



POLICY UPDATES

BILL KALLESTAD



Townhall Advocacy Grants

Iowans with Disabilities in Action is offering grant funds to local advocacy groups that are led by people with disabilities who have a plan to take action in their community by hosting a townhall meeting with elected officials.

WORKPLACE VACCINE MANDATES

- Require an employer to waive a Covid-19 vaccination requirement if the employee provides a statement that receiving the COVID-19 vaccine would cause harm to their health or conflicts with their religion.
- A person who is discharged from employment because they did not get a required COVID-19 vaccine would not be allowed to get unemployment benefits.
- The bill takes effect immediately when signed by the Governor.



POLICY COMMITTEE

- ▶ 4-5 members
- ▶ Meet 2 times a month
- ▶ Duties
 - ▶ Sounding board
 - ▶ Influencer
 - ▶ Advocate for 2021 priorities
 - ▶ Attend capital chats
- ▶ Busiest time January-May

LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES 2022

- ▶ Priority #1. Establish a reliable funding stream for the regional Mental Health and Disability Services (MHDS) system that fully funds all core and additional core services and expands services to lowans with developmental disabilities and brain injuries.
- ▶ Priority #2: Adequately fund a state Medicaid program that ensures access to a full range of community services for lowans with developmental disabilities.
- ▶ Priority #3 Expand the availability, knowledge, skills and compensation of professionals, paraprofessionals, family members and direct support workers.

infoNET

IOWA'S DISABILITY POLICY RESOURCE



**FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE
UPDATES**