

GM 646

Measure Title: Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Disability and Communication Access Board, Gubernatorial Nominee, PHYLLIS MEIGHEN, for a term to expire 06-30-2018.

Report Title: Disability and Communication Access Board

Description:

Companion:

Package:

Current Referral: CPH

Introducer(s):



DISABILITY AND COMMUNICATION ACCESS BOARD

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March 31, 2017

TESTIMONY TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, CONSUMER PROTECTION, AND HEALTH

Governor's Message 646 – Submitting for Consideration and Confirmation to the Disability and Communication Access Board, Gubernatorial Nominee, Phyllis Meighen for a Term to Expire June 30, 2018

This testimony is in support of Ms. Phyllis Meighen to a position on the Disability and Communication Access Board (DCAB). She is a resident of the County of Kauai.

DCAB is mandated to have a majority of members be consumers, persons with disabilities or their family members. Ms. Meighen is a sibling of an individual with developmental and intellectual disabilities.

In addition to Ms. Meighen's family status as a sibling, she has many years of experience as a respected professional in the field of disability studies. Ms. Meighen was the founder of Winners at Work, now Abilities Unlimited, to improve employment options for individuals with intellectual disabilities. She was also a professor at the University of Hawaii and worked at/for the Center for Disability Studies. In her current capacity as a minister, she founded a group to provide nondenominational spiritual and religious support for persons with disabilities on Oahu prior to moving to Kauai.

We ask that the Senate confirm Ms. Meighen to a position in the Board.

Respectfully submitted,

FRANCINE WAI
Executive Director

GM646

Rev. Dr. Phyllis A. Meighen: Disability and Communication Access Board

(1) Why do you want to be a member of the Board?

To be of service as I am able. I have both personal and professional experience with persons who have disability.

(2) What do you perceive are the roles and responsibilities of a member of the Board?

Support DCAB staff in their mission, goal setting and goal achievement. Attend and participate in DCAB board meetings. Ensure integrity of DCAB office in personnel and financial affairs.

(3) In what ways do you feel that you can help protect the consumer?

Be a voice for those without voice to persons and agencies in positions of power and influence. Be informed to connect consumers with services. Advocate that civil rights are upheld.

(4) Given your understanding of the roles and responsibilities of a Board member, why do you believe that you are qualified for the position? Please include a brief statement of your skills, expertise and knowledge that would aid you as a member of the Board.

Personal and professional experience in the area of disabilities. Guardian to my brother who has significant disabilities and lives in a state-support adult foster home. Communication skills to bridge distance between professional and individual/family perspectives, needs, and expectations. Deep listener.

(5) What do you hope to accomplish during your term of service

HOLD ON and DEFEND civil rights and service gains made. Forward the momentum in the face of Federal and State threats to civil rights protections and funding.

(6) Name three qualities that best describe you and how these qualities will benefit the Board.

1. See the big picture and how the smaller parts contribute to, or detract from the whole. Can synthesize disparate parts and viewpoints
2. Clear and tenacious in upholding core values while willing to compromise on strategies and tactics to preserve them.
3. Passion to nurture human dignity in inclusive communities as an expression of who I am in life

- (7) **Name a previous experience you've had that will be beneficial as a Board member.**

Founder and President of Winners at Work as one of the state's earliest ventures into community-based living, work, and training.

- (8) **Can you foresee any possible conflicts of interest that could arise during your service on the Board? How would you overcome conflicts of interest?**

Not at this point. I'm retired.