



Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities

'Helping people to live, learn and work in our community'

NewsBits

ABLE Act Signed By President

On December 19, 2014, President Obama signed the ABLE Act (Achieving a Better Life Experience), which allows individuals with developmental disabilities to open tax-free accounts to save up to \$100,000 without risking eligibility for Social Security, Medicaid and other government programs. Modeled after the 529 college savings plans, funds will be able to be used to pay for education, health care, transportation, housing and other expenses. States will now need to put regulations in place to implement the federal law.

Governor Signs Bill related to Signage and Down Syndrome

On December 19, 2014, Governor Kasich signed House Bill 552, which will require the Ohio Department of Health to create and distribute an information sheet for new parents of children with Down Syndrome. The bill also included language suggested by the Franklin County Self-Advocate Advisory Council, to change wording on signage to say 'accessible' rather than 'handicapped'. Thanks to Representative Michael Stinziano for sponsoring the legislation to change the wording on signage.

Sensory Friendly Movie--'Iron Giant'

The Gateway Film Center, 1550 North High Street, will host a sensory friendly screening of the movie *'Iron Giant'* on this Saturday, January 10 at 11am. Cost is \$5.00 with proceeds benefitting Nisonger Center at The Ohio State University. Sensory friendly includes reduced sound levels, increased lighting, no ads/previews, permitted use of devices and outside food/snacks permitted. For details, call 614-685-3196.

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