

Disability Rights Nebraska

Protection and Advocacy for People with Disabilities

Internship Opportunity

Position description: Disability Rights Nebraska is looking to provide a paid internship to one or two undergraduate student(s) with a disability during the Nebraska legislative session . The intent is to provide youth with disabilities an opportunity to participate in legislative/public policy advocacy directly. Through this internship we want to help youth with disabilities understand current and proposed public policies affecting Nebraskans with disabilities, engage state senators and other state policy makers, and testify on at least one bill in front of the Nebraska legislature. This internship is also intended to help connect the intern(s) to the larger disability community, disability advocates, and disability advocacy organizations. You can check out [this video](#) for a quick run-down of this initiative.

Responsibilities and duties:The internship would be focused on legislative advocacy. The intern would be working with the Public Policy Director and other Disability Rights Nebraska's staff (as appropriate) to:

- Help identify and research legislation
- Provide testimony or other communication to state senators on specified legislation within Disability Rights Nebraska's [Legislative Agenda](#)
- Attend meetings with policymakers or other advocates/advocacy groups as needed (with the Public Policy Director)
- Give a presentation about legislative updates or other policy information to other groups/advocates and to Disability Rights Nebraska staff.
- Write a blog post for [Disability Rights Nebraska's website](#)

Duration and payment: This is a paid internship. The pay rate is 10.00/hr. The internship will last through the legislative session.

We would expect a 10-hour a week commitment, which does not have to be spent in our offices. We would only expect the intern to come to our office for 1-2 hours a week; the rest of the hours can be spent off-site (or in the office, whichever is preferable). We have an online time recording system that will be used to record, account, and track the internship hours per week and payment.

Outcomes: This internship will require, yet build, critical thinking and reading skills-- so having room to grow into these skills is just fine. This internship will require the intern to read, write, and speak or use other assistive communication device.

The intern(s) would be expected to:

- Attend public hearings on specified legislation, as directed by the Public Policy Director.
- Testify and write letter(s) to senators on specified state legislation as directed by the Public Policy Director.

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- Communicate (written and orally) with other advocates/advocacy groups;
- Attend meetings with legislative staff, senators, or other advocates, as directed by the Public Policy Director. Disability Rights Nebraska will not provide transportation. This internship does not require out-of-town travel, but the intern will be responsible for own transportation to and from the downtown Lincoln office, state capitol, or other meetings.
- Work independently, with sufficient direction. Disability Rights Nebraska will provide space and a computer at our office (when working remotely, intern would need to have their own), and necessary office supplies. Given the fast-paced and fluid nature of public policy work, the intern would be expected to work on their own (with instruction, guidance, and assistance by the Public Policy Director or other Disability Rights Nebraska staff), but would report to the Public Policy Director before taking any action.
- Record hours worked in our online time management and payroll system. This internship will require the intern to manage their time, use a shared on-line calendar, be responsible for their schedule, and input their time into our time management and payroll system.

Contact: If interested or if you have further questions, please contact Brad Meurrens at Disability Rights Nebraska at 402-474-3183 or brad@drne.org . Please email a resume on or before December 7, 2020. We would like to start on this initiative soon, so please do not delay.