

MS Action Day 2012 - Talking Points

Please use the following talking points as a guide for discussing MS priority issues during your legislative visits. Remember to share your personal story and tie those stories and experiences into why movement on these key issues is important to so many living with MS throughout Illinois.

HB3878: Gas Station Refueling Accessibility

Request **Support passage of the amendment to the Motor Fuel Sales Act which gives people with disabilities greater access at gasoline service stations within the community.**

Issue

- The existing Motor Fuels Sales Act provides for refueling assistance at gas stations and service stations upon the request of an individual with a disability by honking or signaling an employee. *However*, service to people with disabilities still poses a challenge especially when they are not being heard or seen by the gas station employee.
- HB3878 requires gas stations to add an accessible calling device or to post the phone number of the station directly on gas pumps to make it easier for people with disabilities to communicate with gas station employees.

Rationale

- The bill assures Illinois compliance with the ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) which requires gas stations to provide refueling assistance upon request by any person with a mobility disability.
- Gas stations may deny requests when operating on a remote control basis with a single employee.
- The bill imposes minimal financial obligations on gas stations while creating an increased consumer base
- The legislation was developed in collaboration with the Coalition of Citizens with Disabilities in Illinois, the Illinois Secretary of State's Disability liaison, the Illinois Assistive Technology Project, Access living, and the Illinois Network of Centers for Independent Living.

HB5655/SB680: Safe Patient Handling in Nursing Homes

Request	Support passage of the amendment to the Illinois Nursing Home Care Act that will reduce risk of injury to patients with mobility limitations and health care workers associated with lifting, transferring, repositioning or movement.
Issue	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The bill mandates proper training of nursing home staff on best practices for safely lifting and transferring patients.• The bill provides residents with disabilities in nursing homes with more input on the way they are lifted and/or transferred by direct health care workers, maintaining dignity, self-determination and choice.• The legislation will provide assistance to nursing homes with the adoption of policies to control risk of injuries to both residents and health care workers through evaluation, training and creation of "safe lifting teams".
Rationale	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Studies have shown significant rates of workman's comp claims for nursing home employees as well as avoidable emergency room visits for residents associated with the transfer and movement of patients.• Through implementation of best practices and the creation of safe lifting teams, needless injuries can be avoided promoting better quality of life for residents, increased safety of nursing home staff and significant reductions in healthcare costs.• HB5655/SB680 was developed in collaboration with Access Living and is supported by Illinois Health Care Association (representing over 375 long term care facilities and programs in Illinois).