Ann Arbor Center for Independent Living
1976-2006

For People with Disabilities by People with Disabilities

To members of the State of Michigan House:

The Ann Arbor CIL has a rich history. Our ***ACT***ions are more important than ever. It is more important than ever that we ***ACT*** with and on behalf of people with disabilities, to:

Amplify people's voices;
Connect people with opportunities and resources; and,
Transform lives.

We ***ACT*** as we are an organization dedicated to the success if children, youth, and adults with disabilities at home, in school, in the commmunity and on the job!

One of the ways that the legislature can take ***ACT***ion to support and work on behalf of people (including those who have disabilities) is to enact House Bill #4447 and House Bill #4448. People with disabilities are more likely to have transient homes and we want all people to be able to exercise their right to vote in the community in which they presently reside. The same is true for people who are homeless, people who are undergoing rehabilitation, people who are temporaily or permanently living in nursing homes or assisted living centers, and students in Universities from 2 -8 years. The current PA 118 provision has been a huge **barrier** for people who have multiple or no address(es) to be more civically engaged. For students, this has prevented people from to holding seats on City Councils or Township Boards in their local communities.

The Ann Arbor Center for Independent Living recognizes the importance of voting and fully supports the rights of all legally eligible Michigan residents to have an opportunity to vote and take part in the electoral process. Everyone ought to be able to vote in local and state elections no matter where your current residence is located. With a state wide database of registered voters you would be able to establish an address to receive your polling location and monitor it so that people would not be able to double vote.

Voting is a right that we each need to be able to exercise! Please take ***ACT***ion so people will all be able to ***ACT*** where we are living.

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn L. Grawi, MSW, LMSW, ACSW
Macro and Clinical Practice
Director of Advocacy and Education

and member of the Washtenaw County Voter Access Committee

2568 Packard Rd. • Ann Arbor, MI 48104 • Phone: 734.971.0277 • Fax: 734.971.0826 • www.aacil.org

United Way