



ACCSES Report on Public Policy Outcomes for 2011

In 2011, ACCSES advanced the unity of our industry, education about our issues, and increased grass roots advocacy through numerous personal visits, conference addresses, and telephone presentations reaching hundreds of current and potential ACCSES members. Below are the highlights of our legislative, regulatory, and membership outcomes in 2011.

Health Care Issue Outcomes

- Led national advocacy efforts to protect the Medicaid program for people with disabilities during the budget negotiations, resulting in Medicaid being protected from sequestration and budget cuts.
- Successfully fought the repeal of the maintenance of effort provision in the Affordable Care Act.
- Created State Medicaid Task Force within the Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities that examines system changes including Managed Care; ACCSES is a co-chair.
- Successfully advocated to extend the therapy caps exemption process.
- Joined and supported Habilitation Benefits Coalition to ensure habilitation benefits are covered within the new exchanges and that Medicaid coverage of these services is not lessened; published white paper and led public policy campaign to highlight services at the national level.
- Testified to the Institute of Medicine on the importance of the category rehabilitative and habilitative services and devices within healthcare reform and ensured the expansive interpretation of that category within the Institute of Medicine recommendations to the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS).

Independence Issue Outcomes

- Advocated for the continued provision of home and community-based services by disability service providers that are threatened in proposed regulation (Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) Notice of Proposed Rule Making on April 15, 2011).
- Provided members with draft letter to provide Members of Congress to request their Members send a letter to the Secretary of the HHS and the Administrator for CMS to request reconsideration of the proposed new definition of “integrated setting.”
- Provided members with Department of Justice technical assistance documents on the enforcement of Olmstead.
- Advocated to protect CLASS Act from repeal.

Employment Issue Outcomes

- Strongly advocated against negative views of center-based programs and preserved choices for people with disabilities in existing public policy.
- Supported the actions of regulators when filing cases against providers, such as the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission versus Henry's Turkey Farm in Iowa, which are found to abuse and discriminate against the individuals they are there to serve.
- Successfully advocated for the retention for Section 14(c) of the Fair Labor Standards Act.
- Successfully advocated for CMS guidance under the home and community-based services program that recognizes the continuum of service options including supported employment and prevocational services provided in center-based employment programs.
- Worked with national disability organizations to reach a broad-based consensus regarding competitive integrated employment under the Senate version of the reauthorization of the Rehabilitation Act.
- Advocated for members' issues in AbilityOne modernization.
- Provided analysis and technical assistance to members regarding counting temporary workers under the AbilityOne program.
- Provided a description and analysis to members on the CMS Informational Bulletin regarding 1915(c) and worked with ANCOR to deliver information to a broad base of disability service providers.
- Provided members with in-depth analysis of Senate staff discussion drafts of the reauthorization of the Workforce Investment Act and Rehabilitation Act.
- Worked with the Work Opportunities Tax Credit Coalition to advocate for the continuation of business incentives for hiring individuals with disabilities.

Education Issue Outcomes

- Worked with national disability advocates to ensure that Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) waivers granted by the Department of Education address the needs of students with disabilities.
- Provided analysis and opinion to stakeholders on the negative consequences to people with disabilities if the TEAM Act were to be passed and successfully worked to ensure the TEAM Act was not passed in 2011.
- Advocated for the reauthorization of the ESEA to ensure students with disabilities are fully included in reauthorization bills.

Additional Information Provided to Members

- Provided multiple in-depth analyses of federal appropriations and the presidential budget.
- Initiated the *ACCSES Speed Read* and social media outlets to better communicate pertinent information to members.
- Provided guidance, materials, and talking points to members for Congressional Recesses.
- Facilitated placing Bill Nelson from Bridgeway (ACCSES member) on the CARF International Advisory Board.
- Provided members with Internal Revenue Service guidance on non-profit rule clarifications.