

VOLUME 13, ISSUE 22  
June 2, 2008

## ACTION ALERTS



NONE:

[HTTP://WWW.UCP.ORG/UCP\\_GENERALSUB.CFM/1/8/11981](http://www.ucp.org/ucp_generalsub.cfm/1/8/11981)



## MAJOR EVENTS LAST WEEK

### U.S. Congress

Capitol Hill was relatively quiet as Members of Congress returned to their home states for the week to campaign for re-election and celebrate Memorial Day. During the recess, House Majority Leader Steny Hoyer (D-MD) announced a tentative agenda for House floor action between now and the start of the summer recess on August 11. The agenda contains a long list of priorities. Those issues likely to be scheduled for floor action include the FY 2009 Budget Resolution; the Emergency War Supplemental Appropriations; the Americans with Disabilities Act Restoration Act; the housing financing crisis and mental health parity. No firm decisions have been made yet on a strategy to deal with FY 2009 appropriations.

### ADA Restoration

A growing number of disability organizations have signed on to the negotiated language of the ADA Restoration Act (ADARA), including United Cerebral Palsy and The Arc. Other organizations continue to internally vet this proposal. If enough support is demonstrated within the business community and disability community, and among House and Senate champions, ADARA may have the momentum it needs to attain floor time during the remaining days of the 110<sup>th</sup> Congress.

### No Child Left Behind (NCLB).

DPC staff participated in a working group of disability advocates who are drafting comments on proposed federal rules regarding national graduation standards as a component of the NCLB Adequate Yearly Progress provision.

## Disability Policy Collaboration (DPC)

**President and CEO Steve Bennett of United Cerebral Palsy and incoming Executive Director of The Arc Peter Berns met to discuss an extension of the DPC beyond December 31, 2008.** Discussions will continue along with more input from the leadership of each organization.

## **MAJOR EVENTS AHEAD**

### U. S. Congress

**The Senate returns to work today while the House starts work on Tuesday.**

### FY 2009 Budget Resolution

**The House is scheduled to vote later this week on the FY 2009 Budget Resolution.**

### Emergency War Supplemental Appropriations/Medicaid

**The House may vote this week on the Emergency War Supplemental Appropriations which still contains the provision to place a moratorium on the seven proposed regulations to cut to the Medicaid program.** Numerous policy and political issues must be resolved before the vote can take place. The House Democratic leadership will meet to discuss the contents of the FY 2008 Iraq War Supplemental bill (H.R. 2642). According to some reports, the leadership will attempt to trim some of the domestic spending that the Senate included in its package in order to avoid a Presidential veto. All Medicaid stakeholders are pushing for the House to retain the one year moratoria on the seven Medicaid regulations. Since it is unclear whether the House leadership will finish crafting the package this week, the timing of the vote is uncertain.

### Health Care

**On Tuesday, the Senate Finance Committee, chaired by Sen. Max Baucus (D-MT), will hold a hearing on "Rising Costs, Low Quality in Health Care: The Necessity for Reform".**

### International Human Rights

**On June 3, 2008, Ratify Now will host a briefing on the Hill to discuss the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.** This briefing will cover a variety of topics including how the convention compares to U.S. law, how it would affect U.S. foreign policy, and the effects of the upcoming Presidential elections on the Convention. Members of the DPC and leadership of The Arc will be in attendance.

### Employment

**The House Subcommittee on Information Policy, Census and National Archives is holding a hearing on Wednesday to focus on disability statistics.** The hearing is well timed since the disability questions will now be included in the Current Population Survey

which will provide regular employment and unemployment information. Witnesses will include the National Council on Disability, HHS, GAO, and the Honorable Tony Coelho who will focus on the next steps for better disability data.

## Transportation

**The Department of Transportation is hosting a forum tomorrow on “Working Together to Improve the Air Travel of Passengers with Disabilities.”** The Forum will focus on recent regulatory changes and areas needing further attention, such as the accessibility of airport facilities, personnel training, and complaint handling.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### Community Choice Act Cosponsors

**In the last month, 15 additional members of the House and 1 Senator have become cosponsors of the Community Choice Act (H.R. 1621, S. 799).** See House cosponsor list at: <http://www.thomas.gov/cgi-bin/bdquery/z?d110:HR01621:@@P> and Senate cosponsors at: <http://www.thomas.gov/cgi-bin/bdquery/z?d110:SN00799:@@P>:

### Emergency Preparedness DVD

**“Working with People with Disabilities - a Guide for Responders,” a 26-minute training DVD designed to help emergency personnel to work effectively and compassionately with people with disabilities, is available free of charge from the Baltimore County Fire Department.** To request a copy, contact Fire Director James Korn at [jkorn@baltimorecountymd.gov](mailto:jkorn@baltimorecountymd.gov) or by phone at 410-887-4860. This video has been endorsed by a number of state disability and emergency organizations.

### The Disability Policy Collaboration

**Members of the DPC staff presented on maintaining strong leadership in the field at the AAIDD National Conference in Washington, DC.** This panel discussion looked at the changing demographics of experts within the field of disability and the needed cultivation of emerging leaders. Organizations were challenged to review how they recruit, support and maintain new employees, if they welcoming to new faces and ideas, and how they demonstrated value of employees. In addition, the concept of “succession planning” was introduced as an ongoing process, not merely one to be implemented when there is a change in leadership