

New DD Bill Needs Your Help to Pass

Senator Luann Ridgeway, the Chair of the Senate [Health, Mental Health, Seniors & Families Committee](#) needs to hear from you.

HB 555 is a landmark bill that creates the following (adapted from Cathy Brown of MPCDD):

- The DD Waiting List Equity Trust Fund- adds a check off box on taxes so people can donate to help people on the DD waiting list. (Standalone bill – HB631 is currently in the Senate)
- Making October Disability History and Awareness Month in Schools
- Removal of “MR” and the “H-word” from many State Statutes
- Mandates that all new parking signs be labeled as "Accessible" rather than "Handicapped."
- Adds Day Rehab Services for people with Brain Injury
- Adds a Mental Health Professional to the MO HealthNet Oversight Committee
- Changes the rules regarding Service Dogs
- Makes it Illegal to Discriminate against People with Disabilities when it comes to Parental Rights.
- And makes changes to the Mental Health Earnings Fund

We need Senator Ridgeway to schedule HB 555 for a hearing within the [Health, Mental Health, Seniors & Families Committee](#) in which she is Chair.

You can contact Senator Ridgeway at:

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Or send her an email by visiting her at http://www.senate.mo.gov/webmail/D17_Webmail.aspx

There is no time to waste. Session is quickly coming to a close and unless this historic bill is voted out of this committee and voted on in the Senate, the bill will die.

Contact Senator Ridgeway ASAP!