



PRESS RELEASE
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North Carolina Advisory Committee to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights Invites the Public to Participate in a Series of Virtual Panels Related to the Child Welfare System

The North Carolina Advisory Committee to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights will hold a series of virtual panels with a focus on the civil rights effects of the implementation of HB 630 Rylan's Law / Family/Child Protection and Accountability Act, passed in 2017 ("Rylan's Law"). The events will include testimony from a diverse group of impacted individuals, researchers, state actors, and advocates.

Community Forum | Date/Time: Thursday, June 27, 2024, 6 – 8:00 p.m. EST
Zoom Details: <https://tinyurl.com/2wn49jrf>; **To join by phone:** 833 435 1820; Webinar ID: 161 265 0808
Register to speak at: <https://forms.monday.com/forms/d1617eeebc0e76fcbcf803289c4b5757?r=use1>.

Panel 1: Researcher & Academic Perspectives | Date/Time: Friday, July 12, 2024, 12 – 2:30 p.m. EST
Zoom Details: <https://tinyurl.com/27dhk29a>; **To join by phone:** 833 435 1820; Webinar ID: 161 434 3656

Panel 2: Advocate & Community Organization Perspectives | Date/Time: Wednesday, July 24, 2024, 12 – 2:30 p.m. EST
Zoom Details: <https://tinyurl.com/d92muw29>; **To join by phone:** 833 435 1820; Webinar ID: 160 341 6661

Panel 3: Policy & Governance Perspectives | Date/Time: Wednesday, August 7, 2024, from 11:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. EST
Zoom Details: <https://tinyurl.com/t6ehc4ze>; **To join by phone:** 833 435 1820; Webinar ID: 161 189 2451

Panel 4: Impacted Individual Perspectives | Date/Time: Friday, August 23, 2024, 1 – 3:30 p.m. EST
Zoom Details: <https://tinyurl.com/58hfv6hf>; **To join by phone:** 833 435 1820; Webinar ID: 160 374 0449

Panel 5: If needed to hear additional testimony | Date/Time: Friday, August 30, 2024, 12 – 2:30 p.m. EST
Zoom Details: <https://tinyurl.com/3uy39akj>; **To join by phone:** 833 435 1820; Webinar ID: 161 147 5596

For more information, visit the project page: <https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/cu/INCHI7S/NCProjectPage>

Committee Chair Olga Morgan Wright said, "The testimony received through the virtual community forum and panels will be essential to helping our Committee understand how the implementation of Rylan's Law has thus far addressed disparities within the state's child welfare system and where opportunities for improvement lie."

Committee Vice Chair Mercedes Restucha said, "The North Carolina Advisory Committee strongly believes in the importance of this study to learn how this legislation has impacted children and families across the state. We welcome public comment and invite interested community members to attend and provide public comment and/or written testimony."

The U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, established by the Civil Rights Act of 1957, is the only independent bipartisan agency charged with advising the president and Congress on civil rights and reporting annually on federal civil rights enforcement. Our 56 Advisory Committees offer a broad perspective on civil rights concerns at the state and local levels. For information about the Commission, please visit us at www.usccr.gov and follow us on Facebook and LinkedIn.

Members of the public will be invited to participate during an open comment period at the end of each panel. The Committee would like to hear the experiences and perspectives of the public. Written testimony on this issue will also be accepted. Please send written testimony to Victoria Moreno, at vmoreno@usccr.gov until 30 days after the last panel.

Individuals requiring special accommodation should contact lschiller@usccr.gov at least 10 days prior to the meeting. Meeting materials will be available at the [Federal Advisory Committee Act Database](#).

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