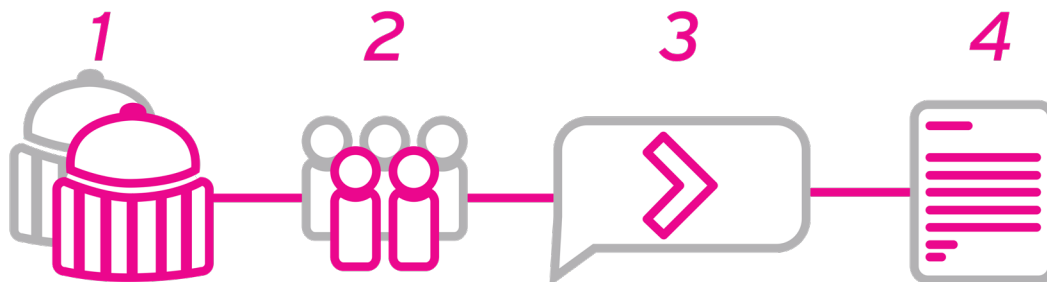

JOINT LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE: Frequently Asked Questions

On June 30, 2021, the Governor signed into law a provision that would create a joint legislative committee to examine the activities of DRO as the protection and advocacy system (P&A) and client assistance program (CAP). We are thankful for all of the support we had during the budget process to oppose this new oversight committee. While we are disappointed that we were not able to prevent the passage of this unnecessary, intrusive, and burdensome new process, we plan to build on this support to become even stronger advocates who empower and center the voices of people with disabilities in all that we do.

What does this new law do?

It creates a joint legislative oversight committee—a group of elected officials from both the Ohio House and Senate—that will examine the activities of DRO as Ohio’s protection and advocacy system (P&A) and client assistance program (CAP) every two years. The committee will prepare and send a report to the Senate President, Speaker of the House, Governor, and Joint Medicaid Oversight Committee.



1 and 2: Members from the Ohio House and Ohio Senate make the joint legislative oversight committee

3: DRO presents information to the committee

4: The committee develops and sends a report about DRO to leadership

Is DRO losing the P&A or CAP programs or funding?

No. DRO’s programs are funded by federal grantors that work independently from the state

Is DRO getting shut down?

No. This joint oversight committee does not have the authority to shut DRO down or to designate the state’s P&A or CAP.

Can I participate in the joint legislative oversight committee process?

DRO is not responsible for the committee process and thus cannot make decisions about how it will operate. DRO will look to what the legislature says about the process, but at this time, the legislature has not specified how the process will operate or who can participate. DRO will provide additional details to supporters as they are available.

How will this new legislative oversight committee impact DRO?

DRO will continue to stay true to our mission and our role as the independent P&A and CAP. Most importantly, we will stay accountable to the clients we serve and our role as an independent advocate.

We will continue to partner with Ohioans with disabilities to educate members of the General Assembly, including this new committee, about the rights and needs of people with disabilities.

What does DRO plan to do now?

We will look for positive ways to interact with the new joint legislative oversight committee. This committee could be a forum for members of the General Assembly to learn more about DRO and the rights and needs of Ohioans with disabilities. DRO plans to use this opportunity to advance disability rights and to refocus attention on the most pressing policy needs of people with disabilities.

We will stay focused on our mission to advocate for the human, civil and legal rights of people with disabilities and keep independently advocating as Ohio's P&A and CAP. At its core, this means listening directly to and empowering the voices of Ohioans with disabilities.

How can I help?



Reach Out– DRO will continue educating the public and the General Assembly about our work and the rights of people with disabilities, and we hope you will share this information with your community. Your advocacy will be crucial to show the importance of disability-rights work.



Follow– Keeping up-to-date with DRO helps us get information out to our supporters as fast as possible. You can [sign up for our email list](#) to receive weekly updates on our work, and you can follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) for the latest info on our advocacy.



Give– DRO relies on your financial support to lobby the state legislature, allowing us to advocate on issues that impact Ohioans with disabilities. To make a contribution, you can go to our website [here](#), or mail a check to our office below:

Ohio Disability Rights Law and Policy Center, Inc.

Donations
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