

New Jersey Legislative Disability Caucus

<https://njcdd.org/legislative-disability-caucus/>

<https://twitter.com/LegisDBLCaucus>

PURPOSE:

To serve as a bipartisan forum within the New Jersey Legislature for lawmakers and their staff to consider the impact on the disability community when shaping ALL public policies in the Garden State. The Caucus provides increased awareness and a greater understanding of the complexities of the disabilities service system and issues affecting individuals with disabilities and their families.

THE FACTS:

- According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, approximately 61 million Americans – 25% of the population – have a disability that “impacts major life activities”.
- Approximately 25% of adults in New Jersey identify as having some type of disability. This equates to 2,227,250. *
- Despite progress, adults with disabilities in New Jersey and across the country continue to experience significant differences in health characteristics and behaviors compared to adults without disabilities. **
- The jobless rate for persons with a disability continues to be about twice as high as the rate for those without a disability. ***
- People with disabilities live in poverty at more than twice the rate of people without disabilities. ****



Did you know?

Disability costs in healthcare expenditures are **\$12.4 billion per year**** in New Jersey.

 **12.5%**
of all US males and

 **12.8%**
of US females have a disability

HOW THE CAUCUS WORKS:

Legislators who join the Caucus agree to be champions for individuals with disabilities in New Jersey by participating in quarterly education forums; and above all, promote policies to improve the lives of people with disabilities when considering the impact on the disability community in shaping all public policies in New Jersey. Individuals with disabilities, their families and organizations that support and advocate serve as a resource to the NJ Legislative Disability Caucus, providing education and programming as needed. Additional information, Caucus Member and Supporting Agency Lists: <https://njcdd.org/legislative-disability-caucus/supporting-agency-directory/>.

* Disability & Health U.S. State Profile Data for New Jersey (Adults 18+ years of age), Centers for Disease Control.

** Disability-associated healthcare expenditures are presented in 2006 dollars as reported in Anderson et al, 2010. This value represents approximately 26% of total healthcare expenditures for the state of New Jersey.

*** Current Population Survey (CPS), US Department of Labor's Office of Disability Employment Policy, February 2020.

****Disability Poverty Connection Report, National Council on Disability, October 2017.