



**CONSORTIUM FOR CITIZENS
WITH DISABILITIES**

Veterans and Military Families Task Force Annual Report for 2013

2013 ACTIVITIES

The CCD Veterans and Military Families task force held a congressional briefing on November 4 regarding the importance of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) for veterans. The briefing provided an overview of the bipartisan ADA, highlighted the role veterans and veterans organizations played in the ADA's passage, and discussed the law's important relevance today in helping veterans with disabilities succeed in the workplace. The briefing was part of CCD's series of briefings to educate congressional staff and advocates about the ADA.

As part of our preparation for the briefing, the task force received a presentation from Sharon Alexander, Special Assistant to the Chair of the EEOC, regarding EEOC's efforts to educate veterans with disabilities about employment protections under the ADA.

In addition to the briefing, the task force also lent its support to several pieces of legislation, including:

- Veterans Homebuyer Accessibility Act (H.R. 3422).
- Veterans Independent Living Enhancement Act (H.R. 3330).
- Disabled Military Child Protection Act (H.R. 2249/S. 1076).
- Housing Assistance for Veterans (HAVEN) Act (H.R. 385).
- CHAMPVA Children's Protection Act (H.R. 288).
- Rehabilitative Therapy Parity for Military Beneficiaries Act (H.R. 1705).

We also provided expertise and support for written testimony submitted for the record by three CCD task forces for a House subcommittee hearing that examined final rules announced related to federal contractor hiring of veterans and people with disabilities.

Lastly, the task force weighed in with the Administration on issues including employment, military family members with disabilities, and Olmstead implications for VA long-term services and supports. As part of our efforts on employment, we met with Assistant Secretary of the Veterans' Employment and Training Service Keith Kelly and responded to the Department of Labor's 2014-2018 strategic plan. We also sent a letter to the First Lady and Dr. Biden regarding the Joining Forces Initiative to encourage them to use the Initiative to focus on military families who have children with disabilities.

FUTURE ACTIVITIES

In 2014, the CDD Veterans and Military Families task force is planning to continue with our focus on connecting the veterans, military families, and disability communities on issues that impact all communities. As a result, the task force is planning to carry out the following activities:

- Meetings with the key staff of the House and Senate Veterans' Affairs and Armed Services Committees.
- A roundtable on implementation of VEVRAA and Section 503 to facilitate information sharing between the disability and veterans communities.
- A congressional briefing on mental health issues impacting veterans and military families, including children.

CO-CHAIRS IN 2013:

Heather Ansley, VetsFirst, a program of United Spinal Association

Maynard Friesz, Easter Seals

Susan Prokop, Paralyzed Veterans of America