

THE DISABILITY COALITION
Advocating for People with Disabilities of All Types

Disability Rights Awareness Days
Pre-legislative-session Forum

Saturday, January 10, 2026
CNM Workforce Training Center
5600 Eagle Rock Ave., Albuquerque, NM 87113

8:30 Sign-in opens

9:00 Forum begins

Welcome and introductions
Ellen Pinnes, The Disability Coalition

State budget: Overview and disability agencies/programs
Jim Jackson, Chair, The Disability Coalition

Behavioral health: Update on SB 3, BH Reform & Investment Act
*Esperanza Lucero, Behavioral Health Integration and Reform Administrator,
Administrative Office of the Courts*

Education: Update on the *Martinez/Yazzie* case
Laurel Nesbit, Senior Attorney, Disability Rights New Mexico

Break

What's going on in Washington: the Trump Administration and people with disabilities
Ellen Pinnes

Preview of disability-related legislation in the 2025 legislative session
Jim Jackson

Wrap-up

Lunch

Featured speaker: Rep. Kathleen Cates
Insights into disability policy and the legislative process

1:15 – 2:15 **Concurrent sessions – Round 1**

- Financial Scams and How to Avoid Them
New Mexico Department of Justice
- Filing an Effective Special Education Complaint with the NMPED
Disability Rights New Mexico
- How to Tell Your Story Throughout the Legislative Process
Center for Self-Advocacy

2:15 – 2:30 *Break*

2:30 – 3:30 **Concurrent sessions – Round 2**

- Paid Family Medical Leave Act
Southwest Women's Law Center
- Disability Discrimination and Accommodations in Employment
CWA Local 7076
- Telling Your Story to Communicate Your Family's Needs
Parents Reaching Out

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