

Nothing About Us Without Us Act– [HB 1566](#)

Ensuring people with disabilities have a seat at the decision-making table.

HB 1566 changes the membership requirements for workgroups that directly impact people with disabilities (PWD), and directs agencies to create recommendations on how to meaningfully engage members.

[The Nothing About Us Without Us Act](#) was created in response to the Ruckelshaus workgroup to ensure that people with disabilities have full and meaningful participation in decisions that impact them. 1 in 5 adults in Washington have a disability¹ and we make up the largest minority group² yet we are constantly excluded from conversations about all aspects of our lives. This bill would ensure that people with disabilities have a seat at the table when decisions are being made about us.

What will it do?

1. Any group established by the legislature whose activities are related to PWD will be required to have at least three members with direct lived experience related to the issues being addressed.
2. The Governors Committee on Disability Issues and Employment (GCDE), The Developmental Disabilities Council (DDC), and The Office of Equity must:
 - Identify barriers to access and meaningful participation.
 - Identify accommodations and changes to stakeholder engagement consistent with the ADA and universal design.
 - Ensure that relevant training or guidance is available for legislators.
3. Training material and guidance provided to the legislature must describe the membership requirements, strongly encourage the inclusion of PWD, and include the types of accommodations available.



Who will it help?

The bill came from the developmental disabilities community but the bill will help all people with disabilities who come from culturally, linguistically, geographically, and socioeconomically diverse backgrounds.

Contact

- Ivanova Smith, Self-Advocates in Leadership, lauralovesian@hotmail.com, (c) 253-219-3350
- Darya Farivar, Disability Rights Washington, daryaf@dr-wa.org, (c) 206-471-9425

¹ https://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/disabilityandhealth/impacts/pdfs/Washington_Disability.pdf

² <https://www.dol.gov/agencies/odep/publications/fact-sheets/diverse-perspectives-people-with-disabilities-fulfilling-your-business-goals>