Subject: The Capitol Insider for the week of August 11
Date: Monday, August 11, 2008 5:09:45 PM

DISABILITY POLICY COLLABORATION
A Partnership of The Arc & United Cerebral Palsy

CAPITOL INSIDER

Volume 13, Issue 32

August 11, 2008

Action Alerts

Ongoing: Comments Needed for Proposed Regulations on the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). **Deadline is August 18.**

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Major Events Last Week

U.S. Congress

Washington went quiet as the House and Senate started a five week recess. Most Members of Congress will remain in their home states during this time to campaign for re-election.

Major Events Ahead

U. S. Congress

Even though the Congress is in a lengthy recess, leaders in the House and Senate are plotting the agenda for the anticipated three week session when they return on September 8. Top priority items include addressing the energy crisis (particularly gasoline prices), extending certain tax credits, and passing a Continuing Resolution that will keep the federal government in operation after the beginning of the FY 2009 fiscal year on October 1. Other key issues include the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act, low income energy assistance and a second economic stimulus package. Most of these issues face difficulties in the Senate where many of these bills have been tied up in filibusters.

Research

The Interagency Committee on Disability Research (ICDR) is accepting public comments on disability research priorities. The deadline is August 13. Comments have been filed on behalf of The Arc of the United States and United Cerebral Palsy. For more information visit the ICDR website at: http://www.icdr.us/stakeholders/

Announcements

State Budget Reports

The Center for Budget and Policy Priorities released two state budget updates. The first, *Twenty nine states face total budget shortfall of at least $48 billion in 2009; Three other expect budget problems*," states that of these, 29 states and the District of Columbia faced $48 billion in combined '09 budget shortfalls. For more information, see http://www.cbpp.org/1-15-08sfp.htm. The second, "*Many States Imposing Cuts that Hurt Vulnerable Residents,"* notes that as a new fiscal year begins in most states, at least 21 states have made or proposed budget cuts that threaten vital services for many residents. Targeted areas include public health (13 states) and services for elderly and persons with disabilities (7 states). For more information, see http://www.cbpp.org/3-13-08sfp.htm

Leadership Award

The American Association of People with Disabilities (AAPD) is again accepting applications from Emerging Leaders with Disabilities to apply for AAPD's 2009 Paul G. Hearne leadership award. This year, AAPD will recognize three Hearne Award recipients at its 2009 Leadership Gala in Washington, D.C., present them each with $10,000 cash, and include each in AAPD's 2009 Leadership Initiatives. Applications are due by 5 PM EST, Tuesday, September 30, 2008. For more information, see: http://www.aapd.org.

Please note that you can view previous issues of the *Capitol Insider*, at thearc.org anytime by choosing "Capitol Insider" under "Public Policy."

If you have any questions, feel free to contact me at acosta@thedpc.org.

Sincerely,

Annie Acosta
Director of Communications and Grassroots Advocacy
Disability Policy Collaboration

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