



## Capitol News!

November 26, 2013

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### Dear Member,

Welcome to *Capitol News!* Last week, the House Subcommittee on Health held a hearing on public health bills, including H.R. 1098, the Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) Reauthorization Act of 2013. Further information on the hearing is provided below. Rebecca (Becky) Wolfkiel, NASHIA Government Relations, continues to work with NASHIA members and TBI stakeholders in making Hill visits to move the legislation forward in both the House and Senate. Should you wish to help with providing information to your congressional delegation, please do not hesitate to e-mail her at [rwolfkiel@ridgepolicygroup.com](mailto:rwolfkiel@ridgepolicygroup.com). Meanwhile, to access public policy information please visit the NASHIA [website](#).

### This Week in Congress

Congress has recessed for the Thanksgiving holiday. The House returns December 2<sup>nd</sup> and the Senate will return December 9<sup>th</sup>. Congress is facing a December 13<sup>th</sup> budget deadline to agree on a budget number for appropriators to work from for the remaining fiscal year (FY 2014). The current Concurrent Resolution, which is keeping government funded, ends January 15<sup>th</sup>. The House appropriation committee chairs are calling on the budget conference committee to reach an agreement on spending levels for both FY 2014 and FY 2015 by December 2<sup>nd</sup>. If Congress cannot agree to alternatives to sequestration by January 15<sup>th</sup>, another round of across the board cuts will automatically take place.



### Legislation

#### Senate Holds Second Hearing on Disability Treaty

On November 21<sup>st</sup>, the Senate Foreign Relations Committee held the second hearing on the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Treaty (CRPD). Secretary of State John Kerry; Frances W. West, Worldwide Director of IBM's Human Ability and Accessibility Center; and C. Boyden Gray, attorney and former U.S. Ambassador to the European Union provided testimony.

Two professors of law, Jeremy Rabkin and Curtis Bradley also testified. The treaty still needs to be approved by the Committee before going to the full Senate for ratification. For more information on

the treaty click [here](#). To keep up with senate proceedings click on the [Facebook](#) page on the ratification of the CRPD.

### **House Subcommittee Holds Hearing on TBI Act Reauthorization**

Last Wednesday, November 20th, the House Committee on Energy and Commerce, Subcommittee on Health held a hearing on public health legislation, including H.R. 1098, the TBI Act Reauthorization of 2013, sponsored by Congressional Brain Injury Task Force Co-chairs, Rep. Bill Pascrell, Jr. (D-NJ) and Rep. Tom Rooney (R-FL). Dr. Drew Nagele, who serves on the Board of Directors, Brain Injury Association of America (BIAA), provided testimony on behalf of BIAA, NASHIA and the National Disability Rights Network (NDRN). All three organizations worked together to prepare for the hearing. [Click here](#) to view his written testimony and click [here](#) to view the proceedings of the hearing.

It would be helpful for individuals and organizations to send support letters to the subcommittee Chair and Ranking Member urging them to please approve the bill and move it forward. You may visit the NASHIA website, Public Policy, [Key Issues](#), for talking points. You may send the support letter to:

The Honorable Joe Pitts, Chair  
House Subcommittee on Health  
US House Committee on Energy and Commerce  
2125 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, DC 20515  
E-mail: % Brenda Destro ([brenda.destro@mail.house.gov](mailto:brenda.destro@mail.house.gov))

The Honorable Frank Pallone, Jr., Ranking Member  
House Subcommittee on Health  
US House Committee on Energy and Commerce  
2322-A Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 2015  
E-mail: % Tiffany Guarascio ([Tiffany.Guarascio@mail.house.gov](mailto:Tiffany.Guarascio@mail.house.gov))

Please copy Becky Wolfkiel on your correspondence and send to her at: [rwolfkiel@ridgepolicygroup.com](mailto:rwolfkiel@ridgepolicygroup.com). You may contact her if you have any questions or contact Susan Vaughn at [publicpolicy@nashia.org](mailto:publicpolicy@nashia.org). Stay tune for further information!

This update was prepared by:

**Susan L. Vaughn**, Director of Public Policy, [publicpolicy@nashia.org](mailto:publicpolicy@nashia.org)  
**William A.B. Ditto, MSW**, is Chair of the NASHIA Public Policy Committee  
**Rebecca Wolfkiel** is Governmental Relations Consultant, [rwolfkiel@ridgepolicygroup.com](mailto:rwolfkiel@ridgepolicygroup.com)

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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.*

[www.nashia.org](http://www.nashia.org)

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