



Washington Update

August 28, 2014

August Recess Coming to an End

Budget: *Latest predictions on the budget and sequestration from experts and the Hill*

Health and Entitlements: *23 Governors Sign Proclamations for National Direct Support Professional Week*

Employment: *Join Call with Governor Walker, DOL Webinar Series on WIOA*

In Other News: *CRPD and Iowa DD Council, New DOJ Reg on Movie Theaters, Autism CARES is law*

The Face of Congress: *Giving Thanks to Senator Jim Jeffords, Register to Vote*

August Recess Coming to an End

Congress is on recess for the remainder of August and will return to regular business in Washington on September 8. Until then, this is a great time for DD Council members and others to meet with their Congress members in-state and share information about the DD Councils and the issues important to our community!

Budget

During the August recess NACDD met with the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to provide information and updates on DD Councils' work and successes. OMB is currently preparing the President's FY2016 Budget so August is a great time for NACDD to showcase the innovative systems change work of the DD Councils.

As reported in our last Washington Update, DD Councils should prepare for a continuing resolution (CR) to fund the federal government after September 30 until the end of the calendar year. Budget expert Stan Collender, known for his accurate predictions, is expecting Congress to avoid a shutdown and adopt at least two continuing resolutions to take us possibly through the new year. Read Stan's blog on [Forbes here](#). In other news, Senate Armed Services Chairman Carl Levin is remaining optimistic about a solution to sequestration. Read his comments [here](#).

Health and Entitlements

- **State Governors endorse National Disability Service Provider Week**

Earlier this month we shared the news that the Senate approved a resolution to name the week of September 7 "National Direct Support Professional Recognition Week." Since then, 23 governors have signed their own proclamations! You can view all state proclamations and read more about ways to celebrate National DSP Week at ANCOR's National Advocacy Campaign website [here](#).

Employment

- **You're Invited: Join a Call with Governor Scott Walker about Employment First and Jobs!**

You are invited to join a conversation with Wisconsin Governor Scott Walker about *Employment First Policies and Jobs for People with Disabilities* on September 4. With support from the Wisconsin DD Council, Governor Walker has had tremendous success in implementing policies that have helped employ individuals with disabilities and this call is a great chance to hear firsthand how this was accomplished. [Click here](#) for more information and to RSVP for the call. Please note that question submissions are at capacity.

- **DOL hosts series of webinars about WIOA implementation**

The Department of Labor is hosting a series of 10 webinars regarding the implementation of the recently passed Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA). The webinar planned for September 2 is titled “Services to Individuals with Disabilities” and promises to have useful and relevant information regarding how WIOA will impact the disability community. [Click here](#) to RSVP.

In Other News

- **Disability Treaty**

A vote may occur for the disability treaty in September depending on Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid and Senate Foreign Relations Committee Chairman Menendez’s decision to move it forward. The treaty has 61 supporters and needs 67 votes to pass. Recently, Iowa DD Council Executive Director Becky Harker was featured in a local news story explaining the importance of the treaty. Read [Becky’s article here](#) and reach out to your own local newspapers to spread the education!

- **New DOJ Regulation on Movie Theater Accessibility**

The Department of Justice released a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking outlining a new regulation for closed captioning and audio description in movie theatres. The regulation would require these services to be available for all showings of any movie. The notice [can be found here](#). Comments will be accepted until September 30. The NACDD Public Policy Committee will submit comments on behalf of the organization.

- **Autism CARES bill signed into law**

President Obama signed the Autism CARES act into law earlier this month. This act, as mentioned in the last edition of the Washington update, reauthorizes the Combatting Autism Act while also making some improvements to the law. Learn more from [this AUCD post](#) about the signing and [here](#) about NACDD’s support.

The Face of Congress

- **Giving Thanks: Former U.S. Senator Jim Jeffords**



NACDD dedicates this version of the NACDD Washington Update to former United States Senator Jim Jeffords who passed away on August 18 at the age of 80. Senator Jeffords served as a U.S. Representative from Vermont from 1975-1989 and as a U.S. Senator from 1989-2007. Senator Jeffords was an incredible disability champion during his political career, and many of his contributions were milestone achievements for individuals with disabilities. During his time in the House of Representatives he sponsored the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), a historic piece of legislation that has continued to provide students with disabilities access to a free appropriate public education. NACDD appreciates and remembers Senator Jefford’s tremendous contributions, and we extend our condolences to the Senator’s family and loved ones.

- **Register to Vote!**

Major elections are coming up soon so if you or someone you know are not registered to vote, now is the time to do it! Exercise your right to choose your representation. [Click here](#) for more information on how to register. NACDD will be launching a website within the coming weeks with the goal of increasing the number of voters with disabilities and highlighting Members of Congress with disabilities, so be on the lookout!

Special thanks to NACDD Fellow Griffin Varner for his contributions to this edition of the Washington Update! Need more information? Contact NACDD Director of Public Policy, Esmé Grant, at egrant@nacdd.org. For up to date policy happenings, follow us on Twitter @NACDD!