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IMPACT SC Meets
Bi-Monthly

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Think About It

Integration and access to the community means that you have the same chances to be an active and included member of your neighborhood and community as someone without disabilities. You should have opportunities to:

- find competitive employment working alongside people without disabilities
- participate in local activities
- access services in the community just like people without disabilities

Think about your life... Answers these questions

Do you spend time in places where other people living in your community go? (examples: stores, restaurants, bank, house of worship)

Do your service providers support you to do what you want in your community? (examples: go to a gym, visit the library, take a class)

Do you receive services in the same places as people without disabilities?

Do you get to do as much as you want in your community?

If you answered "no," what changes should be made so the services you receive provide the opportunities you want to access and be part of your community? Think about it!



“Employment First”

Means just that...having a job should be the *first* option available to people with disabilities. Everyone should have the opportunity to be productive members of society. Self Advocates are encouraging South Carolina to join the 32 other states, which have adopted policies to help people become more independent. We can benefit from the experience of surrounding states by using the ideas and techniques that have worked for them.

South Carolina has the sixth highest unemployment rate for people with disabilities in the country, leaving thousands of people at risk for negative outcomes associated with unemployment.

At the same time, South Carolina employers are struggling to fill positions. Employment First policies can help meet industry needs by providing a framework to remove barriers to employment.

Check out the **Hire Me SC** website at <https://www.hiremesc.org/> for information about people facing obstacles in employment. There are also success stories and links to assist you.



Poems Written and Submitted by Angela Greene

Hey Angel Warriors

Hey Angel Warriors
The world still needs you to fight for justice
Still needs you to teach the right lessons for you are young
Still needs you to guide while the world doesn't want it
Hey Angel Warriors

If Goals Were Human

If goals were human what kind would they be
Unity and Opportunity
Would they be glad in failure or mad in victory and achievement
Would they dare to care or stay by the side lines
Would they want success for everyone or is it all about me
Would they be full of life enjoying the moments
I don't want to wake up in the world that hasn't been good to me
Or turn into sunshine not thinking of the rain

ADVOCATE BUILDER

This award is designed to highlight, recognize, and celebrate the achievements and contributions made by South Carolina self-advocates. The nominee must have an intellectual or other developmental disability. Nominations are open to all people regardless of participation in IMPACT SC. A completed application must be submitted with two (2) letters of support. Get an application and return completed applications with required documentation to Impact South Carolina via mail, email or fax. Kristi Hartwell, Center for Disability Resources, USC School of Medicine, Columbia, SC 29208 Phone: 803-935-5947 or toll free 1-866-697-0732, fax: 803-935-5001 or email: kristi.hartwell@uscmcd.sc.edu
DEADLINE November 30, 2019

INDEPENDENCE: MY CHOICES, MY LIFE 2019 SELF-ADVOCACY CONFERENCE

The 2019 Annual Self Advocacy Conference hosted by Impact SC was held on May 23 at the Embassy Suites in Columbia, South Carolina. Two hundred and forty self advocates and professionals attended sessions and networked throughout the day. Sessions focused on numerous topics including the CMS Final Rule and growing self advocacy groups.



Members of IMPACT SC gather for a group photo following the annual conference.





The latest on the ... **Raise The Wage Act**

In July 2019, federal lawmakers approved legislation that would end a practice allowing employers to pay people with disabilities less than minimum wage.

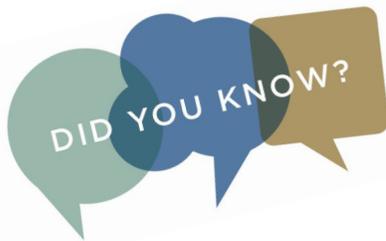
The U.S. House of Representatives voted 231 to 199 to pass the Raise the Wage Act. This bill will increase the federal minimum wage to \$15 per hour by 2025. Also in the bill is a provision that would phase out subminimum wage for workers with disabilities. Employers are currently able to obtain a 14(c) certificate from the Department of Labor allowing them to pay workers with disabilities less than minimum wage under a federal law dating back to the 1930s.

Raise the Wage Act would require the Labor Department to stop issuing new 14(c) certificates and it would increase the minimum wage for workers employed under existing certificates gradually over the course of six years. Any remaining 14(c) certificates would be invalid and employees with disabilities would need to be paid at least the prevailing federal minimum wage.

The House action marks the first time that either the House or Senate has voted to end subminimum wage, advocates said.

Prospects for the Raise the Wage Act remain uncertain in the GOP-controlled Senate, with Republicans calling the legislation a job-killing bill.

Nonetheless, advocates who favor doing away with subminimum wage said they hope the vote this week will help propel the Competitive Employment Act proposed in Congress that also seeks to phase out 14(c) certificates.



The South Carolina Department of Disabilities and Special Needs (SCDDSN) is led by a group called the "SCDDSN Commission". They make the biggest decisions about what SCDDSN does. The Commission meets the 3rd Thursday of every month at 10:00 AM in Columbia. If you cannot make it to Columbia, you can "live stream" the meeting on your computer or smart phone while it

is happening. Every meeting is open to the public, so you are always welcome to come. You can even speak at a meeting if you would like! Go to www.ddsn.sc.gov on the day and time of the meeting and click the link "**Live Stream The Current Commission Meeting Click Here**" at the top of the page. Please contact Bill Simpson, 803-898-9614 or bsimpson@ddsn.sc.gov if you have any questions.