

Memorandum

To: Scott Cochran
Michelle Piccerillo
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Justin Carbonella
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Barbara Lockhart
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Kathryn Dube

From: Jay Aronson

Date: February 24, 2023

Re: Legislative Update

This Week at The Capitol:

Because the State was closed on Monday due to the President's Day holiday, this week was going to be busy as a matter of course. It meant that Committees which normally do business on Monday, were allowed to meet on Tuesday, which simply compacts everything that goes on in the building. When you then add in a complete shutdown of the Internet and WiFi throughout the entirety of state government...the Legislature, Courts and Agencies...on Tuesday, EVERYTHING ground to a halt! (Unfortunate, since CYSA submitted testimony in the Children's Committee on HB 6718, AAC the Safe Storage and Disposal of Prescription Drugs, Cannabis and Cannabis Products.) Until about 3pm on Tuesday, when the Internet came back up, Committee after Committee canceled meetings and hearings, further backlogging the work at the Capitol. Pre-Covid, this would not have been an issue as everything was done in person. However, with remote testifying, remote debate and even remote voting now the norm, an outage like that which occurred on Tuesday simply caused legislative mayhem.

Business returned to "normal" on Wednesday. CYSA met with the Chairs of the Appropriation's Committee to talk to them about our 2023 budget request. In short, CYSA asked for just over \$6 million which would give every YSB \$60,000 to hire one person for Case Management, Program Management or Mental Health Services. Of course, no promises were made. It is now our job to "sell" our request to the Human Services budget subcommittee. When we submit our testimony on the budget, we will include the document we gave to the Committee Chairs as well. This means that each member of the subcommittee will have the request when we testify. Kathryn has asked all Chapter Reps to have their members send the document to their Legislators as well for maximum legislative coverage.

On Thursday, the General Law Committee held a public hearing on several adult use of Cannabis bills. CYSA submitted written testimony on HB 6699, AAC Cannabis Regulation, as parts of the bill deal with labeling and packaging of "edibles".

The Children's Committee public hearing that was postponed on Tuesday (actually called to order, then recessed) took place on Friday. As noted earlier, CYSA submitted testimony on HB 6718.

Next week will be of vital importance to CYSA as YSBs will have the opportunity to testify before the Human Services budget subcommittee on Wednesday, March 1st. Kathryn has sent notice and information out to CYSA Members alerting them of this and asking for both Directors and Youth to both register to testify and submit written testimony.

THE CONSENSUS GROUP

As always, please contact me at your convenience should you have any questions or concerns about these or any other Legislative matters. Also, please share this information with your members as you see fit