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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

FY 2008 Emergency War Supplemental Appropriations/Medicaid

After protracted negotiations with the White House, the House of Representatives approved a bipartisan \$161.8 billion war supplemental spending bill (H.R. 2642). The legislation's domestic spending amendment passed by a vote of 416-12. That package includes a one year moratoria on six Medicaid regulations, including the rehab option, school based administration/transportation, and case management rules. The outpatient rule was not included in the package. Maintaining the Medicaid moratoria in this bill is a huge victory for The Arc and United Cerebral Palsy.

FY 2009 Appropriations

On June 19, the House Appropriations Subcommittee for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services and Education (L-HHS-ED) adopted by voice vote its version of the FY 2009 L-HHS-ED appropriations bill. This bill would increase L-HHS-ED discretionary spending by \$8 billion (5.5%). This increase is more than \$7.8 billion above the amount requested by the White House. The full Appropriations Committee is schedule to vote on the bill this Wednesday. The Senate L-HHS-ED Subcommittee is scheduled to start work on its version on Thursday.

The House and Senate Appropriations Committees have divided the total FY 2009 discretionary spending among the twelve appropriations subcommittees. L-HHS-ED receives a 5.5% increase above FY 2008 while the Departments of Transportation and Housing and Urban Development (HUD) get a 7.7% increase. White House veto threats loom over any appropriations bill that spends more than the Administration desires.

On June 20, the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation-Housing and Related Agencies marked up its FY 2009 bill. The subcommittee restored the President's \$77 million cut to the Section 811 Supportive Housing Program for People with Disabilities, added an additional \$13 million for the program, and provided \$30 million in new funding for Section 8 Housing Choice Vouchers targeted to non-elderly people with disabilities.

ADA Amendments Act (formerly ADA Restoration Act)

On Wednesday, June 18th, the House Education and Labor Committee and the House Judiciary Committee marked up H.R. 3195, what is now known as the ADA Amendments Act. During the mark-up, both committees agreed to substitute the proposed language crafted by the disability and employer community for the original language, and passed the bills out of committee by overwhelming vote. The House Judiciary Committee was unanimous in its support for the bill as amended (27-0), and the Education and Labor Committee passed it 43-1. Only Representative Tom Price (R-GA) opposed the bill in committee.

Housing

The House Financial Services Committee's Subcommittee on Housing and Community Opportunity, chaired by Rep. Maxine Waters (D-CA), held a hearing on "H.R. 5772 – the Frank Melville Supportive Housing Investment Act of 2008". The legislation seeks to reform the Section 811 Supportive Housing Program for People with Disabilities so that more units can be produced more quickly. Dr. Ronald Cohen, Chief Executive Officer of United Cerebral Palsy of Los Angeles, Ventura and Santa Barbara Counties, testified on his experience as an 811 developer, citing long delays in construction of 811 units caused by U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development bureaucracy. Tony Paulauski, Executive Director of The Arc of Illinois, also testified about the need for more production of supportive housing units for persons with significant developmental disabilities. To view the archived webcast of the hearing go to:
http://www.house.gov/apps/list/hearing/financialsvcs_dem/hr062008.shtml.

Medicare

Senate Finance Committee Chairman Max Baucus (D-MT) and Ranking Member Charles Grassley (R-IA) introduced the Medicare Durable Medical Equipment, Prosthetics, Orthotics, and Supplies (DMEPOS) Competitive Acquisition Reform Act of 2008 (S. 3144). This bill will delay the implementation of the Medicare competitive bidding program for durable medical equipment, prosthetics, orthotics, and supplies. The program is scheduled to begin in ten metropolitan statistical areas on July 1st. A bi-partisan companion bill (H.R. 6252) was introduced in the House. The legislation is expected to pass as part of an upcoming Medicare bill to adjust physician reimbursement.

Employment

The House passed legislation to offer federal employees up to four weeks of paid leave upon the birth or adoption of a child. The bill, H.R. 5781, was passed 278-146 on June 19, five votes shy of the two-thirds majority necessary to overcome an expected veto. Federal employees would be paid for four of the 12 weeks of leave they are entitled to under

the Family and Medical Leave Act - a 1993 law (P.L. 103-3) which guarantees unpaid time off to all employees of companies with more than 50 employees to attend to the birth or adoption of a child, or the introduction of a foster child to their family. The bill would also allow federal employees to use up to four more weeks of accrued sick leave for the same purpose. Senators Jim Webb (D-VA) and John W. Warner (R-VA) introduced a companion bill (S. 3140) in the Senate on June 16.

MAJOR EVENTS AHEAD

U.S. Congress

This is the last week before the start of the week long Independence Day recess. New bipartisan agreements on the Emergency War spending, the ADA Amendments Act, and other bills may finally break the legislative logjam that has stifled much legislative progress this year.

FY 2008 Emergency War Supplemental Appropriations/Medicaid

The Senate is expected to vote on H.R. 2642, which includes a one year moratoria on six Medicaid regulations. If passed without amendments, the bill would move to the White House for the President's signature.

ADA Amendments Act (formerly the ADA Restoration Act)

Although a floor vote has not been scheduled, many people expect the ADA Amendments Act to come to a vote later this week in the House of Representatives.

Health Care

On Tuesday, the House Energy and Commerce Committee's Health Subcommittee, chaired by Rep. Frank Pallone (D-NJ), will hold a hearing on "The Health Equity and Accountability Act of 2008 (H.R. 3014).

Social Security

The House Ways and Means Subcommittee on Social Security will hold a hearing on Tuesday to examine how certain payday lending and other financial institution practices may harm vulnerable Social Security beneficiaries and may undermine the intent of the Social Security Act. Because Social Security and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits are intended to provide basic income, the Social Security Act contains special provisions to protect these benefits from creditors in order to ensure that funds are available for food, clothing, and shelter. Benefits cannot be assigned and cannot be subjected to attachment or garnishment, among other things. However, a number of financial institution practices have come to light which may undermine the intent of these protections. The Subcommittee will examine these practices.

Medicare

On Tuesday, the House will vote, under suspension of the rules, on the Medicare Improvements for Patients and Providers Act of 2008 (H.R. 6331). This bill would avert a pending reduction in physician reimbursements and contains a delay in the implementation of the competitive bidding program for durable medical equipment, prosthetics and supplies.

Child Abuse

The House is expected to vote this week on [H.R. 5876, the Stop Child Abuse in Residential programs for Teens Act](#). This bill will provide new protections for children in teen camps (e.g. wilderness, boot), therapeutic boarding schools and behavior modification facilities. States and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services would create new protections when abuse is alleged in such facilities.

<http://www.thomas.gov/cgi-bin/bdquery/z?d110:h.r.05876/>

ANNOUNCEMENTS

United Cerebral Palsy Annual Conference

The United Cerebral Palsy National Office invites members of the disability community to review coverage from the 2008 *Believable Hope Conference* held June 18-21 in Washington, DC. On the [UCPeople Blog](#), viewers can find inspiring stories from the closing plenary to the vision of the future of healthcare with former United States House of Representatives Speaker, Newt Gingrich. Viewers are encouraged to comment on these stories as well as create conversation about personal and/or professional experiences. For more information about the [2008 *Believable Hope Conference* coverage](#), please contact [Will Hull](#) at (202) 973-7106 or [Liz Reitz](#) at (202) 973-7114.

<http://ucpeople.blogspot.com/search/label/Conference%20Coverage>
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Employment report

The National Collaborative on Workforce & Disability for Youth released *Preparing All Youth for Academic & Career Readiness: Implications for High School Policy and Practice*. The paper identifies the challenges in practice and policy for successful post-school outcomes and it offers recommendations on how states, local school districts and individual high schools can prepare all youth, including youth with disabilities, with the academic and career readiness skills. Based on two symposia and a year-long research effort, this paper identifies five broad policy and practice areas: (1) Instruction, Curriculum and Structure; (2) Assessment Practices; (3) Graduation Requirements; (4) Community and Family Connections; and (5) Data Quality Challenges. The paper suggests that by addressing these areas, a range of high school policy makers at the national, state, and local levels can improve their approaches for meeting the multiple and complex challenges of all their students. A copy of the paper can be found at http://www.ncwd-youth.info/resources_&_Publications/background.php#academic_and_career_readiness