

Like  Share Tweet

powered by 

Share this Page: 

Is this email not displaying correctly?
[View it in your browser.](#)



December 18, 2014

CURRENT NEWS AND UPDATES

Senate Passes ABLE Act

On Tuesday, the Senate voted 71-16 to pass the Achieving a Better Life Experience (ABLE) Act. The Act is aimed at giving families the ability to create tax-exempt savings accounts for people born with disabilities or are diagnosed with a disability by the age of 26. The ABLE Act will allow families to set up tax-free savings accounts at financial institutions and deposit as much as \$14,000 per year into the accounts to pay for services that include transportation, health care, and other long term needs. The ABLE accounts will be able to accrue up to \$100,000 in savings without the person with a disability losing eligibility for government aid such as Social Security. [Learn more about the ABLE Act](#), or [read on from The Hill](#).

Senate Passes Bill to Fund Government Through Next

Share:

Like  Tweet Share

[Forward to a friend](#)

CONTACT:

800.872.5827
 202.776.0406
 1825 K Street NW
 Suite 600
 Washington, DC
 20006
info@ucp.org
www.ucp.org

-  Facebook
-  Twitter
-  Youtube

September

On Saturday evening, the Senate passed a \$1.1 trillion spending package by a vote of 56-40. The package, H.R. 83, is a combined omnibus spending bill that will keep the government open through September 2015 and will provide short-term funding for the Department of Homeland Security. The bill also includes increased funds of \$25 million to the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) as well as an increase of \$33 million to vocational rehabilitation programs. [Learn more from The Washington Post.](#)

U.S. Office of Personnel Management Announces Hiring of People with Disabilities in Federal Government is Highest in 33 Years

The U.S. Office of Personnel Management (OPM) released a new report last week that indicates that more than 18 percent of U.S. Federal government employees hired during fiscal year 2013 were people with disabilities. This increase is a direct result of President Obama's Executive Order 13548, issued four years ago, that directed federal agencies to increase recruitment, hiring, and retention rates of people with disabilities. [Learn more about the initiative and view the report at OPM.gov.](#)

STATE CHECK-UP

Tennessee Announces Intent to Expand Medicaid

On Monday, Tennessee Governor Bill Haslam announced a new plan that is meant to expand Medicaid throughout the state. The two-year pilot program will provide almost 200,000 employed, low-income, uninsured adults with a voucher that can be used to pay for premiums and other out of pocket expenses associated with the individual's employer sponsored market plan. [Learn more about this new approach to Medicaid expansion from The Tennessean.](#)

ON THE HORIZON

National Council on Disability to Hold Meeting in January

The National Council on Disability (NCD) will hold a meeting

on January 12, 2015. The meeting will discuss NCD's upcoming home and community based services report and will also talk about the incoming 114th Congress. [Get more information and learn how to attend the meeting by visiting the National Council on Disability's website.](#)

****The Washington Wire will be on hiatus over the next two weeks, and will return in January. We wish you a happy holiday season!****

For more information on the Washington Wire, please contact Connie Garner at CGarner@ucp.org.

Sign up for our e-publications



Copyright © 2014 United Cerebral Palsy, All rights reserved.

[unsubscribe](#) from this list or **[update](#)** subscription preferences