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## September 25, 2014

### CURRENT NEWS AND UPDATES

#### Senator Tom Harkin Introduces Three Bills, "Access for All" Americans with Disabilities

Late last week, Senator Tom Harkin (D-IA) introduced three bills that fall under "Access for All" Americans with disabilities. The first bill, The Universal Home Design Act, would increase the availability of accessible housing for individuals with disabilities and would cover single family houses and townhouses. The second, The Accessible Transportation for All Act, would expand access to accessible transportation options for individuals with disabilities. And the third, The Exercise and Fitness for All Act would encourage exercise and fitness service providers to provide exercise and fitness equipment that is accessible to individuals with disabilities. [Learn more about the legislation from the Senator's website.](#)

#### Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions (HELP) Committee Releases Report on Economic Self-

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## **Sufficiency for Persons with Disabilities**

The Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions (HELP) Committee recently released a new report, "Fulfilling the Promise: Overcoming Persistent Barriers to Economic Self-Sufficiency for People with Disabilities." The report found that living with a disability in America can be costly, both economically and socially. It also found that many people with disabilities fear that earning or saving too much money could cause them to lose access to services and supports that they need to live independently in the community, and that these issues impede people with disabilities from saving for emergencies and the unknown. [View the report and learn more from the HELP Committee.](#)

## **Senate Passes Continuing Resolution, Signed into Law by President Obama**

Following the House passage of the continuing resolution (CR), the Senate also voted to approve the CR by a vote of 78-22. The CR was signed into law by President Obama on September 19, 2014. This measure will avoid a government shutdown by extending current funding levels from the start of fiscal year (FY) 2015 on October 1, 2014, through December 11, 2014. [Get more information from the White House.](#)

## **STATE CHECK-UP**

### **Governor Andrew Cuomo Signs Executive Order to Create Employment First Commission**

Governor Andrew Cuomo signed an executive order last week to create the Employment First Commission in the state of New York. The commission's task is to create a new state policy that will promote employment of workers with disabilities. The commission's recommendations to Governor Cuomo are due by March 1, 2015. [Read on from the Associated Press.](#)

## **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 and Student Veterans of America launch event series**

UCP and the Student Veterans of America kick off "Engage: A Diverse Event Series" on Sept. 24 to engage youth and young adults with disabilities from ages 14-26 and veterans under the age of 35 in networking and learning about financial management, adaptive sports and disability and military history. The series of four events held at the National Youth Transitions Center in Washington, D.C., and the Smithsonian American History Museum will run through December. [Visit the Voices of UCP blog for more.](#)

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

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