



Survival Coalition

of Wisconsin Disability Organizations

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More Than 200 Members of Disability Community Plan to Participate in Virtual Annual Disability Advocacy Day

Direct Care Workforce, Family Caregiving, Voting Access All on Priority List

(MADISON) – More than 200 members of the disability community from all parts of Wisconsin plan to rally virtually on March 16 for the Survival Coalition’s annual Disability Advocacy Day. Grassroots advocates will participate in issue discussions and planning sessions before making targeted calls to their state legislators to tell their story and discuss the issues that impact people with disabilities in their everyday lives.

This year’s goal is to ensure legislators understand that the voices of people with disabilities need to be heard, and that they are facing significant challenges to their health, safety, and ability to remain in their homes because of the lack of direct support workers. Protecting voting rights, direct support workforce shortages, and the mounting pressures put on family caregivers resulting from the workforce shortage will be the top issues of the day.

“The direct care workforce crisis has only heightened during these past 12 months,” said Survival Coalition Co-Chair Patti Becker. “Many people have been forced to move from their homes because they couldn’t find care or lost the workers they had.

“Aging family members are sacrificing their jobs, their health, and their retirements to cover the gaps. We have to reinvest in our systems to pay for the actual costs of care,” said co-chair Beth Swedeen

“New restrictions on voting rights are creating added barriers for people with disabilities to exercise their right to vote. We ask our policy makers to work with us to make our elections more accessible and inclusive - not more restrictive”, says Barbara Beckert, Milwaukee Office Director, Disability Rights WI.

Virtual Disability Advocacy Day of Action will include an overview of disability issues and planning time from 10:00 to noon. Participants are encouraged to rally as if they were in person, with poster signs and rally cheers via Zoom. Following issue briefings participants will call their legislators to talk about the issues.

Disability Advocacy Day is organized by the Survival Coalition which is comprised of more than 20 statewide disability organizations that advocate and support policies and practices that lead to the full inclusion, participation, and contribution of people living with disability.

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Survival Coalition Issue Teams: education, employment, housing, long term care for adults, long term care for children, mental health, transportation, workforce, voting, Medicaid, and health care.

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