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SUMMARY KEYWORDS

transsexuals, community, transgender community, people, transgender, issue, transgendered, gay, woodwork, closet, bill, talk, organizations, cross dressers, legislation, leaders, discussion, lesbian, houston, role models

SPEAKERS

Sarah DePalma, Jimmy Carper, Dee McKellar, Vanessa Edwards, Gary Norman, [Music], Speaker 5, Elizabeth Richards, Speaker 4

S

Sarah DePalma 00:01

Gender, you're gay, you're bisexual, whatever, whatever it is, here's a resource for you, if you don't want to talk to me, and you're afraid of me as an activist and, or, you know, whatever the case and I know I realized there are many people who won't talk to me strictly because I am an activist, and they're afraid of me. And I understand that I've come to understand that a lot. Here's a resource for you. Well, you don't have to talk to me or anyone else, but you can get help.

G

Gary Norman 00:27

And also, if you just have any questions about something that happened, if you're questioning what happened, and you'd like to just talk through it, even on the phone, we can do that too. We're open to any of that.

S

Sarah DePalma 00:38

Bingo, can't ask for better. That's terrific. We say we go to a piece of music and when we come back, we'll finish up on the stages of development and then move on. I think we can probably do that.

J

Jimmy Carper 00:49

You're listening to after hours queer radio with attitude on KPFT Houston and KEOS College Station and here are a few messages to stick in your ear.

I

[Music] 01:09

And this is Mary Ramirez and I wanted to join them for Mary in the morning here on KPFT every weekday from five to 8am google your favorite music and keep you up to date with the weather and traffic it's Mary in the morning on Houston community radio station 90.1 FM KPFT. You were to now I cannot teaching yoga 101 I am Dr. False yoga All right class what is the most important thing you will ever say? Now look at your neighbor, the Yoda. All right, can I do six by seven? For an hour of Celtic music of the old world and the new as well as news of Texas and beyond, and a rundown of local current Irish events please tune in the Irish air show at 5pm Every Sunday here on 90.1 FM KPFT. This Tuesday night 10 to 12 listen to us the folks join Odie as he welcomes Dan Baum, author of smoke and mirrors. The war on drugs and the politics of failure. Calling in with your questions and comments Tuesday night on KPFT Houston 90.1 FM.

J

Jimmy Carper 04:24

Oh yeah After Hours queer radio with attitude on KPFT Houston and ke O 's College Station. We are back with a lively discussion.

S

Sarah DePalma 04:34

Yes, we are very interesting. And we're trying to get some folks on the air to talk about it. Yeah, somebody I'm not sure of course you but once you go ahead and get take some headphones in Mike. Let's let's look. I think this is it's something that we should talk about in here. Go ahead.

J

Jimmy Carper 04:48

Say this is some sunshine. This is some of the stuff that happens you know, while the music's on, ya know, the conversations here.

S

Sarah DePalma 04:54

It's interesting here we have we've been talking about we're talking tonight about community What does community mean? And and Jimmy here it was very it was it was making a comment about the segmentation of community how we divide off into the leather community and the lesbian community and the butcher the family has been drawn. Okay, now, one of the biggest discussions in the transgender community and I guess maybe I'm gonna try and provide some background for this trans. Let me start with the basics. In the in transgender community. Transgender is a broad is kind of a broad term here and we use it in the air to mean to include cross dressers, transsexuals, non operative transsexuals, anybody who decides who is viewed as being gender variant in some way, I guess that's the easiest way to explain it. Well, within the transgender community itself, they divide they subdivide themselves even more very much like the gay and lesbian community do. So you have transsexuals you have heterosexual cross dressers, gay and lesbian cross dressers. You have people that are called transgender s who are essentially transsexuals who have decided they're not going to have surgery. Right. Okay, so I'm trying to bring the audience up to speed on this. Confusing. It really does. Okay, now

within the transgender community, there is a slang word that comes up a lot. And that word is called woodworking. Oh, yes. Now then, within woodworking, they're even new ones. Oh, okay. Now-.

J Jimmy Carper 06:28

woodworking is like being in the closet. Right? Or going back into the closet to suburban housewife. Yeah.

S Sarah DePalma 06:36

Okay, thank you. Thank you. Okay, now that we're a person who was a transsexual, and they are going through a therapeutic process, and part of that process is called Real Life process or transition. Now, transsexuals are often told the best way to do it, and they're told us by their own therapist. The best way to go about this is to learn to blend in. So this becomes a big issue for transsexuals, in essence, transsexuals are told by their own therapist, to disappear into society, yes. Now, that's, that's what the therapists often say. And there are many, many people in the transgender community in the transsexual community here, let's think of transsexuals for a second, who view this as a very key part of what they're doing. Now, then, since that's the case, many of them don't want to be associated with cross dressers. Because the perception is that cross dressers do not pass. Or to put it another way, cross dressers exposed the transsexuals out of their woodwork. Everybody with me on this so far? Now, from a political point of view, this is a horrible situation for me. And from a personal belief, point of view, I have very difficult time abiding it. Because we are all suffering the same discrimination in loss of jobs. We are suffering the same discrimination and hate crimes. And I could go on and on and on. I have done that in the show for now that one of the people is here was saying, yes, but and I'd like the I want her to present her side of it. And I don't know whether you want to give your name or not so so go ahead. And let's go tell folks what you were discussing.

D Dee McKellar 08:15

Well, you just explained that covered it.

S Sarah DePalma 08:20

Not really go, you know, go ahead and tell because then we're having quite a discussion about this.

D Dee McKellar 08:25

Yeah, but you you mapped it out point by point I got-.

S Sarah DePalma 08:30

Anybody else wanting on on this discussion about about the transsexuals and versus the cross dressers? It's a it's a hot topic, I hear about it every time I draw or legislate.

J Jimmy Carper 08:41

Pro or con. I didn't get it.

D Dee McKellar 08:43

Well, I'm kind of like into the woodwork and bang, really. That's where I'm working towards.

V Vanessa Edwards 08:50

I've actually seen some woodworkers that do not even want anything to do with the transsexual community, once they do fully go through the-

J Jimmy Carper 09:00

I understand that because it's kind of part of the process, you are going to be a woman. And so when you become a woman surgically, then you don't want anything to do with the transsexual community, because you don't associate with the same reason. Okay, so-.

E Elizabeth Richards 09:17

That's kind of why I made that opening statement about just a suburban housewife to a lot of people. That's what I pair us. And that's all they say.

J Jimmy Carper 09:25

Well, that's fine. But if you're passable, but what about the person that is not passable, no matter how much surgery.

E Elizabeth Richards 09:31

Or whatever my point was gonna get to is that I laughed about that, because in no way am I trying to present myself as that I'm as open as I can be. And, and, you know, I'm, I've spent my time in a closet, I hated it. I'm not going to go from one closet to another that's, that's going to kill me even worse than the first one did. And in some ways I'll never be able to, because I've got family and I can't deny them. Anytime I go to a new employer and they want to know how come this woman's on my insurance product cuz we're married. I kind of want to know why that is.

S Sarah DePalma 10:04

Let me raise the issue that we brought up earlier. What does this do for role models? Never we talked earlier about how difficult it was to be a role model. Now for the person who decides to woodwork. Hmm, what does that what what becomes of the people behind you who are looking for role models?

J Jimmy Carper 10:23

It's tough, but you know, you cannot live everybody's life.

S Sarah DePalma 10:28

I understand that,

E Elizabeth Richards 10:29

Well, most of the people who are known transgendered role models that I'm aware of, are not out so much as they have been outed.

S Sarah DePalma 10:39

You know, yeah. Which isn't it? Which is, yeah, that's a whole issue in itself.

E Elizabeth Richards 10:43

You know, I mean, like, Renee Richards never wanted to be out. But the reporters got all of her story and it was front page. You know, I could go on several other ones that are welling up to Tula never wanted to be out reporters got in her case. She on a steel, same thing over and over again. It's not that they want to be out. It's that they had been outed.

S Sarah DePalma 11:01

Yeah. Well, okay. So how does this fit into the subject and community?

J Jimmy Carper 11:06

I must say that in the beginning of the show, I say that, you know, if you're in the closet forever, whatever reason, and don't feel you come out, that's okay, too.

S Sarah DePalma 11:15

Yeah. But here's here's what here's what bothers me. It when we started, there was a time when none of us were passable. I mean, unless you started out and you know, you unless you were one of those people who's just blessed. When any of us started out, for the most part, not only were we not passable, we had amazing guts or nerve, just to ever even think we could go out in public and the way that we look. Now, we are passable, and I understand that as part of a therapeutic program. But we're saying to people who are not passable, or who may be crossdressers, you're not good enough? You're not good enough. In I just have a hard time with that. I really do.

V

Vanessa Edwards 11:52

I will say I still support the community and I still help the community.

S

Sarah DePalma 11:58

Yes, you do. Yes, you do. I agree. That's absolutely true.

V

Vanessa Edwards 12:01

But 10 years from now, I may not be and then somebody else can take my place.

S

Sarah DePalma 12:10

Well, you have a right to that. And I'm not I'm not putting you down for it. I just in the context of community. I'm just, I think this through and out. And I wonder what this all means for us. We talked about the people who are out there saying saying tonight, thank God, I thought I was the only one. How many of us are there really, we could end this issue of thank God, I'm the only one tomorrow if some of us would just become role models or, or say hey, look, you know, it's not this. You know, I don't know, I respect your right to do what you do, sir.

J

Jimmy Carper 12:42

But it's 30 years ago they were saying in the gay and lesbian community if everyone who was gay and lesbian came out of the closet, you know, and everybody turned blue tomorrow. Yeah, right. Yeah, right. I remember that. Well let it the reality is everybody has to live their own life.

S

Sarah DePalma 12:57

Yeah, I agree. I agree. The thing is that is that it's very interesting, because we're talking about community. And here's a prime example of how community splits. What happens is, we end up with a crossdresser. And often will end up with an attitude of saying, Well, why should I become involved in any transgendered political issues, because the damn transsexual don't want me involved anyway. And the transsexual say, who needs them, they just complicate our issues in the legislature. And now I'm in a position of going forward saying, I'm a spokesperson for

transgender community, when in fact, the transgender community is so split and so fractured, it's debatable whether transgender community actually exists. So that's how I prompted this subject to community tonight. I say, you see what I'm zero. I'm going with this now. Who actually is doing us in? We are Am I right? Or no, am I missing something here?

E

Elizabeth Richards 13:55

You're gonna argument for me?

D

Dee McKellar 13:57

Well, we give ourselves an extra hurdle to go over, but I don't think we're doing ourselves in.

J

Jimmy Carper 14:04

Yeah. I mean, what about the gay and lesbian and abetting? What about the gay and lesbian who likes rural living likes living in Wharton doesn't want to live in a big city? Can this person be openly gay or lesbian?

S

Sarah DePalma 14:18

No, no. And and I and you know, I maybe I should clarify something I'm not suggesting that everybody should be is out as I am. I'm not suggesting that every transsexual or go on television. I'm not suggest I'm not suggesting that every that every transgender person ought to run out tomorrow and grab a reformer and say, Hey, did you know that I'm transgender? What I am concerned about, though, is if you're in a situation where somebody comes to you and says, I'm think I'm transgender. Do you know how I could get help, when we are open enough to say yes, I hope you are. Are we so afraid that we can't even do that much? I think it's an interesting question. Susan said, Oh, okay, I don't know how to. Let's see if we do we know how to get her on. Jimmy is working to get that perhaps.

E

Elizabeth Richards 15:11

Yeah, I'd have no problem helping out somebody who needed help. I mean, I don't expect it would happen. Well, okay.

S

Sarah DePalma 15:20

Do we lose her?

S

Speaker 4 15:21

I don't think so. Hi.

S

Sarah DePalma 15:23

Hey there, I'm glad you called in. You wanted to add to this discussion.

S

Speaker 4 15:29

My radio at home is not working. So I'm about 15 minutes behind.

S

Sarah DePalma 15:34

Well, that's okay. We're talking about the issue of dividing transsexuals from cross dressers and, in at least, in part, staying away from cross dressers because they don't pass. And we're afraid that they that they will somehow expose us.

S

Speaker 4 15:51

Yeah, I, there's a realistic part of that, which is that, you know, and somewhat in some respects, that's true. But there's also the fact that I think that line is an artificial one it best in many respects, due to circumstance, physical features. The part the the age in their life in which they came to term with terms with how they feel. So I guess I don't really know if there is a real straightforward line, and whether it behooves us as human beings to shun another another human being.

S

Sarah DePalma 16:37

Yeah, that's the problem that I have with the two. And I'm going to kind of jump ahead on this this identity issue, because I think one of the things we talked about earlier in the show is that I got a number of letters from people who said, transgendered leaders don't have a clue. And it's on this exact issue, where I think we begin to see the difference between transgendered leaders, and the vast majority of the people who actually live in the transgender community itself. And this is where I work -.

S

Speaker 4 17:09

They're no different than any leaders with any other group of people.

S

Sarah DePalma 17:13

Right. Right. Well, I think that's I think that's probably right. And, and it was we come to the subject of community tonight, this is where I wanted to address this. Jimmy and I have talked on the show before, and I have made the comment that when people see me coming, I often see if they know that and they realize who I am, they'll go to the opposite side of the street,

because they don't want to be seen with me. In that fear level, to some sense, I understand. But here's where here's where transgender leaders in the community, I think, have us have a have a difference. And I think it contributes to why many tripled transgender community think we don't have a clue. And that has to do with this whole issue of how much out is out? How much is enough to help the community? Is there any actual obligation to do anything for the community? And those are key issues. I think whether you're in the gay community, or the bisexual community or whatever, I from speaking from my own point of view for a second now as as the national leader of a transgender organization, it's a it's a serious issue at the national level. Because what's the end, I'll just just use the example. It's time America has made some very strong proposals about the issue of ENDA and endo legislation. The minute I put it on the internet, we began hearing from people who were saying, if you go to Congress, if you go and you talk to these people about this, that means my employer is going to ask are asking me this stuff, and you just made my life miserable. Now, there's the difference. You've got people who want to woodwork disappear. And have they want to be left alone. And I understand that, but as a transgender as a as a person that's producing legislation. Does that mean I should not bring this legislation forward? Because Because I'm in fear of offending the majority people in the community?

S

Speaker 4 19:09

Well, for one, I don't I don't see how a piece of lemon legislation that is about discrimination could hurt anyone. I think the danger that you have with leadership in anything is that you have a group of people who are by circumstance able to be out. You see that in the gay community, not everybody is able to be out I'm sure. And with the trans, transgender, transsexual community, it's the same thing. Some people are just very, very out. And some people because of the nature of their jobs or nature, their personalities aren't able to do that. However, it's the people and the people that are out I think sometimes tend to not see that that everybody can can be like them. I mean, I think That's, uh, that's the main danger.

S

Sarah DePalma 20:03

I think that's true.

S

Speaker 4 20:04

Exactly right. On the other hand, if it wasn't for people who are out, like Phyllis, like you, for would we be with the name change with with everything else. So, you know, I feel that the people who are the leaders, their duty as a leader is to really kind of be very, very in touch with their community not to be a committee mind themselves. And the people that can't be out is totally said leaders, our leaders, so called, quote unquote, leaders. You know, I mean, I really feel that, you know, anybody's duty I mean, we're all members of, you know, 29 or 10 different communities. And our, our duties as a member of a community and any human community is to support the community in whatever way we can be it a small way, an anonymous way, or a very public way. Funding, it's both ways.

S

Sarah DePalma 21:10

I see Dee chomping at the bit over there, her eyes are bugging out of her head day.

D

Dee McKellar 21:16

Well, the caller made a good point about multiple communities. I can think right offhand of three communities that I belong to the transgender community, obviously, I belong to the writing community, which is incredibly stratified. There are all kinds of sub groups within the writers community. But you know, it's a funny thing, because writers aren't considered to be bad. Nobody looks down on other people, except maybe for the points. Thank you. And the third community I belong to is, oh, only for a short time now is our regular Metro patrons. And that is a community. You can't get there from here, eventually.

S

Sarah DePalma 22:11

And there's no shame attached to that.

G

Gary Norman 22:13

There's no shame attached to that. The reason I know it's a community is because you can talk to a stranger at a bus stop. That's the only place on the street where you can talk to a stranger. But you're part of a community. Wow.

S

Sarah DePalma 22:28

Well, okay. There was something you said that I thought was very interesting. And I wanted to bring this up. You said that a leader leaders should not be a community unto themselves, I think was something to that effect. All right. Okay. Now, then I am one of those poor culture onto them. Yeah, yeah. Now, here's where I think leaders need help from the community. And that is the community needs to show us or needs to tell us how to avoid that. Now, here's, here's, here's what I mean. Give me an example. When I go to work, when I get ready to go to the legislature, I may spend two months preparing for it. It took us eight months to work up this current legislative agenda that were brought forward. And I tried everything short of pulling teeth to get community participation in it. And the general response was, oh, that's politics. I don't have any interest in it. Fine. So we went forward with this legislative agenda. And before we went public with it, we tried one more time and came to people in the community in various ways and said, Take a look at this. Is this what you want? And we couldn't get anybody to look at it? Because it said, Oh, that's politics. The minute we came forward with it, then people said, Well, damn, you didn't ask for my opinion. I don't like any of this at all. Okay, now then, as a leader, what am I supposed to do?

S

Speaker 4 23:53

Well, I guess you have to define what you feel a leader is, I mean-

S

Sarah DePalma 23:59

As a person who's been putting this legislation together, and it's widely known, that the legislation is being-

S

Speaker 4 24:05

An activist, right, for the good. Right. Yeah. I mean, I guess you have to go and follow your own convictions. You know, that's basically the two sided nature of the saying the end with anything, you know, there's there's a lack of community involvement, and then there's a stratification among those who represent or claim to represent that community. And that's where you get the sense of losing touch. Both both have to kind of do their part and realize that one cannot necessarily be the other.

S

Sarah DePalma 24:43

The people let's let's look at it from a little different angle. There are many people who will go through transgender organizations, and often transgender organizations, for example, GCTC is a good example that people may come into that organization they may stay a year or two until they have their needs met and they feel you're strong enough to go off by themselves off

S

Speaker 4 25:01

On their own private world write about, what, what they went through and the people who need their their input and advice and, and experience and that's, that's really a tragedy.

S

Sarah DePalma 25:15

Now now then that raises the question, at least for me, do people who go through these organizations, whether they're going through hatch? Or whether they're going through GCTC? Do people who take from organizations have a responsibility to give back to it? And if so, how?

S

Speaker 4 25:34

I guess my opinion, as a caller on the line with the of course, of course, they have a duty. You can't just take from something and, and I mean, you can, but morally, I don't think you can just take and not get back.

J

Jimmy Carper 25:50

And now when the gay and lesbian community we know that there are people that that are not interested in politics, all they want to do is party and go out to the bars on weekends. And there are people that are in the closet and will never come out because they're not comfortable being

out of the closet. To these people, we say fine, you're still a part of the community, but you can support us in other ways. Like financially because it takes money for these organizations and the support groups. And and and if for one is my lover who was in the closet, he supports the community by supporting me and supporting this radio station and supporting the gay and lesbian community. Gay and Lesbian switchboard and, and other organizations financially. That's one way. Another way is is well, you know, that that won't trends, trends now because gays and lesbians can live together in suburbia. But you're talking about woodworking where it's not an open thing.

S

Sarah DePalma 26:48

You know, the thing is, I understand why people woodwork. And we're going to we're going to talk some about that in a second. But I understand why people would work. But what I don't understand is when they disappear into the woodwork why they find it impossible to send a check to a transgender rights organization, or why they find it suddenly impossible to that's a contrary to so yeah. And and in in the transgender community. It is a conscious decision. They consciously disconnect and disappear. In I don't know how to dress for-.

S

Speaker 4 27:24

-years, and then they leave. Yeah. Yeah. And of course, to be the devil's advocate, you know, at least transsexuals tend to be broke. So that's, that's probably another problem. Go ahead.

G

Gary Norman 27:40

I said that gets back to human selfishness. At this point. They don't need it anymore. It doesn't affect them.

J

Jimmy Carper 27:47

Yeah, I got what I wanted. That's right. Yeah. And you don't think of putting back for others?

S

Sarah DePalma 27:53

This is KPFT in Houston, in KEOS College Station. That's right. No longer Bryan College Station College.

J

Jimmy Carper 28:01

They're not big enough to transmit to Brian, just conversation after our first queer radio with attitude?

S

Sarah DePalma 28:08

S **Saran DePalma** 28:09

Well, I think this is I hope this has been a useful discussion. Part of what I wanted to do is I wanted to point out why it is that the people that the people within communities have so much difficulty getting along with one another. And here's, here's where all of this comes together, I think. I think it's okay for all of us, whether we're in the gay community, or the bisexual community, the transgender community, we can argue this stuff among ourselves until we're blue in the face. And I actually think that's healthy. Where I have where the problem I think comes into play, is when we can't get over those things in the face of outside attacks. That's where we that's where I start to see problems. When we come under attack, by the far right, for example, if we're so sometimes we're so busy fighting among ourselves, we never mount a defense against the people that are really the enemies, we become the enemy, we fight with each other, instead of recognizing where the real problem is. And that's a real that's, that's really where my where my concern is, is discussion and argument is fine. But will we grow up enough to understand when it's time to turn around and say, Wait a minute.

S **Speaker 4** 29:24

And part of the problem is, is is part of the larger problem in itself. And that's the problem with community in the respect that we all live in a culture in which the whole concept of community has been discouraged for the last 50 years, everybody leads more and more insular lives going home turning on their TV, there's no discussion among groups of people. You know, the whole concept of community is just, you know, it's just busy. Today.

S **Sarah DePalma** 30:00

I see Gary. Hey, Gary, I see you shaking your head over there nodding your head. Right?

G **Gary Norman** 30:05

Well, I think that brings up, you know, the larger question of what is community then? And how does one define what a community is. And just a couple of things that come to mind. You know, it seems like there are sort of geographic communities, which are very easy to see people that live around each other people that live maybe in the same apartment complex in the same area of town. I think that's one area where communities very evident, where people may share their day to day lives together. And people can get to know each other, and through those sort of informal means, you think about like the gay ghettos, for sure. That's possible, you know, even opening it up larger, just where people, you know, live together, basically, sure. Another, I think, another part, another possible angle of what community could be is sort of issue. community where people organize around different issues. And it could be someone here in Texas, and Houston, Texas, and someone else in Switzerland, that has basically the same ideas on some issue. And if they get together, you know, there's a community around those issues. It just, it seems to speak to how in the caller, I think it was, Susan, was saying that there's a real lack today. And I think it's real telling about our techno age, where, you know, the internet for all of its wonderful and incredible things that it can do. It's really cutting down I think, on personal contact, a lot of the time too, people can shop from their home, people can pay their bills from their home, you know, we're going to be able to do everything from our home in the next few years. You know, I am afraid almost of that. So I think that's a very poignant piece of

it, too. Is that what used to be community? You know, if we could have a different definition a while ago, of what community was, it keeps changing and developing into new things. And now, you know, there's community on the internet, I mean, things fall apart, and new things come together with that.

S

Speaker 4 32:33

And also, you know, I agree with what you said about the internet. You know, another problem with the internet is that it's tend to polarize people. Yeah, in separate communities have different issues. In other words, you know, where the web page or this and that is, and the other people are dealing with this and this other thing, and you know, and never the twain shall meet, instead of getting a vast input of different ideas.

S

Sarah DePalma 33:01

Yeah, I think people tend to use the internet to reinforce what they already believe. Yeah, I think you're exactly right about that. Well, I'd like to bring this portion of it of this discussion to an end, I think I have some other material we have some music to go to. And then I've got quite a bit of material that I've gathered from other transgendered people talking about community that I'd like to bring up. But I hope this has been a useful discussion. And I think we've raised a number of issues about the subject of community what and, and I think what we're really exposed here is we have quite a challenge ahead of us to actually be community in the sense of a group of people with common goals, ideas and things to work for. Okay, Susan, thank you very much. We're going to go to some music, and then I think, move on to some other things.

S

Speaker 4 33:47

Okay.

S

Sarah DePalma 33:48

All right, thanks a lot. Bye bye.

S

Speaker 5 33:59

Have mixed records on our issues, to try and give them the strongest arguments we can to get them to do the right thing.

S

Sarah DePalma 34:06

So it's almost like crisis management?

S

Speaker 5 34:10

S

Speaker 5 34:10

Absolutely, absolutely. And it's sort of an all hands on deck kind of thing. You know, when something like that comes up, you know, the entire organization sort of like pulls together and everybody sort of takes a piece and, and make sure that we do everything we can to get the information into the hands of the people who need it. And then sometimes we'll even go up to the hill as they sort of head over the actual floor where they vote is in a separate building from where they spend most of their time in their offices. They have to walk from one to the other. So we'll even sometimes go up and stand outside of it the next day and try and catch members on their way in and talk to them directly. Oftentimes, members will hand out materials inside the chamber. We're not allowed in the chamber, only members of Congress and their staff but they'll sometimes do like a flyer that talks about the issues. We can sometimes hand out flyers outside but we can't do it on For. So we try and get the information out as many ways as possible.

S

Sarah DePalma 35:05

You know, when you have a bill that you're trying to introduce, I know from my own experience in different legislatures that adapt to this a little bit more time consuming. But I think a lot of people have misconceptions about how a bill gets introduced and what happens to it, particularly in Congress. I want to talk about that a little bit. I don't know we have some generic bill that you want to introduce, or how would you go about that?

S

Speaker 5 35:27

Well, it developed sort of a concept of what you want to have happen, you know, and sort of what you want the bill to do. And then the first thing you need to do is find a member of Congress who would be willing to introduce it to the groups that introduce legislation, only members of the body, only members of Congress. So you would go and you would work with, you'd find a member of Congress who sort of agreed to your perspective on what the President said, it's necessary to have this bill enacted into law that it has a good cause a good purpose and would be a good thing. And then you sort of negotiate about what the language should say, and you work with the lawyers to make sure that the language does exactly what you want to do. Nothing more, nothing less. And when you're comfortable with that, the member of Congress actually introduces the bill. And sometimes spent some time getting other members of Congress to what we call co sponsored the bill, which is a bit of a different name onto it. And it shows sort of a high level of support for the legislation and basically guarantees their support through the process for the legislation. And so then you introduce the bill. And then the bill typically gets referred to a committee. And depending on what the bills done, it would go to a number of different committees. And then sort of the committee process starts where you would have hearings, and then the committee would have a chance to amend the bill. And then if you're lucky, it gets to the floor of a lot of bills get introduced and actually just go to committee and just a bit and nothing actually happens for them. And then in Congress, it's what we call it to your session. So every two years things have to be reintroduced. So that's kind of kind of reached the beginning of the process.