National
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2011 MS Action Day – Issue 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.

ISSUES

- **Provide a Hospital Safe Patient Handling Policy for patients with MS and other mobility disabilities**
- **Support Increased Accessibility to Gas Stations**

Provide a Hospital Safe Patient Handling Policy for patients with MS and other mobility disabilities – SB1577 (Senator Linda Holmes) and HB1684 (Representative Lou Lang)

- This legislation enhances the Hospital Licensing Act by ensuring patient safety, dignity, self-determination, and choice, in safe patient handling policy. The safe patient handling policy defines a strategy to control the risk of injury to patients and health care workers associated with the lifting, transferring, repositioning, or movement of a patient. This legislation will advance health care access for Illinois citizens with mobility disabilities through improved patient choice, enhanced awareness, skilled and knowledgeable health care workers, and vital safe handling options.

- Bill supports the 782,000 Illinoisans with mobility disability by providing access and input to safe health care for both the patient and the health care worker.

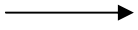
- Adults with functional limitations account for 60% of all overnight hospital stays and are disproportionately affected by existing access barriers.

- ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) is the federal civil rights law that prohibits discrimination against individuals with disabilities in everyday activities, including medical services.

- Unfortunately 20 years later, we still have not achieved equal access to these vital services.

- This bill brings the mobility disability community closer to the equality envisioned by the ADA.

- **Ask your Legislator:** Please support/co-sponsor SB 1577/HB 1684 to provide a Hospital Safe Patient Handling Policy for patients with MS and other mobility disabilities.



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Support Increased Accessibility to Gas Stations – SB1238 (sponsored by Senator Mike Jacobs)

- This legislation requires that gasoline and service stations provide a phone number posted on the pump for readier access to the attendant (instead of either honking or otherwise signaling an employee), as well as providing a minimum of one fueling site with calling device specifications that allows the disabled operator of a motor vehicle to request refueling assistance.

- People with disabilities can find it difficult or impossible to refuel their vehicles because they are unable to use the controls, hose, or nozzle of a self-serve gas pump.

- Difficulty with refueling can compromise safety for the individual, other customers, and the station.

- Even though Illinois statutes today are consistent with the ADA, actual practice at some gasoline and service stations do not comply.

- This legislation provides individuals with disabilities an opportunity to receive equal access to a necessary business service and greater personal freedom.

- The requirement placed on gas stations involves minimal cost and effort to comply.

- **Ask your Legislator -** Please support/co-sponsor SB 1238 in support of Illinoisans with MS and mobility disabilities.