

New Jersey Legislative Disability Caucus Backgrounder

PURPOSE:

To serve as a bipartisan forum within the New Jersey Legislature for lawmakers and their staff to consider the impact on the disability community when shaping ALL public policies in the Garden State through increased awareness and a greater understanding of the complexities of the disabilities service system and issues affecting individuals with disabilities and their families.

THE FACTS:

- According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, approximately 61 million Americans – 25% of the population – have a disability that “impacts major life activities”.
- Approximately 25% of adults in New Jersey identify as having some type of disability. This equates to 2,227,250. *
- Despite progress, adults with disabilities in New Jersey and across the country continue to experience significant differences in health characteristics and behaviors compared to adults without disabilities. **
- The jobless rate for persons with a disability continues to be about twice as high as the rate for those without a disability. ***
- People with disabilities live in poverty at more than twice the rate of people without disabilities. ****



Did you know?

Disability costs in healthcare expenditures are \$12.4 billion per year** in New Jersey.

 **12.5%**
of all US males and

 **12.8%**
of US females have a disability

HOW THE CAUCUS WORKS:

Individuals with disabilities, their families and organizations that serve, support and advocate for individuals with disabilities in New Jersey will be a resource to the NJ Legislative Disability Caucus, providing education and programming as needed. Legislators who join the caucus agree to be champions for individuals with disabilities in New Jersey by meeting with them in their district offices; participating in quarterly education forums; and above all, promote policies to improve the lives of people with disabilities and consider the impact on the disability community in shaping all public policies in New Jersey.

* Disability & Health U.S. State Profile Data for New Jersey (Adults 18+ years of age), Centers for Disease Control.

** Disability-associated healthcare expenditures are presented in 2006 dollars as reported in Anderson et al, 2010. This value represents approximately 26% of total healthcare expenditures for the state of New Jersey.

*** Current Population Survey (CPS), US Department of Labor's Office of Disability Employment Policy, February 2020.

****Disability Poverty Connection Report, National Council on Disability, October 2017.

Founding Caucus Members

Senator Stephen M. Sweeney - Chair
Senator Anthony M. Bucco
Senator Kristin M. Corrado
Senator Patrick J. Diegnan, Jr.
Senator Vin Gopal
Senator Thomas H. Kean, Jr.
Senator Fred H. Madden, Jr.
Senator M. Teresa Ruiz
Senator Troy Singleton
Senator Joseph F. Vitale
Assemblyman Daniel R. Benson
Assemblywoman Annette Chaparro
Assemblyman Nicholas Chiaravalloti
Assemblyman Ronald S. Dancer

Assemblywoman Joann Downey
Assemblywoman Aura K. Dunn
Assemblyman Louis D. Greenwald
Assemblyman Eric Houghtaling
Assemblywoman Valerie Vainieri Huttle
Assemblywoman Pamela Lampitt
Assemblywoman Yvonne Lopez
Assemblywoman Nancy F. Munoz
Assemblywoman Carol A. Murphy
Assemblywoman Holly T. Schepisi
Assemblyman Adam J. Taliaferro
Assemblywoman Britnee N. Timberlake
Assemblyman Anthony S. Verrelli
Assemblyman Andrew Zwicker

2021 Issue Briefing Schedule

Virtual or in Trenton – One hour for Caucus members and their staffers

January 26 @ noon – *Covid and the Disability Community*

April 27 @ noon

July 27 @ noon

October 26 @ noon



The New Jersey Council on Developmental Disabilities (NJCDD) is proud to announce the Supporting Agencies for the NJ Legislative Disability Caucus:

[New Jersey Council on Developmental Disabilities](#)

[Autism New Jersey](#)

[Brain Injury Alliance of New Jersey](#)

[Disability Rights New Jersey \(DRNJ\)](#)

[New Jersey Association of Mental Health & Addiction Agencies, Inc. \(NJAMHAA\)](#)

[New Jersey State Independent Living Council](#)

[Ombudsman for Individuals with Intellectual or Developmental Disabilities and Their Families](#)

[SPAN Parent Advocacy Network](#)

[Supportive Housing Association of New Jersey](#)

[The Alliance for the Betterment of Citizens with Disabilities \(ABCD\)](#)

[The Arc of New Jersey](#)

[The Boggs Center on Developmental Disabilities, Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School](#)

[The New Jersey Association of Community Providers \(NJACP\)](#)