

Indivisible Durango-Civil Rights Committee
Minutes
June 15, 2017
Commons Building #308 (above Alpine Bank)

Attending: Linda Daniels, Chair; Rollie Butler; Richard Butler; Lynne Sholler, Secretary; Cheryl Duresky and guest Martha Mason of Southwest Center for Independence.

May Minutes – Rollie requested the minutes reflect that during the Pride Festival, the parade is biggest event. Minutes were approved as amended.

REPORTS:

Guest: We introduced ourselves and what Indivisible Durango and our committee does. Marsha from SWCI discussed its work with Disability Rights. They do an annual American's with Disabilities Act (ADA) event the end of July. They advocate for independent living for those with disabilities so they can live on their own. They engage in other advocacy: civics classes, empowerment via legislation, civic responsibility and "telling your story" to foster understanding.

She discussed **HB 620** where the stated purpose was to **eliminate "drive by lawsuits"** requiring demand letters with a notice and right to cure before filing a civil action. Each state decides if the plaintiff gets damages – CO allows damages. At the federal level ADA), there is no impact because the states decide. Plaintiffs can sue but they don't recover damages. This proposed bill wants to give the businesses X mos. to remedy the non-compliance issue, i.e., 9 months to correct it. There is a notification requirement. Currently there is no grandfathering for non-compliance. Why should they get 9 MORE months? The law has been in effect 27 years! It's essentially a "wait list for civil rights." For those with disabilities, if you have a disability placard you don't have to pay for parking, but the disabled can't FIND a spot where they need to go. They may have oxygen tanks, walkers, etc. so they also have access issues. The Bill favors non-compliant businesses. Currently, if there is non-compliance one can seek redress through the DOJ, DOE or a civil lawsuit. At the Durango Post Office, the door is too heavy for the disabled to pull – there is no button to push to automatically open the door. Even medical facilities are non-compliant. Bill status: It has been introduced; she's not sure it has been assigned to a committee.

HR 2647/SB 2680 Mental Health Reform This bill targets those with mental illness rather than gun violence. Most with MH issues are not dangerous. The bill seeks to **prohibit those with a mental illness diagnosis from owning guns**. It also provides for involuntary treatment.

An "idea" not yet a bill: Sharing and tracking data from Social Security Disability (even the payee) with law enforcement and Medicaid. This could be a HIPAA violation.

Disability Integration Act – Schumer; has bipartisan support. For those with disabilities, if you can't get out of the house you can't access anything else. It allows for personal care attendant assistance services under Medicaid. (It will be expensive).

Health Care – under Trump, those with disabilities are also impacted. The cap on Medicaid will be cut from the Obama expansion, as will pre-existing conditions. There will be a higher cost: States get a 20%

match from the feds and they decide how to use it. With less money, there will be less coverage. Home based services will be cut.

Swilc.org has all their events.

BILL REPORTS Lynne reported on **HR 377 and SB 68 Designating the Muslim Brotherhood as a Terrorist Organization**. The bill was introduced by Ted Cruz in January 2017 and has support from Breitbart contributors. Based on reports from the NYT and Washington Post, the Brotherhood officially renounced violence decades ago and won elections in Egypt after the fall of President Mubarak in 2011. Career officials at the State Dept. and Nat'l Security Council argue there is no legal basis for it and it could alienate allies in the region. The State Dept. determined under the Obama Administration that the Brotherhood did not meet the legal requirement for the designation due to no evidence that its leaders systematically ordered terrorist attacks. Critics fear this will create a legal justification to crack down on Muslim charities, mosques and other groups in the USA, and be a witch hunt to target Muslim American civil rights. The designation would freeze assets, block visas and ban financial interactions. While there would be some benefits (making it unlawful to knowingly provide material support resources, stymie efforts to create a support network for violent acts against US persons; reduce ability to acquire bomb-making materials) the risks were thought to outweigh the benefits. There has been no action since it was introduced.

HR 620 – Richard had no further information beyond what Marsha already discussed.

SB 857 – African American Civil Rights Network Act Rollie reported this bill establishes an **African American Civil Rights Network within the National Park Service** Where advocacy movements regarding African American civil rights between 1939-1968 had been fought, they should be eligible for historic places designations, such as government facilities. It's been read twice and referred to the Energy/National Resources Committee. It has also been introduced as HR 1928 and referred to the subcommittee on Federal Lands.

It was determined **NO CTA's** were necessary on any of these bills now.

Rollie reported on the Pride Festival and the booth available for distributing information. She, Richard, Linda and Cheryl will work the booth (Lynne is on a river trip). Various logistics were discussed

Next meeting July 19, 2017 5:00-6:30 at Crossroads Building (above Alpine Bank) #308

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