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Long-time VOR Legislative Committee Chairman, Peter Kinzler, announces his retirement; hands baton to David Hart

Peter Kinzler “retired” from his career two years ago, but never really retired.

Following retirement, Peter increased his volunteer activities on behalf of VOR, serving as Chairman of VOR’s Legislative Committee, a post he has held for the past 6 years. While helping VOR navigate complex Congressional waters, he was also working alongside families in Virginia in their efforts to effectively respond to a Department of Justice and State settlement agreement that threatens four state centers. Peter serves as the group’s legal liaison, helping to secure intervention in the federal lawsuit, and with other families has also met with DOJ lawyers, state legislators, and others.

All this, while trying to enjoy “retirement.”

On June 8, Peter took one step toward true retirement, announcing his resignation as Chairman of the Legislative Committee. Even as he announced his retirement as Legislative Committee Chairman, however, he signaled his intent to remain involved as a Committee member, for which VOR is grateful.

“I will remain involved,” remarked Peter. “The time is right, however, for me to step aside and let another Chair lead this committee. I’m grateful to Committee members for their hard work which has enabled VOR to be so well known and influence our cause so effectively. We are a credible resource, due largely to our status as family members, our compelling message, and the hard work this Committee.”

David Hart, a VOR Board Member and long-time Legislative Committee member from Massachusetts, has been selected as Peter’s replacement. David was appointed by Ann Knighton, VOR President, who consulted with Peter.

“David has committed a lot of time and energy to this Committee and over many years,” said Tamie Hopp, VOR’s Director of Government Relations and Advocacy. “He’s attended the VOR Conference and Initiative annually for more than a decade and he is fully informed on VOR’s current and past legislative priorities and strategy. Most importantly, he demonstrates an ability to engage Committee members in decisions and implementation. He’s a perfect fit to fill Peter’s shoes.”

In addition to the Legislative Committee and the VOR Board of Directors, David serves on the Issues Oversight Committee and has served on the VOR Membership and Government Affairs Committees. He’s the President of CCMR, Inc. (ccmradvocates.org), a VOR affiliate in Massachusetts, and is an employment specialist, helping identify vocational opportunities for people with disabilities. He also works with Tailored for Success, a nonprofit founded by his wife, Elizabeth.

VOR members and staff wish Peter well as he continues to reach for some semblance of retirement, and offer sincere gratitude for his many years of service and his willingness to remain involved. Likewise, VOR is grateful to David for his willingness to step into this new role.

“While changes can sometimes be difficult, this transition is expected to be relatively seamless,” remarked Hopp. “We have a deep leadership bench, which is to the benefit of our cause.”

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