

Transcript

00:00:06 Cassie

Welcome to disability voices. The podcast brought to you by ability Montana, where we amplify the stories that deserve to be heard in this space. We're dedicated to exploring the diverse and empowering narratives of individuals with disabilities.

00:00:18 Kendra

Each episode will dive into the lives of remarkable people sharing their.

00:00:21 Kendra

Challenges and unique perspectives.

00:00:24 Cassie

We'll also sit down with service providers, advocates and experts who are dedicated to creating a more inclusive and accessible.

00:00:29 Kendra

World. So join us as we embark on a journey of empowerment, education and inclusion.

00:00:34 Kendra

Disability voices is more than just a podcast. It's a platform for connection and a testament to the incredible strength within the disability community.

00:00:41 Cassie

So subscribe now and let's amplify these powerful voices together.

00:00:45 Cassie

Is disability voices where every story matters.

00:00:52 Michelle

Welcome to get involved. The segment where we empower you to take action and make a difference. Advocacy is at the heart of creating change, and every voice has the power to shape a more inclusive future. In this segment, we break down the issues.

00:01:08 Michelle

Share opportunities to engage and show you how to make your voice heard.

00:01:12 Michelle

Because when we get involved, we create a world that works for everyone.

00:01:16 Michelle

Let's dive in.

00:01:20 Kendra

Hi everyone.

00:01:21 Kendra

You're here.

00:01:22 Kendra

With Kendra and Michelle today.

00:01:24 Kendra

Just the two of us to provide some updates for you about the last couple weeks in the.

00:01:29 Kendra

We didn't have a lot to touch.

00:01:33 Kendra

We skipped the update for week 4, but now some of these bills that we've been watching have had a lot of action on them.

00:01:40 Kendra

We have.

00:01:41 Kendra

We have some updates we want to give and some new bills that are starting to move from the LC numbers into the House bills and so we just want to take you through like all the exciting things that we were a part of over.

00:01:51 Kendra

Weeks first thing was that.

00:01:53 Kendra

Last Monday, on January 27th, we had the opportunity with the other Centers for independent living to go to the Capitol and host a lunch for all of the congressmen and women to come and get their ear for a second about.

00:02:09 Kendra

The bills that we feel like are really impactful for people with disabilities, and we had several of our peers and our consumers there as well. So that the actual lived experience of people with disabilities that these bills will affect that, that they had the opportunity to share.

00:02:24 Kendra

That directly with their legislators. And so it was a really great day.

00:02:29 Kendra

Think we had a great turn out?

00:02:31 Kendra

Was a lot.

00:02:32 Kendra

Of the senators and representatives that stopped by that, they seemed like they actually cared, and they took the time to sit with us and to.

00:02:39 Kendra

It's those things that we do in conjunction with the greater independent living network that really makes us feel like we're a part of something bigger and that our impact is greater than.

00:02:49 Kendra

Just kind of in these bubbles that we exist in outside of this.

00:02:53 Kendra

Kendra do you want to?

00:02:54 Michelle

Talk a little bit about.

00:02:56 Michelle

Some of the logistical changes that happened that made it a lot easier for people to participate.

00:03:02 Kendra

Yeah, that was a big focus this year. This this event is something that the independent living centres have done.

00:03:09 Kendra

And this year there was a big focus on making it even more accessible for our folks, if we're the ones coming, we should be kind of the example of what?

00:03:17 Kendra

Accessibility and inclusion looks like and so.

00:03:20 Kendra

The layout for the space was updated to make more room for people that use wheelchairs to get around.

00:03:27 Kendra

It was organized more by Centers for independent living in the regions we're in, so that it was easier for the Congress people to know where to go and who to talk to.

00:03:37 Kendra

And then we had some folks there that could just provide better.

00:03:41 Kendra

And support to anybody who was coming, because it really was, it was about.

00:03:47 Kendra

Really showcasing people with disabilities voices and if they don't feel like they can get into that space and navigate it, then it was just a real hindrance to people coming and it didn't showcase, you know, kind of to be the example of what, what?

00:04:03 Kendra

We're asking other folks to do we have to kind of be the leaders of.

00:04:06 Kendra

So I think it went really well in a lot of great feedback about the flow and the space. And so hopefully they'll even take some of that on those luncheons happen in the capital almost every day.

00:04:18 Kendra

Probably and so hopefully they learned some as an.

00:04:21 Kendra

From what we did and will carry that forward, but thanks.

00:04:24 Kendra

So yeah, that was a great day and we we definitely missed.

00:04:27 Kendra

She wasn't actually able to participate, but we know she was there in spirit.

00:04:31 Michelle

So absolutely.

00:04:32 Kendra

So then just to move through some of the bills and again, these are just the ones that we have been following an ability that are directly related to people with disabilities.

00:04:42 Kendra

Obviously there's a ton of other.

00:04:45 Kendra

Up there and a lot of things that will affect all of us as Montanans and our communities as a whole, these handful of bills that we're talking about now though.

00:04:56 Kendra

That feel like they most directly affect the disability community and that's why these are the ones we're following, but just want to remind folks that you can get on to thelegmt.gov site and look through all of the other bills that are being heard and.

00:05:12 Kendra

And if you think there's ones that we should be shouting out, definitely reach out to us and we'll we'll look into them more and add them to our list as well.

00:05:19 Kendra

The first one that we talked about a couple weeks ago was House Bill 160.

00:05:23 Kendra

1998, which was providing funding for preschool children with disabilities.

00:05:27 Kendra

This one to me, just kind of felt like a no brainer and getting to hear kind of more about the background of it, of funding comes for special education by counting the number of students that are participating.

00:05:38 Kendra

In special education, and so we haven't been including the preschool children within those counts. And so that means that the funding hasn't been coming in for them, even though it's still a mandated program and it is a program that's happening.

00:05:50 Kendra

This one just feels pretty.

00:05:54 Kendra

Like common sense to me.

00:05:55 Kendra

So I'm glad to see that.

00:05:58 Kendra

It passed the Education committee.

00:06:00 Kendra

It passed the second reading on the floor, and then it had been referred to appropriations, since it does have a fiscal note attached to it.

00:06:10 Kendra

And there was a hearing held in appropriations.

00:06:14 Kendra

Just on Monday this week on the 3rd, if you haven't missed the hearing, you can still send in your support to appropriations for this.

00:06:22 Kendra

Because they haven't voted yet.

00:06:23 Michelle

So, Kendra, how would they find out how?

00:06:27 Michelle

To contact that Committee Appropriations Committee through the LE.

00:06:32 Kendra

GMT Gov site yes, if you go on there and then go to the participate tab then that gives you the contact information of everybody who's on the Appropriations Committee or you can also.

00:06:45 Kendra

Call the switchboard, which is the 406-444-4800, and ask the staffers at the Capitol to send a note into the committee.

00:06:57 Kendra

The more we've chatted with some of the representatives and the Senators, especially at that day at the Capitol, I was kind of asking some of them.

00:07:04 Kendra

But it seems like that switchboard is kind of the number one route because they're so busy to check their emails, and you know, any any other communications you do through the website that all gets forwarded into their emails and they just don't necessarily have the time to read.

00:07:20 Kendra

Of those and not in.

00:07:22 Kendra

In an urgent.

00:07:24 Kendra

So anything that you feel like is.

00:07:26 Kendra

Is important enough to reach out about. Then doing that through the switchboard seems to be the best way, because they they're delivered a physical note that says your message on it.

00:07:36 Kendra

That's what I would recommend doing on all of these bills we're talking about today.

00:07:40 Michelle

That's what's great about being in touch with the legislators.

00:07:44 Michelle

Then we know kind of.

00:07:45 Michelle

The pulse on how to get to them best.

00:07:48 Kendra

Yeah. And if you have your own personal connections to yours and they give you their phone number and say you can text them, or if they give you.

00:07:56 Kendra

An alternate e-mail, obviously.

00:07:59 Kendra

Go with go with what they're saying.

00:08:01 Kendra

Otherwise, if you if you're not sure, then that switchboard is kind of the.

00:08:06 Kendra

Our recommended way of navigating this now. So then the next one on the list, which was one that we were super hopeful about, was the House Bill 230 from Mary Cafero, which was revising Medicaid laws.

00:08:19 Kendra

Was a hearing for this bill.

00:08:22 Kendra

On January 22nd.

00:08:23 Kendra

And there's a lot of people that showed up for that. Unfortunately, last week on the 31st.

00:08:29 Kendra

The committee voted.

00:08:31 Kendra

To table the bill, part of that is they said it was just too complex and there was so many individual components to it that the committee felt if they reintroduced those as individual bills, they could look at each of them separately. But trying to pass it as a.

00:08:47 Kendra

Especially passing that through the Senate, they kind of knew.

00:08:50 Kendra

You know, the Senate is acting a little bit more conservatively that if they, if they broke this down then they could get pieces of it at least through.

00:08:58 Kendra

Trying to pass the whole thing through.

00:09:00 Kendra

They felt like as a committee wasn't going to be likely so.

00:09:03 Kendra

Were were disappointed I in the tabling, but we'll we'll definitely be watching as those individual components come back out. And Michelle, you gave testimony on this bill. So I was just curious if you want to share a little bit about what that experience was like and how you?

00:09:18 Kendra

Doing that.

00:09:19 Michelle

I.

00:09:20 Michelle

And I've given quite a bit of testimony in my time, and I would have to say that was.

00:09:26 Michelle

I don't want to scare people away from this, but that was a pretty nerve wracking experience and I think part of it was because of the. It was because of the gravity of the bill and what it meant. And so and and also to see as many people.

00:09:41 Michelle

Stand up and I think to testify, I think I need to look at that and we.

00:09:46 Michelle

Reset my mind on that, that if so many people are getting up in favor of a bill, how wonderful is that, right?

00:09:54 Michelle

And so I think it's just a lesson to.

00:09:58 Michelle

It's OK to be you and things will hit us all differently, and our passions will reside.

00:10:04 Michelle

Do I think that I was so passionate about this bill that I found myself feeling like there was such a gravity around it?

00:10:13 Michelle

I also needed to realize that I'm not the only one there doing this stuff.

00:10:17 Michelle

I mean, but I did find my.

00:10:19 Michelle

I always told you before that you got to find your peeps and boy, I found that support and that's what's so great. And I got to see people.

00:10:26 Michelle

And so it was.

00:10:28 Michelle

It was really a good.

00:10:29 Michelle

I'm making it sound like like it was a horrible experience.

00:10:32 Michelle

It.

00:10:32 Michelle

It was just that I was like the second one to go and.

00:10:36 Michelle

I was just a little bit like I said, a little bit.

00:10:38 Kendra

Nervous and yeah, there were. There was a lot of people that came from all over the.

00:10:42 Kendra

There was a ton of really great testimony and there was there was actually no one in opposition, which was kind of heartwarming in its own right, and it was in a really big room like some some of the committee rooms feel more.

00:10:56 Kendra

Kind of intimate and it's and not that prestigious, but this one.

00:11:00 Kendra

The like bigger kind of ones with like a big Rotunda and a viewing.

00:11:05 Kendra

So it just kind of looked like you were more on the on point than in some of those smaller committee rooms where you just sit at a table around in a circle with the folks you're talking to.

00:11:15 Kendra

It even just that did make it.

00:11:18 Kendra

From my perspective of watching it feel more kind of prestigious or something.

00:11:22 Michelle

Yeah.

00:11:22 Michelle

I even said I'm gonna shake my way off the stage.

00:11:26 Michelle

But I will.

00:11:27 Michelle

Say that I said something that was quoted in the paper.

00:11:30 Michelle

So you just never know what's what's going to happen with those things.

00:11:33

Thanks.

00:11:33 Kendra

What were some of the pieces of that that you're hoping will come back in those individual bills?

00:11:39 Michelle

Well, I really hope for people that it's a 12 month continuous eligibility.

00:11:45 Michelle

I I fortunately have this in my life and I can't imagine doing it more than that, but I also think that the advisory.

00:11:55 Michelle

Committee that Mary Cafaro was proposing is really important because it's the way that the department can stay in touch with.

00:12:05 Michelle

The lives of people that they're affecting and that we, the people who are affected, can stay in touch with what's happening with them.

00:12:13 Michelle

It's a two way street. I like that.

00:12:15 Michelle

And also I'd like to see the hotline.

00:12:17 Michelle

A shorter, shorter.

00:12:19 Michelle

Wait, but also just to know, hey, it's you're on the line for four hours now.

00:12:24 Michelle

You have.

00:12:25 Michelle

You know they're supposed to let us know, so that's good too.

00:12:28 Michelle

And.

00:12:29 Michelle

I think that reopening OPA offices would really be helpful because I know a lot of them were closed.

00:12:36 Michelle

I think 19 were closed and when that happened, what happened like say in the Butte office is that they had to save one whole day for people coming from out of town, which makes sense.

00:12:47 Michelle

Mean I wouldn't want to come from out of town and then find out they couldn't.

00:12:50 Michelle

Because there was too big of a line.

00:12:52 Michelle

But that also then says the people in Butte have to.

00:12:55 Michelle

So I think opening the OPA office is I think is what really important.

00:12:55

Mm.

00:13:00 Kendra

As well, and that was interesting. A lot of the testimony from folks that came from far and wide.

00:13:05 Kendra

Just to hear their experience of how frustrating that is and how how hard it makes it to access the services you need when there's all of these barriers. So.

00:13:14 Kendra

Will definitely be. Will be tracking those and be updating as they hopefully come back through as bills.

00:13:22 Kendra

The other one that kind of was happening in conjunction with with Mary Kay Farrow. Bill is House Bill 245 from representative Buttery and this one was more specific on revising the Health Act and the termination date, which.

00:13:38 Kendra

You know, was its main focus was removing the sunset clause for Medicaid expansion.

00:13:43 Kendra

There were some other parts of it as well, but the hearing for this one happened on the same day. It was nice that they work together in the Human Services Committee to hold these two bills that.

00:13:53 Kendra

Really were.

00:13:54 Kendra

They held them at the same time that afternoon, and so folks could just travel once to.

00:14:00 Kendra

Speak on both of these both of these.

00:14:03 Kendra

The good news about this one is that it passed committee and so this one didn't have as many of the general Medicaid revisions.

00:14:11 Kendra

Was really just focused on Medicaid expansion and ensuring that the sunset just goes away, so it would make Medicaid expansion permanent.

00:14:19 Kendra

And so we're expecting.

00:14:21 Kendra

Than to be heard on the floor this week. Hopefully, then it passes through and then we'll be ready for transmittal into the Senate.

00:14:29 Kendra

We'll. We'll be watching anxiously this week and really, really.

00:14:32 Kendra

Bridge. This is one of those times to use the switchboard and to send out that note that you you want a yes vote on that bill on the floor.

00:14:43 Michelle

I just think that I know for.

00:14:44 Michelle

When I first heard about all these bills around.

00:14:47 Michelle

The same thing I was like, well, they're kind of competing with each other, but actually they're not.

00:14:53 Michelle

They're specific and I think with with the reintroduction of some of the components of Merrick Farrow's bill and then having this.

00:15:01 Michelle

Revised Health Act.

00:15:03 Michelle

I think that makes it more clear, and of course we.

00:15:09 Michelle

The Medicaid expansion to continue, absolutely.

00:15:11 Kendra

Yeah. And again, the testimony on this when the this bill was also really powerful and some of the same folks talked about both, but there were some that got to speak more just to how impactful Medicaid expansion has been in their life and really helping them move from.

00:15:30 Kendra

Stage of life into the next.

00:15:33 Kendra

And so yeah, we we definitely think that.

00:15:37 Kendra

It was important that the sunset ended and we want more to.

00:15:41 Michelle

So well, and I think it was really interesting.

00:15:43 Michelle

I was really listening to some of the personal testimony. He was amazing how impactful Medicaid expansion is for.

00:15:52 Kendra

Yeah. So we'll hopefully have some positive updates about that one as it moves on to the floor.

00:15:58 Kendra

The next bill that we had on our list from previous weeks is Senate Bill 82, which was the adjustment to the blindness program.

00:16:08 Kendra

One was.

00:16:09 Kendra

That the blind and low vision services that are available to folks through vocational rehabilitation are mainly currently available for folks over the age of 55.

00:16:20 Kendra

So this Senate bill was to remove that age barrier so that folks of all ages at any stage of losing their vision.

00:16:29 Kendra

And moving into blindness will have the support they need to learn how to navigate their new environment, and so this one last week passed through committee.

00:16:38 Kendra

And then just yesterday it passed its third reading.

00:16:42 Kendra

It had its second and third readings this.

00:16:44 Kendra

This week on the floor, so it completely passed through the Senate now and it's on transmittal now into the House, which is really, really exciting.

00:16:51 Michelle

Transmittal you want to just go into that just a bit.

00:16:54 Kendra

Yes, well, so from our first episode of how how a bill becomes law is that goes through committee.

00:17:01 Kendra

And then it gets read on the.

00:17:03 Kendra

It has to be voted on twice on the floor and as long as it passes, both of those transmittal means then now it goes into the opposite chamber.

00:17:12 Kendra

So since this one started in the Senate, it's being transmitted to the House.

00:17:16 Kendra

Then it has to follow that same process so.

00:17:18 Kendra

It gets referred to a committee. It has a hearing.

00:17:22 Kendra

It gets voted on in committee and then it has to have two readings on the floor where it also.

00:17:27 Kendra

So transmittal is happening in the beginning of March and so bills have until that time to make it through the one side before they have to move to the second.

00:17:37 Kendra

Then after that transmittal date in March.

00:17:39 Kendra

Then that's where no more new and new bills will be.

00:17:43 Kendra

Because they'll just be focused on the ones that passed in the other side, so.

00:17:48 Kendra

As we move closer to that date, we'll probably see things like this happen.

00:17:52 Kendra

Like where they're moving through quicker, where before it was like, you know, they'll have a committee hearing one week and then they might wait one or two weeks before they're acting on it and then it might be another one or two weeks before it gets heard on floor.

00:18:05 Kendra

Things are going to start moving a little bit quicker because we're getting closer to where they have.

00:18:09 Michelle

Yeah, it kind of picks up speed.

00:18:12 Kendra

Thought this one was interesting too, though that so the second reading was on the 3rd and there was 42 yes votes and then the third reading was on the 4th and that one had 44 yes votes.

00:18:23 Kendra

So even within one day, two people changed their mind and I think.

00:18:28 Kendra

That's.

00:18:29 Kendra

That's why it's so important. 'cause.

00:18:31 Kendra

Because people are not set in stone on these issues, and the more education they get, the more likely they are to maybe switch over to the other side.

00:18:39 Kendra

So This is why I think it's really important that we're reaching out to them at all stages of these processes because.

00:18:47 Kendra

We we have the opportunity to change it and that one obviously was quite in the majority of voting, yes, but on some of these other ones might be that margin might be smaller. And so anything we can get, well, we need to take.

00:18:59 Michelle

And it's my experience that most legislators are really open to that education and personal.

00:19:05 Michelle

Stories are so important, yes.

00:19:08 Kendra

So the newest bill then we have that just had a lot of action this week moved from LC number into House Bill 341 and act revising the Motor vehicle registration.

00:19:21 Kendra

Traumatic brain injury donation.

00:19:22 Kendra

So the bill talks about that there is a traumatic brain injury account in the state Special Revenue Fund and the money in this account is to be used by the Department of Health and Human Services for funding for activities that would.

00:19:35 Kendra

Educate and support recovery for individuals and families.

00:19:39 Kendra

Living with traumatic brain injuries, it'll also promote brain injury prevention and support the traumatic brain Injury Advisory Council.

00:19:47 Kendra

So this fund already exists at this state level and the way it had been before was when people were registering any vehicle they had the option.

00:19:58 Kendra

Of donating \$1.00 or more into this account.

00:20:02 Kendra

So what they're asking for, though in this bill is a revision to instead of saying that they can donate it if they wish.

00:20:09 Kendra

Now the language in the bill.

00:20:11 Kendra

Says unless the person opts out of the donation, an automatic donation of \$1.00 will be automatically sent into the fund, and so then it kind of outlines that there will be some education about that.

00:20:24 Kendra

Be.

00:20:25 Kendra

There'll be an option to opt out and so I think it just is going to hopefully secure more funding and.

00:20:31 Kendra

Will grow this account and be able to impact people's lives at a greater capacity than it did.

00:20:39 Michelle

When I think what's great about this is you can still.

00:20:41 Michelle

Oed out if you just absolutely can't find it to do it.

00:20:45 Michelle

Then you can still you still have the choice.

00:20:49 Michelle

I really hope that this moves through.

00:20:51 Kendra

So this one was.

00:20:53 Kendra

It was referred to Transportation Committee to start, but then they canceled that hearing and decided to move it to Human Services instead. And so that new hearing date is actually February 5th at 3:00 PM in room 152.

00:21:09 Kendra

And if this goes up later, you're not listening to it until after that time again. If it's something that you feel like you're in support of, you could always just reach out to the Human Services Committee.

00:21:19 Kendra

To voice your support, because it's likely they won't vote on it directly after the hearing.

00:21:25 Kendra

So there's probably still some time.

00:21:26 Michelle

And the great thing is is if you want to keep track of it is, you're able to view the testimony.

00:21:34 Michelle

On the.

00:21:35 Kendra

Website.

00:21:35 Kendra

And we've been, we've been loving that future in that section of the.

00:21:40 Kendra

It's so easy at the top of the page. Anytime you're on the ledgemt.gov.

00:21:46 Kendra

There's a banner that says now streaming and you can click on that and then it really easily brings you to everything that's currently happening live. But then also on the left hand side there's a way to navigate all of the sessions. All of the committee meetings and then.

00:22:02 Kendra

Most of those are also kind of time stamped out when certain things happen.

00:22:06 Kendra

It's pretty easy.

00:22:07 Kendra

Those recorded versions as.

00:22:09 Kendra

So then the only other update we have coming up for this week is a reminder from.

00:22:15 Kendra

Our episode with Catalyst Montana that they are putting together a booklet of Medicaid stories for people who have received Medicaid expansion to talk about just the importance of that in their lives and.

00:22:31 Kendra

They are hoping to have this story book compiled.

00:22:35 Kendra

Have all the stories submitted by the end of this.

00:22:37 Kendra

By February 7th so that they can put it together, and then they want to distribute this to the Senate since.

00:22:44 Kendra

We're expecting and hoping that House Bill 2:45 will move through the house.

00:22:50 Kendra

They want to have this ready to give to senators to provide more information and a closer look at the folks that this program truly impacts.

00:22:59 Michelle

I think this is a really unique.

00:23:02 Michelle

I guess I'm not really sure if they've done things like this before, but I think it is. An is an impactful idea because they're also including pictures and so not only with the story, they're actually seeing the person that's.

00:23:13 Michelle

Submitting it and they saying wow this person.

00:23:16 Michelle

This is their story, and hopefully the book is quite large.

00:23:18 Kendra

Yeah.

00:23:22 Kendra

We're hoping so. And so if you're hearing this and it and you've received Medicaid expansion, we would really encourage.

00:23:28 Kendra

You can look in the show notes and click the link. That'll bring you straight to Catalyst website and where you can submit your story through their contact any of their staff to help you with that process.

00:23:39 Kendra

You can also reach out to us here at ability and we would be happy.

00:23:42 Kendra

To help craft what your story could be, and then submit that for.

00:23:46 Michelle

You if I'm correct, you have a peer actually that's willing to sit with.

00:23:51 Michelle

People and really craft that story with them.

00:23:54 Kendra

Yes, and she is a beautiful.

00:23:56 Kendra

So if you were nervous about having to put your story into writing or how you would do that, we would love to connect you with her so that she can help you through that process.

00:24:05 Kendra

There's not a lot of time left, but if you hear this, I would still encourage you.

00:24:09 Kendra

To reach out and we can even get that in late and I.

00:24:13 Michelle

Also think it would work.

00:24:14 Michelle

It would really help a person prepare for testimony on the Senate side.

00:24:20 Michelle

If you have the little bit of a story, you know a compact story of why it's impactful for you.

00:24:24 Michelle

I mean, I realize they're going to get the book, but Oh well, they can always hear it more than once.

00:24:28 Kendra

Yeah, and.

00:24:31 Kendra

And and that's moves us into our next kind of section of just talking about again reminding all the ways to participate and that one of the things we're doing every week on Fridays from 9:00 to 11:30 is hosting.

00:24:46 Kendra

In office and zoom office hours to to get provide some of the same updates on bills, but then to also help craft testimony.

00:24:55 Kendra

So even if you missed the deadline to send that story into the book.

00:24:58 Kendra

Could still use that opportunity to craft it for.

00:25:02 Kendra

A future testimony, or even to provide written testimony. You can do that through the legend.

00:25:09 Kendra

So just reach out to us and if that, and again if that time doesn't work, we can set you up with some of our folks heritability at a different time. And then the ways to participate through the website really requires you to make an account. And so if.

00:25:23 Kendra

That yet we would encourage that you do so that you're prepared.

00:25:28 Kendra

You have up until 2 hours before a committee hearing.

00:25:31 Kendra

To say that you want to participate online and you can get the link to do so, but it would be helpful if you've already created an account to be prepared for that. And then of course, there's always the in person is kind of the highlighted way of going.

00:25:45 Kendra

But we know this week, especially the roads here in Montana have just been absolutely awful.

00:25:50 Kendra

So.

00:25:51 Kendra

Whatever way you feel comfortable using your voice is is important and impactful.

00:25:57 Kendra

Then I've shouted it out a couple times, but calling the switch.

00:26:00 Kendra

Board is so just so cool because you can send messages to specific legislators. You can send them to whole committees. They'll take down all the information that you want.

00:26:12 Kendra

Then they'll print it and hand deliver.

00:26:14 Kendra

So you know that they're at least receiving it.

00:26:18 Kendra

In some form in a yes or a no, and then they can use that hopefully in.

00:26:24 Kendra

How they vote either in committee or on the floor?

00:26:27 Kendra

So I think that's all that we have for this week.

00:26:30 Kendra

Be back next week with cast, hopefully and.

00:26:32 Kendra

Have even more to share, and hopefully some of these LCS start turning into bills because we'd really like to see some movement on those before the end of the that transmittal date.

00:26:43 Kendra

So do you have anything else?

00:26:44 Michelle

No, I know, but it's been great Co hosting.

00:26:46 Kendra

Thanks for being with me, Michelle.

00:26:47 Michelle

Yeah. Thanks, Kendra.

00:26:52 Kendra

Thank you for tuning into this episode of Get involved.

00:26:54 Kendra

All resources and contact information shared during this episode can be found in the show notes.

00:26:59 Kendra

Please reach out to us at ability Montana if you'd like more support in using your voice during the legislative session.

00:27:05 Kendra

Together we can shape montanas future.

00:27:13 Cassie

Thank you for tuning into disability Voices, a podcast from Ability, Montana.

00:27:17 Cassie

Please subscribe and leave a.

00:27:19 Cassie

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