**Resolution For Inclusion of Individuals with Lived Experience**

**Whereas** Washington State government has numerous advisory bodies that consist mostly or entirely of people with close ties to institutional power structures, and these bodies neglect to include underrepresented individuals with lived experience, especially individuals with adverse experiences imposed by institutions; and

**Whereas** the underrepresentation and exclusion of marginalized people with lived experience may be worse among some advisory bodies dealing with police, courts, prison, guardianship, long-term-care industry, and mental health; and

**Whereas** “Guardianship Stakeholder groups,” organized by legislative staff, are notorious for excluding the views of people with lived experience as victims of guardianship, and also people who are forced to watch helplessly while their loved one suffers under the for-profit professional guardianship industry; and

**Whereas** community-based organizations deserve respect from government, and can be helpful implementing E2SHB 1541, they however should not be relied upon solely to locate individuals with adverse lived experiences and nominate them for state advisory bodies; and

**Whereas** E2SHB 1541 addresses the need for increased representation of individuals from marginalized communities and individuals with lived experience to be on state advisory bodies, it however neglects the fact that many of these individuals are not well-known by community-based organizations.

**Therefore, be it resolved,** the 32nd LD Democrats, call on the Washington State Senate to amend E2SHB 1541 as follows:

a.  require the state “Office of Equity” to consult not merely with “community-based organizations” (as E2SHB 1541calls for), but also to consult broadly with non-governmental human rights organizations, other issue-oriented organizations, grassroots organizations, individual activists, and individual survivors of adverse lived experience, to find nominees to serve on advisory bodies; and

 b. amend the definition of “Direct lived experience” and “Lived experience” [see New Section, Sec.2. (1), E2SHB 1541], to indicate an “individual with lived experience” means both the primary individual target of adverse lived experience, and also a secondary individual target of adverse lived experience (such as a family member or loved one), since the primary target could be dead, unjustly incarcerated, involuntarily institutionalized or labeled “incapacitated” and “placed” in a facility, and any such circumstance can obstruct and prevent that individual from serving on a state advisory body; and

 c.   amend the description defining which specific state advisory bodies will be required to broaden their membership, so as to expand this requirement to apply to all state advisory bodies; and

**Therefore, be it finally resolved** the 32nd LD Democrats recognize the enactment of E2SHB 1541 is only one step to embed into the legal system the principle of “Nothing About Us Without Us,” and establish it as a fundamental personal right by any individual with a disability.

Submitted by Michael Brunson, PCO SHL-0527  
March 20, 2022  
Revised April 5, 2023

**Suggested Amendment to E2SHB 1541**

Dear Representative Ryu and Representative Davis,

Thank you for co-sponsoring HB 1541. As a member of LD 32, and as a person with lived experience, HB 1541 is only one step to embed into the legal system the principle of “Nothing About Us Without Us,” and establish it as a fundamental personal right by any individual with a disability.

Please consider adding the following amended language to the current bill:

Require the state “Office of Equity” to consult not merely with “community-based organizations” (as E2SHB 1541calls for), but also to consult broadly with non-governmental human rights organizations, other issue-oriented organizations, grassroots organizations, individual activists, and individual survivors of adverse lived experience, to find nominees to serve on advisory bodies; and

Amend the definition of “Direct lived experience” and “Lived experience” [see New Section, Sec.2. (1), E2SHB 1541], to indicate an “individual with lived experience” means both the primary individual target of adverse lived experience, and also a secondary individual target of adverse lived experience (such as a family member or loved one), since the primary target could be dead, unjustly incarcerated, involuntarily institutionalized or labeled “incapacitated” and “placed” in a facility, and any such circumstance can obstruct and prevent that individual from serving on a state advisory body; and

Amend the description defining which specific state advisory bodies will be required to broaden their membership, so as to expand this requirement to apply to all state advisory bodies.

Thank you for your consideration,

Sincerely,

Michael Brunson, PCO SHL-0527  
LD 32