



S.I.B.S.
SUPPORTING ILLINOIS
BROTHERS AND SISTERS

CHAT WITH US!
SIBSADVOCACY@GMAIL.COM

Advocacy & Policy Committee

MISSION

Provide information, supports, and tools to build awareness around disability policy/ advocacy topics and aid siblings in advocating for the changes that are important to them and their brothers and sisters



Meet Committee Chair, Theresa

Theresa is a speech-language pathologist and a disability advocate and ally. Her younger sister has Down syndrome. Theresa is passionate about helping individuals with disabilities learn to communicate their unique thoughts, ideas, wants, and needs. She envisions a society comprised of self-advocates sharing their stories and community partners ready to listen, learn, and build acceptance.

If you're interested in becoming involved like Theresa, please email sibsadvocacy@gmail.com.



Resource Spotlight

Learn about critical components of future planning with your sibling through the Arc of the US's resource, Future Planning 101. The "Build Your Plan" feature helps you navigate topics such as finances, living arrangements, and decision-making supports. Find the resource here:

<https://futureplanning.thearc.org/pages/learn/future-planning-101>



Important Updates

- **New settlement agreement:** The Social Security Administration will waive many overpayments from March-September 2020 and refund those who have already repaid. Remedies are also available for those who had benefit overpayments as recently as April 2023.
- **Paid Leave for All Workers Act:** IL workers will earn an hour of paid leave for every 40 hours worked, up to five days a year.

January 2024



The 103rd IL General Assembly is in session from January-May. This is a great time to let your elected officials know the issues that are important to you as a sibling. The A&P Committee can help amplify your voice. Email us!



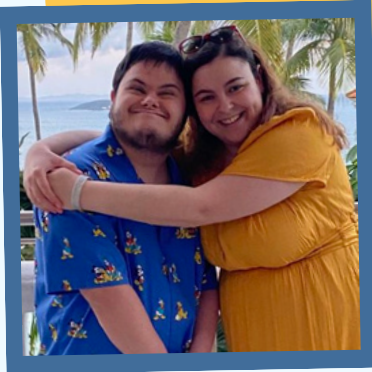
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Meet Committee Member, Hannah

My younger brother Jacob was born with Down syndrome when I was only two years old. We share an unbreakable bond and enjoy spending time together doing activities like reading, watching movies, attending concerts, and traveling. Jacob is an incredible self-advocate, and he inspired me to pursue a career in disability law. I am a second year law student at DePaul and also currently work as a Law Clerk at Access Living. I attended S.I.B.S. workshops as a child, and I am excited to be reconnected with S.I.B.S. now as a member of the A & P Committee! In the last year, I have learned a lot from my fellow committee members about disability-related policy work. I look forward to continuing to help provide resources and support to sibs in our community.



Chat for Change

Please join us for our next sibling Advocacy & Policy conversation on April 28 from 3-4PM via Zoom. All siblings are welcome to join and exchange insights and experiences on critical topics such as housing, Medicaid, and Long Term Supports and Services, as well as ideas for reform. Details on sibsnetwork.org/events



Contact your IL legislator today!

- **Dignity in Pay Act (IL HB 793, HA 1)** - Bill would eliminate the subminimum wage in Illinois.
- **Sami's Law (IL SB 2908)** - Bill would require new buildings to have at least one publicly accessible adult changing station.
- **IL SB 3764 and HB 4806** - Bills propose a \$3 per hour wage rate increase for all direct support personnel and frontline personnel who work in residential and community day services settings.

March 2024



The Illinois Primary election is taking place Tuesday, March 19. For information on aiding your sibling in registering to vote and accessing the polls, please see follow the QR code. www.sibsnetwork.org