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## September 18, 2014

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### CURRENT NEWS AND UPDATES

#### House of Representatives Passes Continuing Resolution

On Wednesday, the House of Representatives passed a continuing resolution (CR) that will fund the government through December 11, 2014. The CR was passed in the House by a vote of 319-108. The spending measure is now being sent to the Senate, where it is expected to be voted on before election recess. [Get more information from MSNBC.](#)

#### U.S. Department of Labor Announces Funding to Improve Employment Opportunities for People with Disabilities

On September 11, 2014, the U.S. Department of Labor's (DOL) Office of Disability Employment Policy (ODEP) announced that over \$8 million will be provided to

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organizations throughout the country to continue the development of models, technical assistance and share best practices to improve employment opportunities for people with disabilities. [Learn about the organizations who received funding](#), and [get more information from DOL](#).

### **Senator Harkin Introduces IDEA Fairness Restoration Act**

Last week, Senator Tom Harkin (D-IA) introduced the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) Fairness Restoration Act. The legislation aims to ensure that parents who successfully challenge a school district under IDEA can recoup costs for psychologists, behavior specialists, physicians and other experts they engage in order to bring their case. Currently, families can challenge schools if they do not believe that their child is being provided a free and appropriate education (FAPE) under IDEA. [View the language of the legislation](#), and [learn more from \*Disability Scoop\*](#).

### **Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Vote Blocked in Senate**

Yesterday, Senator Tom Harkin (D-IA) went to the floor of the Senate and called for a unanimous consent (UC) vote on the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD). Senator Harkin requested two hours of treaty debate on the floor and a vote, but was rebuffed by Senator Mike Lee (R-UT). [Learn more about the CRPD here](#).

## ***STATE CHECK-UP***

### **State of California Broadens ABA Therapy Coverage for Children on Medi-Cal**

It was announced this week that the state of California would broaden autism therapy coverage for children enrolled in Medi-Cal. The broadened therapies include the applied behavior analysis (ABA), which had been previously phased out of the California Healthy Families program. [Read on at \*The Los Angeles Times\*](#).

## ***ON THE HORIZON***

### **U.S. Department of Labor Requests Nominations for Advisory Committee on Increasing Competitive**

### **Integrated Employment for Individuals with Disabilities**

This week, the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) announced that they have opened nominations for individuals to serve on the "Advisory Committee on Increasing Competitive Integrated Employment for Individuals with Disabilities." This advisory committee was mandated by the recent reauthorization of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA), and individuals chosen to participate on this committee will develop recommendations to increase employment opportunities for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. [Learn more about this committee from the Federal Register](#), and apply by October 14, 2014.

### **UCP's Enabled by Design-athon Coming to D.C. This Fall**

Sign up now to attend [Enabled by Design-athon: D.C. Edition](#), Nov. 5 to 7. UCP's [Life Labs initiative](#) is hosting this dynamic event to encourage innovation by designers, inventors, hackers and makers for the benefit of people with disabilities. We're looking to bring together teams of dreamers, including people with disabilities, to design and prototype accessible products. The event kicks off Nov. 5 at the MLK Memorial Library with keynote speaker Adrienne Biddings, Policy Counsel for Google. Other speakers include Brett Heising of [www.brettapproved.com](http://www.brettapproved.com) and representatives from iStrategy Labs. Then, at a two-day design workshop at Google's D.C. offices, teams will compete to come up with the best design. Register now at <http://ucpdesignathon.org/>.

For more information on the Washington Wire, please contact Connie Garner at [CGarner@ucp.org](mailto:CGarner@ucp.org).

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