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MAJOR EVENTS LAST WEEK

U.S. Congress

The Congress was in recess all week to celebrate President's Day.

Medicaid

During its winter meeting in Washington, D.C., the National Governors Association (NGA) discussed the impact the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services Medicaid regulations are likely to have on states. The NGA was unanimous in its opposition to the regulations and sent a [letter to Senate and House leadership](#) strongly urging Congress to delay implementation of the rules.

<http://www.thearc.org/NetCommunity/Document.Doc?&id=866/>

MAJOR EVENTS AHEAD

U.S. Congress

The Congress returns this week for a three week schedule of work. During this time period, both Houses are expected to complete action on their respective versions of the Fiscal Year 2009 Budget Resolution.

Appropriations

On Tuesday, the Senate Banking, Housing & Urban Affairs Committee, chaired by Senator Chris Dodd (D-CT), will hold a hearing on the Administration's FY 2009 budget for the Department of Housing and Urban Development. HUD Secretary Alphonso Jackson will testify.

Also on Tuesday, the Labor-HHS-Education Subcommittee of the House Appropriations Committee will hold a hearing on the Administration's FY 2009 budget for the Department of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education. Education Secretary Margaret Spellings will testify.

On Thursday, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Secretary Michael Leavitt will testify on the Administration's FY 2009 budget proposal before the House Energy and Commerce Committee, which is chaired by Rep. John Dingell (D-MI).

Medicaid

On Tuesday the Senate will vote on final passage of the Indian Health Services reauthorization legislation (S. 1200) today. The bill includes a one year moratorium on the Medicaid case management interim final rule.

On Wednesday, Steve Larson, Director of Public Policy for The Arc of Minnesota, will speak at House and Senate staff briefings on the impact of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services case management interim final rule on persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Medicaid/State Fiscal Conditions

On Tuesday, the Senate Finance Committee, chaired by Sen. Max Baucus (D-MT), will hold a hearing on "Economic and Fiscal Conditions of the States". Several governors are expected to testify.

Disability Policy Collaboration

This week and next, the DPC staff will be involved in numerous meetings including the Board of Directors of The Arc and the Board of Trustees of United Cerebral Palsy, the UCP Leadership Briefing, the UCP Professional Council and The Arc State Executive Directors. The DPC Steering Committee will also meet briefly during the Seminar. DPC staff will also participate in a disability policy summit sponsored by the National Councils on Independent Living

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Disability Policy Seminar

This year's Disability Policy Seminar will begin on Sunday, March 2 and end on Tuesday, March 4 with nearly 500 disability advocates on Capitol Hill meeting with their Members of Congress and their staff on key disability policy. Pre-registration is now closed. On-site registration will be available on Sunday, March 2. Fact sheets on the key policy issues that will be addressed at this year's Seminar have been posted at: <http://www.thearc.org/NetCommunity/Page.aspx?&pid=1642&srcid=183> and http://www.ucp.org/ucp_generalsub.cfm/1/8/12477

Capitol Insider

With all Disability Policy Collaboration staff involved the next week's Seminar, no edition of Capitol Insider will be published next week.

Travel Webcast

The Independent Living Research Utilization (www.ilru.org) provided a webcast on the rights of travelers with disabilities. The archived information including air travel, cruise ships, traveling with a service animal and more is available at <http://www.ilru.org/html/training/webcasts/archive/2008/02-20-AM.html>