

# SENATE RESOLUTION 21

(By Senator Takubo)

[Introduced January 28, 2026]

1 Designating January 29, 2026, as Jan Lilly-Stewart Disability Advocacy Day at the Capitol.

2       Whereas, Thirty-seven percent of West Virginians have disabilities. These individuals with  
3 disabilities, like all others, have the right to live, work, and fully participate in their communities in  
4 order to realize their dreams; and

5       Whereas, People with disabilities have the right to an equal opportunity to live full  
6 productive lives as valued citizens in the community or setting of their choice; and

7       Whereas, People with disabilities have the right to receive the supports they need to  
8 exercise self-determination, achieve independence, and become productive employees in the  
9 workplace; and

10       Whereas, West Virginia's citizens with disabilities have come together collectively to bring  
11 their concerns to the forefront of public awareness; and

12       Whereas, The Fair Shake Initiative is a program of the WV Statewide Independent Living  
13 Council and was formed to carry on the work of the Fair Shake Network who developed a  
14 grassroots movement to provide opportunities for people with disabilities to learn from each other  
15 and take action together; and

16       Whereas, The Fair Shake Initiative will continue to be a credible source of information for  
17 policymakers, advocates, and the public on policies and programs that impact people with  
18 disabilities; and

19       Whereas, Organizations such as the WV Statewide Independent Living Council, Mountain  
20 State Centers for Independent Living, LiveAbility, Appalachian Center for Independent Living,

1 Whole Families, Mountain State Parents Child and Adolescent Network, WV Statewide  
2 Rehabilitation Council, WV Parent Training and Information Center, WV Autism Training Center,  
3 Disability Rights of WV, Olmstead Council, WV Division of Rehabilitation Services, Open Doors,  
4 Inc., WVU Center on Excellence In Disabilities, WV Aging & Disability Resource Center, WV  
5 Association. of the Deaf, The Arc of the Mid-Ohio Valley, The Arc of WV, People First of WV, WV  
6 Developmental Disabilities Council, WV Human Rights Commission, WV Center on Budget and  
7 Policy have joined together to help increase public awareness of issues and concerns involving  
8 West Virginians with disabilities through the Fair Shake Initiative; and

9       Whereas, The purpose of Jan Lilly-Stewart Disability Advocacy Day is to increase  
10 awareness and understanding of legislators, administrators, policymakers, and the public about  
11 the issues that are important to individuals with disabilities; therefore, be it

12       *Resolved by the Senate:*

13       That the Senate hereby designates January 29, 2026, as Jan Lilly-Stewart Disability  
14 Advocacy Day at the Capitol; and, be it

15       *Further Resolved,* That the Clerk is hereby directed to forward a copy of this resolution to  
16 Paul W. Smith of the Independent Living Council.