



Hot off the Press:

Senate Leaves Town After Releasing HEALS Act:

Members of Congress have been back in the nation's capital for the past few weeks attempting to address the pandemic and the economy. With COVID-19 cases on the rise, so are the related health care delivery challenges, including sufficient PPE and ICU beds. The \$600 federal unemployment benefit boost expired on July 31, as new weekly unemployment claims have been around one million for the last 20 weeks. So, Congress faces all this and pressure to produce the next pandemic emergency package before they go home for August/September recess to campaign. They need to hammer out a compromise bill somewhere between the House Democratic HEROES Act (passed May 15) and the more modest Republican Senate bill (HEALS Act) introduced the last week of July and the various proposals drafted by the Senate Democrats. After several days of discussions between the House and White House and Senate leadership, the Senate left town for the weekend without a compromise. In fact, it is unlikely the HEALS Act could be passed by the Senate Republicans, many of whom do not like the bill.

Reviews of the HEALS Act, introduced by U.S. Senate:

Statement of Robert Greenstein, President of the Center for Budget and Policy Priorities, regarding the Senate HEALS Act: [Greenstein: Senate Republican COVID Relief Proposal Fails to Meet Needs of Struggling Families, Economy](#)

Justice in Aging reviews the \$1 trillion bill introduced by Senate Republicans called the HEALS Act:

[The HEALS Act is Not What Older Adults Need](#) (7/29)

Senate Appropriations Chair Shelby intros \$306B supplemental coronavirus appropriations package as part of Senate GOP COVID-19 relief legislation. Text (177 pages): <https://appropriations.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/TJS05MAH.PDF...> Summary: <https://appropriations.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/Phase%20IV%20Summary%20-%20FINAL%20.pdf>

Emergency Appropriations in the HEALS Act Includes Funds for Programs Serving Individuals with Disabilities:

ACL \$75 million, including:

- \$10,000,000 shall be available to support protection and advocacy systems, as described under subtitle C of title I of the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act of 2000
- \$2,000,000 shall be for
 - training, technical assistance, and resource centers authorized under sections 202(a) and 411 of the OAA;
 - training and technical assistance to centers for independent living as authorized under section 721(b) of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973; technical assistance by the Secretary of Health and Human Services (“Secretary”) to State Councils on Developmental Disabilities as authorized under subtitle B of title I of the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act of 2000;
 - technical assistance by the Secretary to protection and advocacy systems as authorized under subtitle C of such title; and
 - technical assistance to University Centers for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities Education, Research, and Service as authorized under section 151(c) of such Act
- \$5,000,000 shall be for activities authorized in the Assistive Technology Act of 2004
- OAA: \$58 million:
 - \$3,000,000 to implement a demonstration program on strategies to recruit, retain, and advance direct care workers under section 411(a)(13) of the OAA
 - \$35,000,000 for supportive services under part B of title III
 - \$20,000,000 for support services for family caregivers under part E of title III

Call to Action from the CCD:

Word has it that Members of Congress supporting Medicaid HCBS would like advocates to flood the Hill with calls and e-mails on Tuesday, August 4. There is expected to be floor speeches on that day about Medicaid HCBS. For those who are interested, I have included below the Center for Public Representation’s action alert that will connect you with your senators (phone or letter). Please use #Medicaid and #HCBS along with #WeAreEssential for social media.

Center for Public Representation: <https://cpr.salsalabs.org/covid4hcbsemail/index.html>

Legislative Updates

More on HEALS Liability: IDEA (Individuals with Disabilities Education Act) touted as source of liability protection for schools during pandemic. [Read more from Disability Scoop.](#) “Congress must act swiftly to provide liability protection to districts around IDEA,” reads a statement from Daniel Domenech, executive director of AASA, in the report. “District leaders need to be focused on addressing learning loss, not preventing litigation.

This is not a free pass for districts to stop serving students with disabilities appropriately. Instead, this is an opportunity to provide reasonable, temporary, litigation protection for the vast majority of districts that are doing everything feasible to meet IDEA during the pandemic, but simply cannot meet every requirement exactly as intended for every single child.”

Candidate Joe Biden’s Plan to Support Caregivers:

<https://medium.com/@JoeBiden/the-biden-plan-for-mobilizing-american-talent-and-hear-t-to-create-a-21st-century-caregiving-and-af5ba2a2dfb>

Hearing on “Experiences of Vulnerable Populations During Disaster”: On July 28, the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure’s Subcommittee on Economic Development, Public Buildings, and Emergency Management held a hearing titled “Experiences of Vulnerable Populations During Disaster” with witnesses Curtis Brown, State Coordinator of Emergency Management, Virginia Department of Emergency Management, testifying on behalf of the Institute for Diversity and Inclusion in Emergency Management; Chad Higdon, CEO, Second Harvest Community Food Bank; Marcie Roth, Executive Director and CEO, World Institute on Disability; and Diane Yentel, President and CEO, National Low Income Housing Coalition. [Visit the Committee website](#) for more information or to view the video.

[A Deeper Look \(Articles of Interest\)](#)

Social Security Article from [nextavenue.org](#): More on the State of the Social Security Trust Fund [as a result of the pandemic](#).

Happy 30th Anniversary ADA: The Autistic Self Advocacy Network (ASAN) has a new toolkit available in Easy Read and Plain Language formats that explains what the ADA is and why it’s so important.

[This toolkit can help self-advocates fully understand the impact of this law and why—even as we celebrate #ADA30—the fight isn’t over.](#)

From ACL: To celebrate the 30th anniversary of the ADA, the Administration for Community Living (ACL) and the Office for Civil Rights (OCR) – both at U.S. Health & Human Services (HHS) – partnered to create a [website](#) that tells the story of how the ADA came to be, showcases some of the progress we have made as a country toward achieving the ADA's promise of true inclusion, and illustrates some of the work being done within HHS and across government to continue to remove the barriers to inclusion people with disabilities often face. Through short video interviews, you can hear from people with disabilities about how the expectations for access and inclusion created by the ADA have affected their lives.

More ways to look at family members and caregivers who try to access nursing homes and hospitals:

- [They're Not Visitors: COVID-19 Visitor Restrictions Highlight Need for Change](#),
AARP Public Policy Institute
- [Continued bans on nursing home visitors are unhealthy and unethical](#)

Stay well, Brian

And the SNA Public Policy Team:

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