



### *Hot off the Press:*

**House Returning to Address Potential Postal Crisis:** Just when Hill staff, lobbyists, and policy wonks thought Congress had gone home until the second week in September, another “crisis” and politics has Speaker Nancy Pelosi calling House lawmakers back to town this week to deal with legislation to bar the U.S. Postal Service from implementing changes to “operations or level of service.”

Pelosi sent out a “Dear Colleague” letter tonight (August 16) calling on the House to address what she called the devastating effects of the President’s operational actions regarding the postal service and his opposition to voting by mail and emergency funding in the COVID-19 House bill.

**No Deal on COVID-19 Pandemic Emergency Legislation:** As mentioned above, the Senate and House headed home last week as negotiators had failed to reach agreement on the funding level for the COVID-19 pandemic legislation (and many other issues) and had not scheduled any additional meetings. The blame game was in full swing as Members left town. Democrats are insisting that there is little reason to meet until the White House agrees to meet them halfway on funding levels at at least \$2 trillion. Another major stumbling block is President Trump’s payroll tax deferral plan, which many in both parties oppose. The President went ahead and signed several executive orders which he said address several issues the Congress has neglected.

- See issue brief in *A Deeper Look* below.
- Here is the CCD’s response to the payroll tax proposals:  
<http://www.c-c-d.org/fichiers/cochairs-letter-about-payroll-tax-EO-final.pdf>

The Paycheck Protection Program is one of many programs that is now in limbo with Congress pack home campaigning. Without passage of the next pandemic bill, there are a number potential difficulties for the emergency lending program, which is no longer providing new loans. One potential revision being considered would make it easier to convert loans for \$150,000 or less into outright grants, making life the process much easier for borrowers and lenders. Last week, the Small Business Administration began accepting applications for loan forgiven, but some lenders are waiting to see if Congress comes to some agreement on program changes. It has been reported that some banks are discouraging borrowers from rushing to file their applications even though the SBA began accepting them from lenders.

**Back to School:** Whether schools in your area are implementing distance learning or returning to the classroom in person, The Arc's newest program, [Watch & Learn: Disability Film Series](#), can help to educate students in your community about people with disabilities. Films were selected and vetted by The Arc and are categorized by age group (elementary, middle, or high school).

**This week:** ACL's National Center on Advancing Person-Centered Practices and Systems (NCAPPS) presents a webinar: "**Exploring the Intersectionality of Peer Support and Person-Centered Planning Across Disability**" on [August 19](#) at 2:30 pm ET. [Register here](#). All NCAPPS webinars are recorded and archived at [ncapps.acl.gov](https://ncapps.acl.gov).

### *Legislative Updates*

**Fairness for Seniors and People with Disabilities During COVID-19 Act:** This [bill, H.R. 7830](#), was introduced by three leaders on the Ways & Means Committee Representatives Danny Davis (D-IL, 7th), John Larson (D-CT, 1st), and Richard Neal (D-MA, 1st) to protect seniors, survivors, and people with disabilities from being forced to repay extra Social Security and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits they received because of the COVID-19 pandemic, through no fault of their own. Support the bill by asking your representative to cosponsor it.

**PolicyEngage** provides **state and federal coronavirus policy updates** at its [Legislative Action Center](#).

**Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities (CCD)** released its [Telehealth Principles](#).

### *On the Regulatory Front*

Thanks to action by advocates, **Oklahoma has withdrawn its application** for a waiver to block grant its Medicaid expansion. Read about it here: <https://www.modernhealthcare.com/medicaid/oklahoma-withdraws-medicaid-block-grant-proposal>

### *A Deeper Look (Articles of Interest)*

**"30 Years After a Landmark Disability Law, the Fight for Access and Equality Continues"** is the title of a *Time* magazine article on the **history of the ADA** which features the "Elevator Pitch" film about inaccessibility of NYC transit system: <https://time.com/5870468/americans-with-disabilities-act-coronavirus/>

**Two New Reports from the Center for Budget Policy and Priorities** – One on the recent executive actions and one on COVID-19 and its effect on poverty, housing, employment, nutrition and more:

- <https://www.cbpp.org/press/statements/greenstein-trump-covid-19-executive-actions-woefully-inadequate-legally-dangerous>
- <https://www.cbpp.org/research/poverty-and-inequality/tracking-the-covid-19-recessions-effects-on-food-housing-and>

**From the Center for Medicare Advocacy - CDC's Report on Coronavirus in a Seattle Nursing Facility:** What it Tells Us About Staffing Problems Nationwide; What We Must Do to Address Lessons Learned :

<https://medicareadvocacy.org/cma-alert-april-9-2020/?emci=0b13fb89-93dd-ea11-8b03-00155d0394bb&emdi=7e38c8ad-a7dd-ea11-8b03-00155d0394bb&ceid=2346462#2>

<https://medicareadvocacy.org/cma-alert-april-9-2020/?emci=0b13fb89-93dd-ea11-8b03-00155d0394bb&emdi=7e38c8ad-a7dd-ea11-8b03-00155d0394bb&ceid=2346462#2>

Stay well, Brian

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