

The logo for ANCOR, featuring the word "ANCOR" in a white, sans-serif font. Above the letter "O" is a white graphic element consisting of a curved line that starts above the "A", goes over the "O", and ends above the "R", resembling a stylized arc or a partial circle.

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#ANCORConnect24

A circular graphic composed of several concentric rings in shades of teal, orange, and red. The center of the circle is a solid dark red color containing the text "THE POWER OF WE" in white, bold, sans-serif capital letters.

THE
POWER
OF WE

A stylized illustration of a green cactus with several arms and small orange flowers. The cactus is set against a background of light beige, wavy shapes that suggest a desert landscape. The overall style is flat and modern.

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Effecting Change Through Public Policy

Speakers

- Christine Mattson, Associate Executive Director
Constructive Partnerships Unlimited/HV Division
- Penny Pagliaro, Executive Director
Constructive Partnerships Unlimited/HV Division



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Program Agenda

- **Accessibility and Inclusion Legislation**
- **NYS Traveling With Dignity Act**
- **A Roadmap to Effecting Change**
- **Q & A**



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Americans With Disabilities Act

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) prohibits discrimination against people with disabilities in several areas, including employment, **transportation, public accommodations, communications and access to state and local government programs and services.**

US Dept of Labor, 1990



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ADA Achievements

- Education – access to public school system
- Employment – Disability is a protected class, reasonable accommodations
- Infrastructure – ramps to access public spaces and buildings, elevators, curb cut-outs
- Accessibility for travel – wheelchair lifts, hand controls on rental cars, handicap bathrooms with grab bars



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MAKE ALL
NEW YORK
ACCESSIBLE



SUPPORT
TRAVELING
*Strengthening Inclusion
Across*

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Statistics

- 25.5 million Americans (about 8.5 percent of US population age 5 and older) have travel-limiting disabilities
- More than 15% of those with travel-limiting disabilities identify as wheelchair users
- 3.6 million Americans with travel-limiting disabilities do not leave their homes because they are disabled



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The Issue:

Is there a Bathroom for me?



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NYS Traveling With Dignity Act

The “Traveling with Dignity Act” (S.7697) will provide for *adult changing facilities* to be placed within an *enclosed restroom or other similar private facility* to be made available for persons with disabilities, veterans, seniors or other individuals *in public rest areas, museums, libraries and government-owned facilities* throughout New York state.



A Roadmap to Effecting Change

- Identify the Issue and Give it a Voice
- Identify Champions for the Cause
- Broaden the Scope
- Bring Awareness to the Issue
- Pound the Pavement
- Replicate the Process and Make a Difference



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Identify the Issue and Give it a Voice



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In Their Own Words



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SPECTRUM
NEWS

Identify Champions for the Cause

Senator Pete Harckham sponsored and wrote the Bill



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Identify Champions for the Cause

Assemblyman Chris Burdick sponsored the bill



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Identify Champions for the Cause

Senator Rolison

Assemblyman Slater

Assemblywoman



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Identify Champions for the Cause

Endorsed by Senator Mannion – Chairperson of the Disabilities Committee



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Broaden the Scope

Reach out to other groups, advocates, and organizations who have similar interests:

- Veterans
- Spinal Cord Injuries
- Changing Spaces
- Others with Mobility Issues



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Bring Awareness to the Issue

- Social Media
- Press Conferences
- Meeting with other provider organizations
- Media Attention



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Pound the Pavement

- Identify what committees the legislation will go through
- Gain an audience with committee members
- Locate other constituents of committee members and enlist their help
- Ask partnering organizations to assist with advocacy
- Ask trade organizations for assistance in getting the word out



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Replicate the Process and Make a Difference



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**When we make
the world
accessible
We All Win**



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Questions



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