

2020 NDRN Annual Conference Update on Public Policy June 18, 2020

- Eric Buehlmann, Deputy Executive Director for Public Policy, NDRN
- Amanda Lowe, Senior Public Policy Analyst
- Erika Hudson – Public Policy Analyst
- Cyrus Huncharek – Public Policy Analyst

Poll Question Pre Session

COVID–19 Issues

- Stimulus, Relief Bills – P&A Funding
- IDEA, Section 504 and Vocational Rehabilitation Waivers
- Education Funding
- 2020 Elections
- SNAP

Fiscal Year (FY) 21 Budget and Appropriations

- President's budget was released in early February. Contained many of the same cuts in programs (including PAIMI and PADD) as previous budgets and was dead on arrival on Hill.
- House was supposed to have passed all appropriations bills by end of June.
- Senate is taking some tentative steps forward on its appropriations work.
- While there is a budget for the year, it is not much higher than last year's budget levels which means there is not a lot of room for increases.
- Almost guaranteed there will be a Continuing Resolution to continue funding for the government when the Fiscal Year starts on October 1. Not sure if short-term until after election or longer.

Education P&A Bill

- Continuing to work with Rep. DeSaulnier and House & Senate Committee staff on language.
- Looking for a Republican co-sponsor.
- The bill provides dedicated funding for P&As for education rights work for individuals who are IDEA, 504, or ADA eligible.

Competitive Integrated Employment (CIE)

- NDRN and CPSD are co-chairs of a coalition focused on Competitive Integrated Employment.
www.integratedemploymentnow.com
- NDRN remains highly concerned that the WIOA VR Regulations will be opened. NDRN has met with Secretary Devos and had many meetings with Assistant Secretary Collett on the issue.
- NDRN will submit comments and supply the Network with template comments when the regulations are opened which will be driven by the website.
- What you can do:
sign up to receive updates about this issue at:
<https://integratedemploymentnow.org/>

CIE Poll Question

Transportation

- Circulated NDRN's surface transportation and Amtrak reauthorization priorities on Capitol Hill.
- Submitted comments on DOT's Traveling by Air with Service Animals Proposed Rule.
- Endorsed Rep. Lamb and Sen. Blumenthal's Ending Passenger Rail Forced Arbitration Act (S.3400/H.R.6101) and Rep. Langevin's Disability Access to Transportation Act (H.R.6248).
- Autonomous Vehicles —NDRN will continue to work to ensure any legislation on this topic ensures accessibility and safety for people with disabilities.

Criminal/Juvenile Justice

- Working on a Criminal Justice P&A program to give the P&As a dedicated funding stream to monitor criminal justice facilities.
- Once we have made some progress on a Criminal Justice P&A, we will turn our attention to a Juvenile Justice P&A.

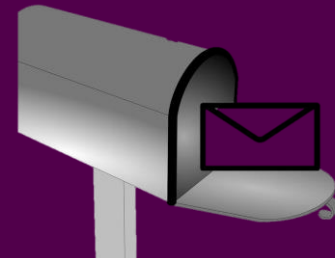
Criminal Justice Poll Question

Voting

- NDRN is working to extend PAVA funding to the two remaining P&As currently not eligible for these funds.
- NDRN is advocating for a private right of action and lifting the P&A litigation prohibition under HAVA.
- NDRN is working with its partners for federal prohibition of state voter competency laws.
- NDRN is pushing for research and development funding to support accessible voting technology and funding for polling place updates.

Census 2020

- Most households received an invitation in the mail to self-respond online this Spring.
- Households can still respond by phone or by mail.
- Census enumerators will visit all households that did not self-respond to collect responses in person.



An Accessible 2020 Census

“The 2020 Census is accessible for everyone.”- US Census Bureau

→ Online

Section 508 Compliant and a video guide in American Sign Language

→ By Phone

Telephone Device for the Deaf (TDD/TTY) technology

→ By Mail

Braille and large print language guides (“Sample Ballots”)

Census Poll Question

Non-COVID-19 Legislative Issues P&As Are Addressing

- Where do we see similarities in the answer to the first poll question or are there no parallels?
- Ways P&As can work and share ideas to address similar legislation

Strengthen Your Work To Educate Policymakers

- Work through coalitions, both disability and non-disability.
- Share news, reports, videos, fact sheets that you produce or are featured in.
- Intentionally cultivate your relationships with policymakers through regular check-ins and activities such as site visits.
- Be responsive (ex. Try and always follow up, when you don't, apologize).
- Be authentic (ex. Get to know people on a real level, even those you may not agree with and build trusting relationships).
- Move outside of your ready-made bubble (make “strange bedfellows”).
- Listen (sometimes the best thing we can do is listen and be willing to compromise).
- Be kind (we may not always agree with one another, but there might be a next time).