



CONSORTIUM FOR CITIZENS WITH DISABILITIES

Employment and Training Task Force Annual Report 2016

The Employment and Training Task Force had a full year focused predominantly on regulatory matters and ensuring proper implementation of a number of laws with importance to the employment of people with disabilities.

WIOA

Of particular interest to the task force was the implementation of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act. When the final regulations were issued in August, the task force produced summaries of the regulations in comparison to its comments to the proposed rule. The task force also received a briefing by a member of the Advisory Committee on Increasing Competitive Integrated Employment for Individuals with Disabilities and the work of that body fulfilling its mandate under the law. Early in the year, the task force commented on subsequent WIOA regulations pertaining to Section 188 [done in concert with the Rights Task Force] and apprenticeship programs.

Section 503 and VEVRAA

The task force continued to monitor implementation of the new regulations governing federal contractor obligations to recruit and hire people and veterans with disabilities. Joining with the Veterans Task Force, this task force met with officials of the Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs to receive updates on contractor compliance and supported Congressional efforts to stop attempts to weaken enforcement of these regulations.

Other Documents, Letters and Comments

The task force expressed its support for the Transition to Independence Act in a September letter to the principal cosponsors and, during the year, worked on updating its Principles on Employment of People with Disabilities. From those efforts, the task force produced issue briefs outlining broad categories of policy interest that were incorporated into the CCD Presidential transition document.

Meetings

Early in 2016, cochairs met with HELP Committee staff to discuss implementation of WIOA, Section 503 and VEVRAA and the full task force had a discussion in June with Janet LaBreck, Commissioner of Rehabilitative Services Administration covering a range of topics from WIOA to some states' failure to use their allotment of federal VR funding. In the fall, the cochairs met with officials of the Council of State Administrators for Vocational Rehabilitation at their request to share their feedback on the status of the state vocational rehabilitation system. Soon after election day, the cochairs met

with the Chief of Staff to House Speaker Ryan concerning the 115th Congress agenda as it might affect disability employment issues.

Cross Task Force Collaborations

This task force continued its work with the Social Security Task Force on work incentives for people on SSI and SSDI and produced comments to an ANPRM on the Ticket to Work program issued in February. The Employment and Training Task Force also took part in a CCD cross task force work group on tax and work incentives to promote employment of people with disabilities that met throughout the year. The task force submitted comments jointly with Rights Task Force on the NPRM concerning Section 501 of the Rehabilitation Act affecting federal government policy on recruitment and hiring of people with disabilities.

Presentations

The task force heard presentations on a variety of subject matter during 2016. Early in the year, members of the World Institute on Disability briefed the task force on Career ACCESS, a proposal for young people with disabilities seeking independence through employment. The National Disability Rights Network discussed its work with other organizations seeking to modernize the Ability One program and representatives from RespectAbility reported on their reviews of state work plans being submitted under WIOA.

2017 Priorities

The task force expects that it will spend considerable time educating Congressional and new Administration officials about the value of programs and policies that promote employment of people with disabilities. In collaboration with other CCD task forces, the task force anticipates opposing efforts to undermine laws and regulations that support the employment of people with disabilities and will seek to focus on employment initiatives that can be achieved in the context of broader legislative movements.

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