alerts for issues on the table in Washington. [Visit the Advocacy Monitor webpage](#).

Join REV UP - Make the disability vote count!

For more information, visit www.revupma.org.



Disability Pride Toolkit

[NCIL](#) (National Council on Independent Living) has compiled a [Disability Pride Toolkit and Resource Guide](#).

This guide delves into what Disability Pride is, and why it is so important. The difference between the Medical Model and the Independent Living paradigm offer a framework of the disparities between how society works and how it should work.

The guide also offers many resources and ideas on how to advance the discussion and how to educate others. *We highly recommend this toolkit and resource guide for anyone who wants to be active in the fight for disability rights!*





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