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**Capitol News!**

Dec. 28, 2017

This year's last issue of *Capitol News* highlights policy issues in 2017, which began with a new 115th Congress, new President and Administration, which had their own agendas and priorities - *repeal and replace the Affordable Care Act; reduce federal regulations; downsize and reorganize federal government; and reduce federal spending*. Below is a summary of those actions.

After the first of the year, Members are reconvening to begin the Second Session with many agenda items on their plate, including funding federal government past Jan. 19. Meanwhile, the Congressional Brain Injury Task Force has scheduled Brain Injury Awareness Day for Tuesday, March 20. The Administration for Community Living (ACL) is considering a meeting with states the first of that week to coincide with the day. Watch for further information.

On behalf of NASHIA's Public Policy Committee and staff, we wish you a happy and prosperous New Year and look forward to working with you again in 2018!

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### Public Policy 2017 Year in Review

#### Administration

**Jan. 20** - Donald Trump was sworn in as the 45th President. First order of business, signed Executive Orders to: delay or waive implementation of certain provisions of the Affordable Care Act; froze pending federal regulations, among other actions.

#### Congress

**Jan. 3** -- 115th Congress convened.

**Jan. 23** - President Trump signed Executive Order to freeze hiring of federal employees.

**Jan. 30** - President signed Executive Order requiring any executive department or agency that proposes a new regulation to identify two regulations to be repealed.

**Feb. 24** - President signed Executive Order instructing each federal agency to designate an official as its Regulatory Reform Officer to oversee the Administration's regulatory reform policy within their agency.

**March 12** - President Trump signed Executive Order calling for federal departments to submit a proposed plan to reorganize the agency to improve the efficiency, effectiveness, and accountability of that agency.

**March 16** - President released his "skinny" budget calling for cuts in federal programs, except defense.

**March 21** - Administration for Community Living held its first meeting on Federal TBI State Partnership Grant Program.

**March 23** - President signed Executive Order

**Feb. 1** -- Rep. Erik Paulsen (R-MN) introduced H.R. 807 to repeal the Medicare outpatient rehabilitation therapy caps and Sen. Ben Cardin (D-MD) introduced a companion bill, S. 253.

**Feb. 18** -- Rep. Joyce Beatty (D-OH) introduced H.R. 1128, Return to Work Awareness Act of 2017, to assist survivors of stroke and other debilitating health occurrences, including TBI, in returning to work.

**Feb. 29** -- Rep. Frank James "Jim" Sensenbrenner, Jr. (R-WI) and Joe Crowley (D-NY) introduced H.R. 750, Ensuring Access to Quality Complex Rehabilitation Technology Act of 2017.

**March 22** - Congressional Brain Injury Task Force held annual Brain Injury Awareness Day in Washington, D.C. NASHIA was a co-sponsor.

**April 7** -- Senators Chuck Schumer (D-NY), Elizabeth Warren (D-MA) and Robert Casey (D-PA) reintroduced the Disability Integration Act, S. 910, to prohibit discrimination against individuals with disabilities who need long-term services and supports.

**May 4** - House passed legislation to repeal and replace Affordable Care Act, which also included provisions to significantly cut and cap Medicaid and to turn the program over to the states to administer.

**May 18** - Senators Susan Collins (R-ME) and

instructing the Director of the OMB to propose a plan to reorganize the executive branch and eliminate "unnecessary" federal agencies and agency programs.

Tammy Baldwin (D-WI) introduced S.1188 to extend the Lifespan Respite Care.

**April 26** - President signed Executive Order directing the Education secretary to review education-related regulations, ensuring they comply with federal law and do not impede on local control of education.

**May 19** -- Reps. Jim Langevin (D-RI) and Gregg Harper (R-MS) introduced H.R.2535, the Lifespan Respite Care Reauthorization Act of 2017.

**May 23** - President released his FY 2018 Budget proposal, which cut federal programs significantly, including Medicaid. The budget called for eliminating the Federal TBI State Partnership Grant program and combining functions with the Developmental Disabilities (DD) State Councils and the Statewide Independent Living Councils into one new grant funding program with significantly reduced funding.

**June 6** - Sen. Robert Casey introduced S. 1296 and Rep. Suzanne Bonamici (D-OR) introduced H.R. 2782, the RISE Act, to amend the Higher Education Opportunity Act (HEOA) to ensure that students with disabilities thrive in college.

**Nov. 13** -- The Administration for Community Living released proposed semiannual performance measures for the ACL Traumatic Brain Injury State Partnership Program.

**July 29** - Senate failed to pass legislation to repeal the Affordable Care Act.

**Dec. 8** - President signs short-term spending bill extending federal spending through Dec. 22.

**Sept. 8** - Congress passed continuing resolution to extend government funding until Dec. 8, to raise the debt ceiling and to fund disaster relief.

**Dec. 21**- President signed a short-term funding bill extending government funding until Jan. 19, 2018.

**Sept. 30** - Failing to reauthorize the CHIP program, funding for CHIP expired.

**Dec. 22** - President signed the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act bill, which included the repeal of the health care mandate requiring persons to purchase health

**Oct. 24** - Rep. Gwen Moore (D-WI) and the Injury and Violence Prevention Network, of which NASHIA is a member of, hosted a Congressional

care coverage.

briefing on "Intersection of Substance Abuse, Injuries & Violence."

**Oct. 25** -- The Congressional Brain Injury Task Force, co-chaired by Cong. Bill Pascrell, Jr. (D-NJ) and Cong. Tom Rooney (R-FL), and Cong. Gwen Moore (D-WI) hosted the briefing "The Silent Epidemic in America - Brain Injury and Domestic Violence", which NASHIA co-sponsored.

**Nov. 16** -- The Senate agreed to a conference report for H.R. 2810 authorizing funding for the Department of Defense (DoD) for fiscal year 2018, which included an amendment offered by the Congressional Brain Injury Task Force co-chairs, Reps. Bill Pascrell, Jr. (D-NJ) and Tom Rooney (R-FL), requiring DoD to report to Congress on the implementation of policies to ensure adequate consideration of traumatic brain injury (TBI) and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) in military separations.

**As Dec. 31 approaches, there is still time to donate to NASHIA and deduct your donation as a tax exemption in 2017. Your donation helps to support our public policy efforts. You may donate [here](#).**

**Thank You and Happy New Year!**

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*The National Association of State Head Injury Administrators assists State government  
in promoting partnerships and building systems  
to meet the needs of individuals with brain injuries and their families*

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