



Ohio APSE Logo



14 (c) Task Force Logo

SAVE-THE - DATE

Ohio Employment First and Greater Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities Act.

WHAT: VIRUTAL EVENT FOR THE SUBMINIMUM WAGE BILL

WHEN: Thursday, March 28TH

WHERE: Virtually (registration link below)

TIME: 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM EST.

AGENDA:

9:00 – 10:00 AM **Representative Jarrells and Representative Lipps**

10:00 – 11:00 AM **Doug Crandell**, Author of the book, TWENTY-TWO CENTS An HOUR

11:00 – 12:00 AM PANEL DISCUSSION: **Gary Tonks**, President and CEO, the Arc of Ohio, the states lead advocacy organization supporting the elimination of subminimum wage; **Julie Christensen**, Executive Director and Policy and Advocacy Director, National APSE; **Kimberly Tissot**, President and CEO, able South Carolina, who led the successful legislation to eliminate subminimum wage; **Brady Bartley**, person who worked in subminimum wage; **John Pekar**, retired superintendent of Vinton and Fairfield County, Intellectual/Developmental Disability history; **Dr. Fred Schroeder**, Past President of World Blind Union, former commissioner of Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA) appointed by President Clinton. Dr. Schroeder ended the practice of state vocational rehabilitation agencies placing individuals with disabilities in segregated subminimum wage employment.

Registration is required for this event. Proceed to the link below to register.

<https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZEpcO2qqzkrE9URUJ1cwx9HI4Wfhc2VPEPW>

For information, please contact Ohio APSE at ohapse@apse.org

HB 427

<https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/135/hb427>



State Representative and Assistant Minority Leader Dontavius Jarrells is currently serving his second term in the Ohio General Assembly representing House District 1, which includes Berwick, Bexley, Bronzeville, Downtown, Franklinton, German Village, Milo-Grogan, and the South Side of Columbus. Growing up in the Hough neighborhood of Cleveland, Dontavius witnessed firsthand the struggles that disadvantaged communities face every day. From a lack of affordable housing to limited access to education and essential services, these challenges shaped Dontavius' worldview and ignited a passion for advocacy and public service. After nearly a decade fighting for disadvantaged and marginalized communities across Ohio, Rep. Jarrells is committed to advancing commonsense legislation to make Ohio a better place to live, work, go to school, start a business, and raise a family. During his first term in office, Rep. Jarrells passed legislation to eliminate discriminatory covenants from deeds during property transfers, remove derogatory language within the state's code, designate January 11th as Human Trafficking Awareness Day, and brought millions back into the district and Franklin County. Rep. Jarrells is committed to building an Ohio we all deserve.



State Representative Scott Lipps is currently serving his fourth term in the Ohio House of Representatives. He represents the 55th Ohio House District, which includes northern, eastern, and southern portions of Warren County. A native of Southwest Ohio, Rep. Lipps was raised in Miamisburg, Ohio. After graduating from Miamisburg High School, Rep. Lipps attended the College of Wooster. After his time at Wooster, Rep. Lipps pursued a graduate degree at DePaul University in Chicago, Ill. Rep Lipps has been involved in philanthropy (Masons and Shriners), professional organizations (NFIB State Board, Optimists and Rotary Club, Farm Bureau, among others) Rep. Lipps has also been in public service, including to the disability communities across Ohio.



Doug Crandell has worked for decades in employment and disability supports. He's an advocate for a sibling with disabilities. In *Twenty-Two Cents an Hour*, he focused on how the Disability Industrial Complex is often impenetrable, mired in deficit-thinking, and controlled by the lobbying of trade groups that do little for people with disabilities. Doug has published eight books with publishers including Penguin-Random House, Chicago Review Press, Virgin Books, and Cornell University Press. His essays on labor, mental health, and disability appear regularly in the SUN magazine <https://www.thesunmagazine.org/contributors/doug-crandell>. He directs the training and technical assistance center at the University of Georgia known as www.advancingemployment.com. Additional information is available at www.dougrandell.com and www.abolish14c.com, <https://abolish14c.com/podcasts%2C-papers%2C-videos>



Dr. Schroeder is the past President of the World Blind Union (WBU). The WBU represents the interests of the estimated 253 million blind and partially sighted people around the world. It works to expand access to education, employment, and social integration for blind and partially sighted people. Professionally, Dr. Schroeder worked for more than 20 years as a research professor with the San Diego State University Research Foundation. He is a nationally recognized expert in disability employment policy and lead training in leadership and public policy for senior level executives of state vocational rehabilitation programs. President Clinton appointed Dr. Schroeder commissioner of the Rehabilitation Services Administration within the U.S. Department of Education. As commissioner, Dr. Schroeder ended the practice of state vocational rehabilitation agencies placing individuals with disabilities in segregated subminimum wage employment.



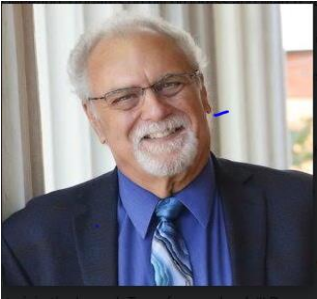
Kimberly Tissot proudly serves as the President and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Able SC where she guides the staff in applying the philosophy of independent living to real situations. Kimberly believes in the value of individualized and community-based empowerment as she wants people to recognize their full potential. Under Kimberly's leadership, Able SC has experienced years of growth, success and has become a nationally recognized Center for Independent Living. Kimberly's road to disability rights began at an early age, after having her leg amputated from a rare childhood cancer, Alveolar rhabdomyosarcoma. Kimberly began deciding her style of mobility, becoming the first soccer player with a disability in her town, and speaking up anytime she was treated differently. Kimberly has over 20 years of experience advocating for disability inclusion on a local, state, and federal level, and internationally! Kimberly led the efforts in the passing of progressive legislation in South Carolina, "Persons with Disabilities Right to Parent Act" and in 2018, and in 2022, ending subminimum wage in South Carolina. Kimberly mentors other Centers for Independent Living across the nation due to her marked success in the field.



Brady Bartley is an experienced warehouse worker that has been a lead, and team member. Brady works at a manufacturing company, making parts for open heart surgery all the way to dynamite. His new job accommodates his needs. They don't mind if you need a break and go chill out for a while. His current job pays a competitive wage, something he hasn't gotten at other jobs. When he was 18 and fresh out of high school, he was getting about \$4.00 an hour until he could take a productivity test to find out how much he was worth. That number often fell well below minimum wage, most of the time. Brady said his hands were tied in that situation, he needed to make money to eat, so he had to work. Brady said the people there are one of the few people that go into work because they want to be there. But that doesn't change the fact that you can take advantage of them and pay them less than what our minimum standard is. Brady believes that you can't exclude a group of people just because we think they're worth less. In his free time, Brady spends time parenting his dog and paying video games.



Gary Tonks is the President/Chief Executive Officer of The Arc of Ohio. Gary has served in Ohio since 1997. Prior to that, he was The Arc's Executive Director in California and Alabama. He also served as a local chapter Executive Director in Pennsylvania. Gary has been a teacher, case manager, direct service staff person, a program director, a community residential director and advocate. He was one of the authors of Ohio's Medicaid Redesign legislation, HB 94, and represents individuals and their families in all negotiations related to Ohio's current developmental disabilities system. He has been recognized in Ohio and nationally for his professional achievement as an Advocate and leader within the disability community most recently with a national lifetime achievement award. Gary initially joined The Arc as a member of Youth ARC and has been an active member of The Arc for over 49 years. Gary has a master's degree in special education Supervision.



John Pekar retired from the developmental disabilities field in 2022 after fifty years. Starting his career as a residential assistant at the first group home in Akron in 1973, John served as the CEO of Siffrin, Inc., a not-for-profit organization in northeast Ohio. He also served as deputy director of the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities, and spent the last half of his career as the Superintendent/CEO of the Fairfield County Board of DD and the Vinton County Board of DD.



Julie J. Christensen, MSW, PhD, is the Executive Director and Director of Policy & Advocacy at the [Association of People Supporting Employment First \(APSE\)](#). She also currently serves as the Senior Disability Policy Advisor for the Harkin Institute at Drake University. Prior to joining APSE, Dr. Christensen was the Director of Iowa's University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (UCEDD) at the University of Iowa, where she held a research faculty appointment in the Carver College of Medicine, Department of Psychiatry. Dr. Christensen received her undergraduate degrees in advertising and music from Syracuse University, and a master's in social work from Roberts Wesleyan College and her Ph.D. in Health Practice Research at the University of Rochester.