



GCD: Governor's Council on Disability



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[Governor's Council on Disability](#)

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GCD POSTER CONTEST FOR NDEAM

by Claudia Browner

The Governor's Council on Disability (GCD) is now accepting entries for the poster contest for National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM)

NDEAM is celebrated nationwide each October to recognize and honor the contributions of America's workers with disabilities past and present and showcase supportive, inclusive policies and practices that benefit employees and employers alike.

The theme for the 2023 NDEAM is **Advancing Access and Equity** to recognize the importance of ensuring people with disabilities have equal opportunity to prepare for and succeed in employment.

All Missouri residents are invited to showcase their artistic talents by submitting original artwork. In addition to the 2023 theme of Advancing Access and Equity, the artwork can relate to Inclusion, Employment and Community.

The winning artwork will be featured on the GCD's 2023 poster celebrating National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM), which is distributed statewide.

In addition, the poster featuring the winning artwork will be published on the Disability Portal's NDEAM virtual exhibit website, GCD website, newsletter, social media platforms, and annual report. All artwork entries will be featured on the GCD's poster contest website.

Find out how you can participate at disability.mo.gov/gcd/PosterContest

Posters must be submitted by September 15. Questions? Call 573.751.2600

Governor's Council on Disability
POSTER CONTEST
Open now - entries due 9/15/23

Submit your artwork now for a chance to be featured on the Governor's Council on Disability's National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM) Poster

The 2023 NDEAM theme is **Advancing Access and Equity**

disability.mo.gov/gcd/PosterContest

2023 LEGISLATIVE SESSION RESULTS

by Laura Mueth

This year's legislative session is now in the books. It was an eventful eighteen weeks. The sixteen non appropriation bills listed below were Truly Agreed To and Finally Passed (TAFP) by the House of Representatives and Senate. They were all either tracked in the [Legislative Update](#) throughout the legislative session or contain language or topics from at least one bill tracked in the Legislative Update this year.

All but one (SB 51) are waiting on Governor Parson to determine whether they will become law. He has until mid-July to sign, veto or take no action on these. SB 51 was already signed by Governor Parson and will become effective August 28, 2023.

Seven of the bills contain more than one aspect affecting individuals with disabilities. Those are HB 402, HB 417, SB 45, SB 70, SB 103, SB 106, and SB 157. Some topics are also found in more than one of the bills because legislators always attempt to provide multiple avenues for various concepts/bills to become law.

The general topic areas covered by the bills are employment, health care, mental health, awareness, public assistance, education services, taxes, use of electronic communication devices while driving, and guardianship/conservatorship and public administrator. Clicking the links to the bills will take you to the bill page where you can read the summary or the text of the bill to determine what the TAFP version contains.

Many individuals and organizations have been active throughout this year and previous years educating legislators on the issues contained in these bills. If an issue important to you did not pass this year or you have an issue/concern that needs to be addressed through legislation, legislators will begin working on ideas for 2024 later this summer.

- [HB 115](#) Modifies provisions relating to the scope of practice for physical therapists (Shields)
- [HB 202](#) Modifies provisions relating to environmental control (Francis)
- [HB 402](#) Modifies the definition of "hospital" to include rural emergency hospitals (Henderson)
- [HB 417](#) Grants to employers to encourage employees to obtain upskill credentials (Henderson)
- [HB 447](#) Modifies provisions regarding adult high schools (Davidson)
- [SB 24](#) Creates the Missouri First Responder Mental Health Initiative Act (Hough)
- [SB 45](#) Modifies provisions relating to health care—MO HealthNet (Gannon)
- [SB 51](#) Modifies provisions relating to physical therapists (Eslinger)
- [SB 70](#) Modifies provisions relating to professional licensing—Adopts the Counseling Interstate Compact (Fitzwater)
- [SB 103](#) Modifies provisions relating to judicial proceedings (Crawford)
- [SB 106](#) Modifies provisions relating to public health—Performing of certain patient examinations (Arthur)
- [SB 139](#) Establishes the "Stars and Stripes Historic Region of Missouri" (Bean)
- [SB 157](#) Modifies provisions relating to collaborative practice arrangements with nurses (Black)
- [SB 186](#) Modifies provisions relating to public safety (Brown)
- [SB 190](#) Modifies provisions relating to tax relief for seniors (Luetkemeyer)
- [SB 398](#) Enacts provisions relating to motor vehicles (Schroer)



OPPORTUNITIES TO SUPPORT AND PARTICIPATE IN MO-YLF 2023

by Rachel Rackers

Thirty-six delegates and numerous staff are getting geared up for the 19th annual [Missouri Youth Leadership Forum](#) (MO-YLF) for high school students with disabilities to be held at the University of Missouri in Columbia, July 18-22.



Throughout the week, the delegates will be exposed to a variety of helpful information to help them in their transition from high school. One unique event during the week is the mentor luncheon, where successful individuals with disabilities from a variety of different career paths are invited to talk to the delegates and share their experiences. It is an opportunity for delegates to learn first-hand that they can lead productive and full lives. If you are a person with a disability and would like to participate in our mentor event, we would love to have you join us!

You may not know this, but the Missouri Youth Leadership Forum is completely funded from sponsorships and in-kind donations. The support from individuals and organizations, is what allows us to offer this life changing program at no cost to the youth or their families. There are several ways that you can support MO-YLF and the youth with disabilities from all over Missouri that attend our 5-day program.

One way is to be sponsor through a monetary donation. We have many different levels of [sponsorships](#), starting at just \$50! Another way to donate and contribute to MO-YLF, is through in-kind donations. Each of our delegates and staff get a welcome backpack with different types of goodies and promotional items. We will have roughly 80 backpacks to fill this year and still need items for them, but need your help to make this possible. Other items that we are needing, include: giveaway/door prizes (gift cards or larger items). Find out more about the sponsorship opportunities at <https://disability.mo.gov/gcd/files/2023-MO-YLF-Sponsorship-Opportunities.pdf>

A third way to donate and contribute to MO-YLF, is to donate an item off our [wish list](#). We have created a list of these items to give more opportunities for individuals and organizations to help support our program and offset some of our expenses. The MO-YLF Wish List can be found at <https://disability.mo.gov/gcd/files/2023-mo-ylf-wish-list.pdf>

Every single donation helps us provide this excellent experience for our delegates, whether it be monetary, in-kind, or an item off our wish list.

Lastly, if you are an organization that provides a service or supports high school students with disabilities, we want to invite you to join us for our MO-YLF Resource event on July 22nd from 10:00 am to noon at the University of Missouri Campus in Columbia. This is an opportunity to share helpful information and resources with our delegates and their parents/guardians. Our goal is to send them home with a large variety of information that will be helpful and also to the parent/guardian in supporting their youth.

If you would like to support the Missouri Youth Leadership Forum or have questions about donating or participating, please contact Rachel Rackers at rachel.rackers@oa.mo.gov.

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

- Participate as a mentor**
- Participate in the resource event**
- Donate items**
- Provide a sponsorship**

Missouri Governor's Council on Disability— Council Members

- Ronald Hack, Council Chair, St. Louis
- Joan Bergstrom, Ed. D., Lee's Summit
- Charles Comstock, Kirksville
- Wayne Crawford, Marshall
- Betty Davidson, Ph.D., St. Louis
- Chip Hailey, Joplin
- Rosemary Hendon, West Plains
- Katie Jones, St. Charles
- Kim Lackey, St. Louis
- Elijah Mayfield, Jefferson City
- Susan Orton, Creve Coeur
- Traci Ritter, Cape Girardeau
- Andrew Sartorius, Jefferson City
- Lesia Shelton, Buffalo
- James Trout, St. Louis
- Robert Wallace, St. Louis

Missouri Governor's Council on Disability— Staff Members

- Claudia Browner, Executive Director
- Laura Mueth, Senior Program Specialist
- Rachel Rackers, Senior Program Specialist
- Jennifer Pettit, Lead Administrative Support Assistant

NEW PREGNANT WORKERS FAIRNESS ACT

by Claudia Browner

Have you heard of the new [Pregnant Workers Fairness Act \(PWFA\)](#) that was signed into law in December 2022? This new law will go into effect on June 27, 2023. It provides certain protections to employees and applicants of covered employers* who have known limitations related to pregnancy, childbirth, or related medical conditions. The law requires covered employers to provide reasonable accommodations to workers who are experiencing these limitations.

The U.S. Equal Employment Opportunities Commission (EEOC) provides detailed information about this new law on its website at

<https://www.eeoc.gov/wysk/what-you-should-know-about-pregnant-workers-fairness-act>

In addition to the PWFA, there are other federal laws that may apply to pregnant workers, including Title VII of the Civil Rights Act, the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), the Family Medical Leave Act (FMLA), and the PUMP Act.

Please note that the EEOC states that, “while pregnancy itself is not a disability under the ADA, some pregnant workers may have one or more impairments related to their pregnancy that qualify as a “disability” under the ADA. An employer may have to provide that worker with a reasonable accommodation for the pregnancy-related disability.”

**Covered employers include private and public sector employers with at least 15 employees, Congress, Federal agencies, employment agencies, and labor organizations*

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **June 5-7, 2023**
Missouri Rehabilitation Association (MRA) Conference, Osage Beach
<https://www.mo-rehab.org/conference>
- **June 26-28, 2023**
Transition Training Institute, Columbia
<https://dese.mo.gov/media/pdf/2023-missouri-transition-training-institute-gear-future>
- **July 18-22, 2023**
Missouri Youth Leadership Forum, Columbia
<https://disability.mo.gov/gcd/ylyf.htm>
- **July 20-22, 2023**
APSE-MO Employment Summit, Columbia
<http://www.apsemo.org/events.html>
- **August 27-29, 2023**
Real Voices—Real Choices Conference, Osage Beach
<https://www.missourimhf.org/real-voices-real-choices-conference/>
- **September 27-29, 2023**
MACDDS Annual Conference, Columbia
<https://macdds.org/annual-conference/>

If you know of other events you would like us to share with the disability community, please contact our office.