2019 Legislative Fact Sheet

The following fact sheet summarizes the public policy positions adopted by the National Federation of the Blind of Montana for the 2019 Montana Legislature.

For more information, please contact:

Jim Marks, President, National Federation of the Blind of Montana

Phone: (406) 438-1421 or Email: [president@nfbofmt.org](mailto:president@nfbofmt.org) or

Joy Breslauer, Chair, Public Policies Committee

Phone: (406) 454-3096 or Email: [breslauerj@gmail.com](mailto:breslauerj@gmail.com)

We support legislation that:

* Prohibits the payment of sub-minimum wages to workers with disabilities, and prioritizes the procurement of jobs in the community with comparable wages and benefits for Montanans with disabilities.
* Establishes an accessible electronic voting system that conforms with web accessibility and voting privacy standards as an option when elections are conducted by mail.
* Assures that the ballots used by blind voters are of the same size and content as ballots used by all other citizens in order to comply with private voting rights.
* Adopts civil and criminal penalties for actions and/or negligence which results in the death of or harm to guide dogs or other service animals used by Montanans with disabilities.
* Affirms that the parental rights of blind parents will be upheld and protected when visitation, custody, foster care, or adoption is determined to be otherwise in the best interest of the child.

In addition, the National Federation of the Blind of Montana vigorously supports the autonomy, funding, and staffing of Blind and Low Vision Services in the Division of Disability Employment and Transitions of the Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services.