



Capitol News!

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Dear NASHIA Member,

Welcome to *Capitol News!* In this issue you will find information on legislation introduced by members of Congress, including appropriation bills. Meanwhile, NASHIA continues to solicit co-sponsors for H.R. 1098, the Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) Reauthorization Act of 2013 and asks members and friends to join us in that effort. It is critical for us to obtain additional support in order to move the bill forward in the House. For further information on H.R. 1098 and other key issues visit the NASHIA website (www.nashia.org).

This Week in Congress

Congress is in session this week and both legislative bodies are working on appropriation bills. After this week, Congress will adjourn for the August recess. While they are in their home districts is an excellent time to visit with them about brain injury issues. Many will be out and about at county and State fairs and other civic and community functions. Once they return, they will be focused on the debt ceiling and spending for federal programs for FY 2014, which begins October 1st.



Appropriations

Last week, the House approved spending for the Department of Defense for FY 2014. Today, the full House Appropriations Committee was scheduled to mark up the Interior and Environment appropriations bill. Last week, the Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies postponed a scheduled subcommittee markup of the FY 2014 Labor-HHS appropriations bill due to potential scheduling conflicts with the defense and foreign ops appropriations bills on the floor and in full committee. There are rumors that the bill does not have enough support to pass in subcommittee because of the expected deep cuts to many programs. The bill total of close to \$122 billion is more than \$40 billion (over 25%) lower than the Senate bill that was reported out of Committee this month. The post sequestration current level is around \$150 billion in FY 2013.

Department of Defense

The House passed its version of the Department of Defense Appropriations Act, H.R. 2397, July 24th. The House adopted these amendments:

- Additional Fisher House funding
- Mental health research, treatment, education and outreach expansion
- Suicide prevention awareness and outreach expansion
- Pilot program for Traumatic Brain Injury and Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder

The Senate Appropriations Committee's Defense Subcommittee marked up the Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2014 this week and included significant increases to DoD medical research efforts, including:

- \$200 million for the Peer-Reviewed Medical Research Program
- \$60 million for Traumatic Brain Injury and Psychological Health

The full Senate Appropriations Committee is scheduled to meet Thursday to consider the defense spending bill.

Labor-HHS-Education

On July 11th, the full Senate Appropriations Committee passed its FY 2014 Labor-HHS-Education appropriations bill on a party-line vote 16-14. With an allocation of \$165.6 billion in discretionary funding, the highest non-defense discretionary allocation, the Senate bill allocates \$44.6 billion more than the House bill (\$121.8 billion). The HRSA TBI Federal Program was level funded.

The Committee's recommendation for Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) includes a total of \$6.967 billion, an increase of \$482 million over the FY 2013 funding level. This funding includes budget authority, PHS Evaluation Transfers, and the Prevention and Public Health Fund (PPHF). (The FY 2013 funding levels included in the Senate bill do not reflect reductions that occurred due to sequestration nor do the Committee recommendation levels for FY 2014 reflect adjustments to account for the Working Capital Fund (WCF), which will fund business services costs across the agency and will be implemented on October 1, 2013.) More information about the WCF can be found at <http://www.cdc.gov/fmo/topic/wcf/index.html>.

The Injury Center's total program level for FY 2014 as recommended in the Senate bill is \$165.5 million, an increase of \$28 million over the FY 2013 pre-sequestration level. This includes both budget authority and PPHF funding. The level also includes the following highlights:

- Funding for the President's initiative to reduce gun violence, *Now is the Time*, including:
 - Increased funding of \$15 million for the National Violent Death Reporting System (NVDRS) to expand beyond the current 18 States. An increase of \$20 million was proposed in the FY 2014 President's Budget.
 - New funding of \$10 million for gun violence prevention research, as requested in the FY 2014 President's Budget.
- Increased funding of \$3 million through PPHF to expand older adult falls prevention activities in coordination with Administration for Community Living (ACL), which was provided an increase of \$7 million through PPHF for complementary activities.
- Funding for all other Injury budget lines was level with FY 2013 pre-sequestration levels.

In addition, the Committee report includes language that encourages CDC to collaborate with academic centers and sports-affiliated organizations to test and improve sports safety equipment to reduce TBI/concussions. Besides the Injury Center, the Preventive Health and Health Services Block Grant (PHHSBG) is funded at \$79.4 million in the Senate bill. This program was eliminated in the FY 2014 President's Budget. Many States use PHHSBG funds to conduct injury and violence prevention activities.

Transportation, HUD and Related Agencies

Last week, the Senate began floor debate on the Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies (THUD) spending bill for FY 2014 (S.1243). The measure would provide \$54.0 billion in discretionary funding, which is \$5.6 billion above the current spending level with sequestration. The Senate would provide significantly more funding for Community Development Block Grants and other housing grant programs, the Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) program, rail and transit programs, and a new program to fund bridge projects.

The House is set to take up its version, H.R. 2610, this week, which would provide \$44.1 billion in funding - nearly \$10 billion below the spending level set in the Senate version. The House THUD bill would make deep funding cuts to many HUD programs. This bill would provide nearly \$10 billion less in FY14 than would the Senate THUD bill under debate now. The House bill would cut many HUD programs below FY10 funding levels and, for some programs, revert back to levels of funding appropriated in the 1970s.

Other Legislation

Workforce Investment Act (WIA) and Vocational Rehabilitation

Tomorrow, July 31st, the Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions (HELP) Committee will mark up S. 1356, the Workforce Investment Act. Last week, Senators Patty Murray (D-WA), Johnny Isakson (R-GA), Senate HELP Committee Chairman Tom Harkin (D-IA), and Senate HELP Committee Ranking Member Lamar Alexander (R-TN) introduced the bipartisan bill, which includes a number of changes to Title V, the Rehabilitation Act, including moving the program from the Department of Education to the Department of Labor. The legislation also moves the National Institute on Disability Rehabilitation and Research (NIDRR) to the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), Administration for Community Living (ACL), and authorizes the Office of Disability Employment Policy, created by the Department of Labor. The following is a summary of structural changes:

Vocational Rehabilitation Services:

- Changes the name of the Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA) to the Disability Employment Services and Supports Administration.
- Moves the RSA from the Department of Education to the Department of Labor.
- Creates local transition coordinators within the VR system to ensure the effective delivery of pre-employment transition services for all youth with disabilities, including those with significant disabilities and greater linkages between the VR system and special education.
- Directs emphasis on the preferred outcomes of competitive integrated employment and post-secondary education for all youth, including youth with significant disabilities.
- Specifies that the unified State plan under Section 112 of WIA, or the combined State plan under Section 113 of WIA, must include the provisions of the State plan for Vocational Rehabilitation services.
- Requires that applicants for Vocational Rehabilitation services be presumed to be able to benefit from an employment outcome, and individuals should be provided the opportunity to try different employment experiences, including supported employment, and the opportunity for competitive integrated employment.

Supported Employment:

- Splits the current law program to have two different focuses -- one focused on supported employment for individuals with the most significant disabilities (subpart A) and the other

focused on supported employment for youth with the most significant disabilities (subpart B). Funds authorized are to be split between the two programs.

Client Assistance Program (CAP):

- Reauthorizes the Client Assistance Program (CAP) and Protection and Advocacy of Individual Rights (PAIR) programs.
- Allows the establishment of a CAP affiliated with the American Indian Consortium serving the Navajo Nation and Hopi Tribe.
- Clarifies provisions relating to the rights and authorities of the PAIR program and make them consistent with the other Protection and Advocacy programs.

Ticket to Work:

- Directs increased coordination between State VR systems and entities responsible for carrying out the Ticket to Work and Self Sufficiency Program. Requires that individualized plans for employment contain information concerning Ticket to Work, benefits under Medicaid, benefits planning and assistance and protection and advocacy services for beneficiaries of Title II and Title XVI.

Independent Living Program:

- Moves the Independent Living Program from the Department of Education to the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), specifically to Administration for Community Living (ACL).

National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research (NIDRR):

- Moves NIDRR to the ACL within the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)
- Changes the name of NIDRR to National Institute on Disability, Independent Living and Rehabilitation.
- Requires the dissemination of educational materials and research results to nongovernmental agencies and organizations, employers and employer organizations, and relevant Congressional Committees.

Education

On Thursday, July 18th, the House passed the Student Success Act, H.R. 5, introduced by Rep. John Kline (R-MN), chair of the Education and the Workforce Committee. The bill would eliminate federal standards for achievement, including achievement of students with disabilities, and allow States to develop their own accountability systems. Specifically, the bill would eliminate caps on the percentage of students who can take alternate assessments.

Veterans and Family Caregiver Services

Last Wednesday, the Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs approved S. 851, the Caregivers Expansion and Improvement Act of 2013, to amend Title 38, United States Code, to extend to all veterans with a serious service-connected injury eligibility to participate in the family caregiver services program. Under current law, such eligibility is limited to those veterans who incurred such an injury on or after September 11, 2001. Senator Bernie Sanders (D-VT) introduced the bill.

Congressional Hearings and Briefings

Subcommittee on Research and Technology Hearing -- Brain Research

On July 31st, the House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology's Subcommittee on

Research and Technology will hold a hearing on, "The Frontiers of Human Brain Research". Witnesses include:

- Dr. Story Landis, Director of National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke, National Institutes of Health
- Mr. Michael McLoughlin, Deputy Business Area Executive, Research and Exploratory Development at Applied Physics Laboratory, Johns Hopkins University
- Dr. Marcus Raichle, Professor of Radiology, Neurology, Neurobiology and Biomedical Engineering, Washington University
- Dr. Gene Robinson, Director, Institute for Genomic Biology, Swanlund Chair, Center for Advanced Study Professor in Entomology and Neuroscience, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign University

NCD ADA Anniversary and Policy Briefing

Last week, the National Council on Disability (NCD) held a Capitol Hill briefing to educate congressional staff about the ADA and the ADA Amendments Act. The event featured brief remarks from congressional, civil rights, and business community champions of the ADA Amendments Act, and was followed by the release of NCD's latest [report](#), "A Promising Start: Preliminary Analysis of Court Decisions Under the ADA Amendments Act."

NCIL Disability Treaty March to the Hill, Rally & CRPD Press Conference

On July 25th, the National Council on Independent Living (NCIL) organized a "March to the Hill" and rally with disability advocates from all over the country. The NCIL events were followed by a CRPD press conference calling on Congress to ratify the Disability Treaty. Leaders who spoke in support of the treaty at the press conference included Kelly Buckland, Executive Director of the National Council on Independent Living; Hon. Tony Coelho, former U.S. Congressman and primary sponsor of the ADA; Hon. Tammy Duckworth, U.S. Congresswoman for Illinois; Wade Henderson, President and CEO of the Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights; and Angela Webster, homeschooling parent and disability rights advocate.

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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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