



CPSD
Real lives. Real work.

Collaboration
to Promote
Self-Determination

Collaboration to Promote Self-Determination 118th

Congress Legislative Priorities

CPSD is an advocacy network of national organizations who have come together to bring about a significant modernization of federally-funded systems of services and supports for Americans with disabilities. The following recommendations lay out CPSD's legislative priorities for the 118th Congress, divided by topic area.

Legislation aimed at Improving Competitive Integrated Employment (CIE) Options for Job-Seekers with Significant Disabilities

- **Elimination of 14(c):** CPSD advocates for the repeal of Section 14(c) of the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA) and for the prohibition of the use of subminimum wage. Repeal should be coupled with capacity building provisions and should be added to any legislative package related to federal labor and workforce development policy. CPSD advocates for passage of the Transformation to Competitive Integrated Employment Act (TCIEA) which will phase out subminimum wage for people with disabilities and will result in a significant federal investment in state systems change. It will also invest in provider transformation designed to reduce reliance on facility-based congregate day and work services. Finally, it will increase the capacity of providers to offer supports that help individuals with disabilities pursue, secure, and sustain CIE.
- **WIOA:** Congress must protect and preserve the current Title IV in the 2014 reauthorization of WIOA and protect and preserve the definition of Competitive Integrated Employment. CPSD is willing and able to partner with Congress on reauthorization of other WIOA Titles to ensure that they better serve people with disabilities.
- **AbilityOne:** CPSD supports significant reformation of the AbilityOne program, via statutory updates that embed recommendations of the Section 898 Panel and the 2016 WIOA Advisory Committee to Increase Competitive Integrated Employment for Individuals with Disabilities (ACICIEID) Report.
- **Other disability employment bills:** CPSD supports other legislation aimed at encouraging employers to hire people with disabilities, including but not limited to the Disability Employment Incentives Act.

Legislation to expand Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS)

- **Better Care Better Jobs Act:** This bill would strengthen and expand access to HCBS by expanding financial eligibility criteria for HCBS to federal limits; requiring coverage for personal care services; expanding supports for family caregivers; adopting programs that help people navigate enrollment and eligibility; expanding access to behavioral health

care; improving coordination with housing, transportation, and employment supports; and developing or improving programs to allow working people with disabilities to access HCBS.

- ***Recognizing the Role of Direct Support Professionals Act:*** This bill would direct the Office of Management and Budget to revise the Standard Occupational Classification system to establish a separate code for Direct Support Professionals, ensuring better data on these pressing workforce challenges.
- ***Other HCBS Legislation:*** We urge Congress to specifically focus on supporting employment support professionals (job coaches and job developers) in the context of HCBS through increased funding. A recent survey¹ suggested that the employment support workforce has lost approximately 25% of its workforce.

Legislation Impacting Transition-age Youth & Young Adults

Higher education legislation:

- Ensure that the Higher Education Act improves opportunities for all students with disabilities, to gain access to, be included in and provided all necessary accommodations to both academic and student life in college during the application process and once enrolled, this includes the Transition and Postsecondary Programs for Students with Intellectual Disabilities (TPSID).
 - In the next reauthorization of the Higher Education Act (HEA), substitute “gainful employment” with “competitive integrated employment” in the definition of “comprehensive transition and postsecondary program for students with intellectual disabilities.”
 - Authorize and fund the creation of a new accrediting agency to accredit comprehensive transition and postsecondary programs.
 - Authorize and fund pilot programs for disability service offices to provide services for students with all disabilities beyond the minimum accommodations required by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act.
- ***Internships and apprenticeships:*** Advocate that the National Apprenticeship Act identify and address barriers to participation in apprenticeships by youth and adults with ID/DD and other significant disabilities and include and prioritize the implementation of evidence-based models for such individuals to meaningfully participate in apprenticeships.
 - ***IDEA funding:*** Support legislation to increase IDEA funding tied to value-based investments focused on expanding and bringing to scale evidence-based school-work transition models.

RISE Act:

- Allow all students with disabilities to submit their Individualized Education Program (IEP), 504 Plan, or prior evaluation as documentation of their disability to obtain accommodations in college, so the students do not need to go to the expense and trouble of obtaining a new evaluation prior to attending a college or university.
- Fund technical assistance to provide students with all disabilities and their families information on college disability services and how to access them and to provide college faculty training and resources on best practices to support students with disabilities.

Legislation that can Improve the Socioeconomic Advancement of Individuals with Significant Disabilities

- ***Community Reinvestment Act:*** Amend the statute to change bank investment strategies to advance community inclusion and economic stability for individuals with disabilities.