

GM644

Measure Title: Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Disability and Communication Access Board, Gubernatorial Nominee, PHYLLIS MEIGHEN, for a term to expire 06-30-2022.

Report Title: Disability and Communication Access Board

Current Referral: CPH



DISABILITY AND COMMUNICATION ACCESS BOARD

1010 Richards Street, Room 118 • Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
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March 29, 2018

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

Governor's Message 644 - Submitting for Consideration and Confirmation to the
Disability and Communication Access Board, Gubernatorial Nominee, Phyllis Meighen
for a Term to Expire June 30, 2022

The Disability and Communication Access Board (DCAB) supports the nomination of Ms. Phyllis Meighen to the Board. This will be a re-appointment for Ms. Meighen as she was appointed in 2017 to fill a vacancy on the Board.

Ms. Meighen fills the position of a consumer/family member with a sibling with a cognitive or developmental disability. She also serves as the representative from Kauai County. In addition to her personal experience, she also has a very strong professional social services and education background, having developed and managed adult programs for individuals with developmental disabilities. She is currently a pastor and brings a compassion to complement her personal and professional background.

Ms. Meighen is currently the Board representative to the Special Parent Information Network, a joint program of DCAB with the Department of Education to provide parents of children with disabilities access to information on services and rights to a free, appropriate public education.

We thank you for your positive consideration of re-appointment of Ms. Meighen to the DCAB.

Respectfully submitted,

FRANCINE WAI
Executive Director



Special Parent Information Network

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March 29, 2018

Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair
Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 95813

RE: GM 644 - Consideration and Confirmation of Phyllis Meighen as a Gubernatorial
Nominee for the Disability and Communication Access Board

Dear Chair Baker and Members of the Committee,

The Special Parent Information Network (SPIN) would like to **strongly support** the appointment of **Dr. Phyllis Meighen** to a four year term on the Disability and Communication Access Board. Dr. Meighen is currently serving on our SPIN Advisory Committee, and she brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to support our mission of providing information and support to parents of children and youth with disabilities.

While Dr. Meighen has only been part of our Advisory Committee for the past year, she has been part of our network for the past 25 years. As a professor teaching special education teacher candidates at the University of Hawaii in the mid to late 80's, she and Dr. Robert Stodden developed nationally recognized curricula for supporting the transition of youth from high school to successful intergration into the adult world of work and community living. Not satisfied to merely "talk the talk" regarding supporting the employment of youth with developmental and other disabilities, she left the University to found Winners at Work (now doing business as Abilities Unlimited) in 1989. Winners at Work has assisted hundreds of individuals to find meaningful work in the community.

When she left Winners at Work to follow a calling to minister to youth and adults with disabilities and their families, she maintained her connections and influence in the broader service community and has continued to advocate for self-determination and inclusive employment opportunities and community living. She will no doubt be a strong, thoughtful and energetic member of the Disability and Communication Access Board.

Sincerely,

Susan S. Rocco
Susan S. Rocco
SPIN Coordinator

* Offering a world of support to families of children with disabilities *

A Partnership Between the Disability & Communication Access Board and the Department of Education

TESTIMONY
IN SUPPORT OF THE NOMINATION OF
THE REV. DR. PHYLLIS A. MEIGHEN
TO THE DISABILITY AND COMMUNICATION ACCESS BOARD

I write to support the nomination of the Rev. Dr. Phyllis A. Meighen to the Hawaii Disability and Communication Access Board. I have known Rev. Meighen as colleague and close friend since 1990. She and I were roommates in seminary, and we now serve as ministers on Kauai. In addition, we have served together on several committees in the United Church of Christ.

Rev. Meighen's moral character and ethical conduct are above reproach. Indeed, as a Christian pastor, she serves as role model, teacher, and encourager of high Christian moral principles and conduct in public and private life.

Rev. Meighen's commitment to persons with disabilities is both personal and professional. Her youngest brother has Down syndrome, for whom she is guardian and advocate. He lives on O`ahu in a state operated care home. Recently, her brother suffered a stroke, which propelled her into action to collaborate with his medical team and a number of community health, residential, and social service organizations to ensure a good quality of life for him.

Rev. Meighen's professional commitment has included the founding of Winners at Work, which was one of the first employment training programs for severely developmentally disabled persons in the state. After many years serving as Winners' president, she was called into Christian ministry. In that capacity she founded an ecumenical ministry called John 17:21 on O`ahu. The ministry reaches out to bring together persons with disabilities and churches in worship, fellowship, and mission. I understand from her that there are more than 30 churches collaborating in this ministry.

For the above reasons, I urge you to approve the nomination of the Rev. Dr. Phyllis Meighen to the Disability and Communication Access Board.

Sincerely,

/s/ Jeannie D. Thompson

The Rev. Jeannie D. Thompson, Pastor
Kapa`a United Church of Christ
1315 Ulu St., Kapa`a, HI 96746
822-9241 pjkucc@live.com

From: [Rebecca Estes](#)
To: [CPH Testimony](#)
Subject: TESTIMONY FOR PHYLLIS MEIGHEN DCAB
Date: Wednesday, March 28, 2018 4:25:32 PM

TESTIMONY

SUPPORTING THE NOMINATION

OF THE REV. DR. PHYLLIS A. MEIGHEN

TO THE DISABILITY AND COMMUNICATION ACCESS BOARD

This testimony is to support of the nomination of the Rev. Dr. Phyllis A. Meighen to the Hawaii Disability and Communication Access Board. She and I have been friends since 1976, when her brother with developmental disability was placed in our family's adult foster care home in Kailua. She has also been my supervisor for an employment development program she started, my professor in special education, and my colleague in John 17:21 Ministries. Currently, we are fast friends and housemates living in Lihue.

Reflecting on the many settings and roles we have shared over the past 42 years, I'd like to share my observations about Phyllis' character and heart. I think, first of all, of how much she loves to learn. She approaches new situations and new people with an attitude of exploration and inquiry, rather than judgment or fear. This quality has been supportive in her being a pioneer in community-based training for

people with disabilities in Hawai'i. Her enthusiasm for learning is infectious and invites others to expand their thinking to try new ways of working with people, especially those who have significant disabilities.

Second, I'm struck by how her core convictions for living are reflected in all aspects of her professional work and personal life. Phyllis' core convictions include the

beliefs that: a) all people are created in the image of God and have something of value to offer the world; b) our communities should be flexible and open to welcome all people in dignified, respectful, and life-giving ways; and c) her mission in life is to be part of God's work to create communities that work for everyone.

Third, Phyllis is deeply principled, fair minded, and caring in her relationships with people. She is trustworthy with sensitive information and with responsibility for a

broad scope of concern. She seeks creative solutions for problems, divergent views, and conflicts.

Pioneer, leader, teacher, and community reformer are qualities Phyllis Meighen brings to the Disability and Communication Access Board. I encourage you to approve her

nomination.

Sincerely,

/s/ Rebecca Estes

Rebecca Estes, Retired Special Education Teacher

Hawai'i Department of Education

783-9666

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