53 DAYS AND COUNTING

Today around 20 of us gathered in front of the Romney State office Building in downtown Lansing. The Romney Building is the headquarters of Governor Snyder and is located on the Southeast corner of Michigan and Capital, across from the Capitol Building. We had friends and members from all across the state from New Buffalo to Detroit. There were persons of all ages from teens to us Geezers. The tone was upbeat with lots of chants like: “Work not welfare,” “We don’t want no stinkin Advisory board,” and of course our classic “We know who we are and we won’t go back.”

Following the demonstration which lasted an hour from 12 noon ‘til 1 pm we went to the Anderson house office Building named for the first woman elected to the Michigan House of Representatives. We broke into teams and visited several representatives. The Representatives have been very receptive to our concerns. They really understand that the Commission is meant to help blind people go to work. They understand our feelings that placing an agency for the blind in a welfare agency reinforce the notion that blind people are need support rather than are capable of supporting ourselves.

They also understand the fundamental idea that blind people ought to have control of programs that are meant to help us. This was signified by the old chant “nothing about us without us.”

No one has been against our position, though some were as neutral as possible, while others were openly favorable to our points. On balance, we are doing well in the PR department.

The legislature meets on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. We will schedule another event next week. Watch here or call into our board meetings as they are announced on our list serve.