

New Horizons Un-Limited Outlook



Fall 2021

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New Horizons Un-Limited Inc. (NHU) is a 501(c)3 tax exempt non-profit organization based in Milwaukee with a mission to make information and life experiences more accessible to **people with lifelong disabilities**, their families and caregivers. Our programs are made possible through the generous contributions of our community partners, member and donor families and many in-kind donors. To donate to New Horizons Un-Limited, see page 6.

"The notion that any one person is the single cause of any significant social change...is a devastating stereotype which robs individuals of responsibility and credit, and actually inhibits social change. You can be a revolution of one, in your living room, in your family, in your community." – Justin Dart, 1998 (ADA activist)

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NHU 2021

Aug - Sept - Oct
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New Horizons Un-Limited Inc.
811 E. Wisconsin Avenue,
Suite 937
Milwaukee, WI 53202
(414) 299-0124
www.new-horizons.org
horizons@new-horizons.org

2021 - New Horizons Un-Limited Advocate for the Voter with a Disability



Last year's presidential election was a celebration of democracy as well as the realization of a **DREAM TO MOBILIZE** American citizens with disabilities. Advocates for this cause have worked hard by providing accommodations, technology and logistics to ensure that citizens with disabilities can exercise their right to vote independently, privately and for any political candidate they support. More than 38 million citizens with disabilities are eligible to vote and a record number of them voted for **BOTH** parties in the 2020 presidential election.

The record turnout of this demographic can now be seen as a powerful voting bloc – enough to have significant power and leverage to demand that politicians of both parties address their needs. It's unfortunate that the emergence of this "disability vote" is now seen as a threat to legislators across the country.

In a direct reaction to the record-breaking turnout of voters during the 2020 election, particularly voters of color, state legislatures across the country are trying to restrict the voting rights of Americans. According to the AAPD, over 380 bills have been introduced to restrict the right to vote in 48 states. Voter suppression laws have been passed or attempted in the last two weeks.

Here are few examples of these bills:

Florida has passed bills with new restrictions on absentee voting, mobile voting, drop boxes and more. Florida also introduced new rules like "signature matching" instead of a driver license for those who are considered "indefinitely confined". The idea that someone with a peripheral neuropathy that might not have the best control over their hands or others with brain injuries and visual impairments, can duplicate a signature is unrealistic.

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What's scary is the fact that polling station workers and municipal clerks with no qualifications in handwriting analysis or knowledge of medical conditions would be in a position to deny someone the right to vote based on a shaky signature.

Regarding the requirement of a doctor's note to prove a disability, how does a medical provider bill Medicare for that kind of visit? What if the doctor won't do it because "**a note to vote**" is not deemed medically necessary. Even if a person with a disability got the appointment, the note and Medicare paid for the visit – guess what? Anybody on Medicare knows that there is a Co-Pay for a doctor's visit. The current co-pay to see a specialist for a particular disease or disability is \$45.00. That's a lot of money for someone who is on SSDI.

These are only a few of the outrageous voter suppression bills that have been proposed or passed and waiting for Governors to sign. **The agenda of these legislators is to stop large voting blocs of POOR CITIZENS, MINORITY CITIZENS AND NOW, CITIZENS WITH DISABILITIES.** How short sighted, considering that these groups vote for both parties.

The only blessing in disguise here, is that people who are **not** poor, of a diverse race or are not confined to their home or wheelchair, **are clearly the authors of these voter suppression bills.** Their privilege, lack of understanding of what it means to have a significant disability and the blatant disregard for laws and protections already in place for disadvantaged voters is on full display. If you don't agree with what is happening or why these legislators are introducing voter suppression laws, speak up. CALL YOUR LEGISLATORS and let them know!

We must remain vigilant and determined to show who these "sore election losers" are and what they are trying to do by introducing and passing voter suppression laws. If anyone needs to have their vote suppressed, let it be those who try to take away the right to vote. For more information, visit: [Voting Rights and Accessibility are Under Attack Across the U.S. – AAPD](#)

What can you do to protect your voting rights?

- ***Double-check your voter-registration status***
- ***If you plan to vote by mail, request your ballot immediately***
- ***Make sure everyone in your household has a ride and a plan.***
- ***If you are asked to leave or see other problems, call the ACLU's election protection hotline (1-866-our-vote).***
- ***You can also sign the petition to pass the Voting rights Advancement Act, which restores protections to the voting rights Act stripped by a 2013 supreme court Decision.***
- ***Call or your state representatives and city councils and demand Accessible Ballots and let them know how voting suppression laws make it nearly impossible for those with disabilities to exercise their legal right to vote in person and in PRIVATE!***

**Accessible Voting Matters: Consider the person with a disability disenfranchised from the vote
When you go to vote this election, ask yourself if you would make the effort if:**

Because of your disability, you can't drive so you do not have a driver's license to vote. You will need a state ID.
You need an ID but the DMV will be closed when you can get transportation.
You would take a bus, but the DMV is not on the bus route, and you cannot walk the distance.
You would like to check if you are registered, but you have no access to a computer, smart phone or other device.
You will need to do so at your municipality, but transportation is again a problem.
Your state mailed absentee ballot request forms, but you moved lately so you were placed off the list.
You received a request and do have an ID, but you do not have a printer or phone to copy your ID for your request.
You have been voting absentee mail-in for several years now.

If you are a person with a disability, START NOW contact your legislator about any obstacles to your vote!

Volunteer Opportunities!!

To sign up for volunteer opportunities, call (414) 299-0124 or e-mail horizons@new-horizons.org

Report your volunteer hours to NHU on-line new-horizons.org/voltim.php

Only on-line volunteering is available during COVID-19.

Advocacy Matters, and the Time is Now!

People with disabilities face unemployment, poverty, lack of access to information, health care, technology, education, and transportation and abuse, bias, violence and lack of understanding. Disability is part of the human experience; citizens deserve their rights.

Do not become complacent. Do not sit silently. True inclusion can only be achieved if we are all part of the conversation and help find the solution. If you are aware of a situation that is not just, speak up.

Only **YOU** can educate your legislator, tell your perspective with your community or share your knowledge for others with disabilities.

Define the change you need or want, educate your legislator to make that change.

Voting Matters!

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We would like to hear from you!

Please e-mail us at horizons@new-horizons.org

Giving back to your community... has never been easier!

Here are some simple ways to give back to NHU!

Volunteers reach out and make a world of difference!! For more information on volunteering, visit: new-horizons.org/volnet.html

NHU Wish List

Visit: new-horizons.org/wshlst.html Make an in-kind donation of used equipment or make a donation for purchase of:

- Windows 10 Licenses (\$6 each)
- Speaker sets (\$2.50 each)
- Desktop and Laptop computers (used)
- Surge Protectors (new or used)

Use Goodshop.com to raise money for NHU. Sign up and select or type in New Horizons Un-Limited Inc. (Milwaukee, WI) from the list and click verify. Add your favorite stores to your Goodshop.com account. **Goodshop** will notify you when your store has sales and give a percentage to NHU each time you shop on the Internet. The next time you **search** the Internet, use Goodsearch.org and New Horizons Un Limited will earn a penny each search. They track your gift for you.

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New Horizons Un-Limited Inc.
811 E. Wisconsin Avenue, Suite 937
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53202
www.new-horizons.org

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Our June 2th, NHU Benefit Golf Outing was a Great Success in Support of Our Programs!
We appreciate our donors and sponsors! See our attached flyer or visit new-horizons.org/pdf/gfdn21.pdf
For photos of our 2019 event and all our golfers, visit facebook.com/NewHorizonsUnLimited

**Please accept my contribution for NHU
in support of our community
members with disabilities:**

___ \$500 ___ \$250 ___ \$100 ___ \$50 Other \$ ___

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members with disabilities
are given access to the opportunities that will
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