



## **Task Force Name – Employment and Training Task Force**

**Top Legislative/Regulatory Issues** – The Employment and Training Task Force (E&TTF) has spent 2018 working to build consensus and to make the views of its constituent members known on critical issues around advancing employment opportunities for people with disabilities.

**#1 WIOA Regulatory Issues** – A crucial and controversial issue among our Task Force members is the perennial but unrealized threat by the Department of Education to revisit, reopen and tamper with the regulations associated with the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA). As with any substantive law, there have been implementation issues, especially around RSA’s interpretation and guidance, that have affected Task Force members and our state affiliates. However, a working group met multiple times to develop a [compromise document](#) reflecting a stronger consensus of our members. Did all Task Force members endorse the final document? No. However, the dialogue directly advanced our collective work. Thus far, despite multiple notices in the Unified Agenda, Education has yet to open the WIOA regs.

**Link:** <http://www.c-c-d.org/fichiers/CCD-ETTF-Letter-to-RSA-March-2018.pdf>

**Key Meetings: Working Group Meetings Jan-Mar. 2018, Mar. 2018 meeting with Asst. Sec. Collette (OSERS), Sept. 2018 meeting with OSERA/RSA**

**#2 Disability Employment Incentive Act (DEIA) of 2018** – Given the uncertainty of the mid-term elections, our Task Force was glad to see the continuing leadership of Sen. Bob Casey. At the end of July 2018, Sen. Casey introduced the Disability Employment Incentive Act (DEIA). This proposed legislation is “designed to encourage employers to hire and retain employees with disabilities” by enhancing the Work Opportunity, Disability Access Expenditures, and Architectural and Transportation Barrier Tax Credits. While this proposal gained little legislative traction in the final months of the 115<sup>th</sup> Congress, the bill accords with stated TF priorities and we are eager to see it advance in the new year.

**Link:** <http://www.c-c-d.org/fichiers/CCD-ETTF-and-Rights-Letter-to-Casey-Re-DEIA.pdf>

**#3 Comments on Federal Disability Employment/Regulatory Issues** – In February, the E&TTF joined with our colleagues from the Social Security Task Force to [submit public comments](#) in response to a Request for Information Regarding Strategies to Improve Adult Outcomes for Youth Receiving Supplemental Security Income, published on January 3, 2018 [Docket No. SSA–2017–0049]. Key recommendations included Transition and Postsecondary Programs, supporting work-based learning, codifying the rules regarding continuing disability reviews (CDRs) as well as data sharing with VR and education programs.

The Task Force also [wrote and submitted a letter](#) to the Secretary of Labor to express our concern about an Executive Order issued by the President entitled “Reducing Poverty in America by Promoting Opportunity and Economic Mobility.” The letter directly addresses the challenges involved with punitive work requirements on people receiving various federal benefits programs. Likewise, the Task Force [wrote a detailed letter](#) with clear recommendations to the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) in order to develop guidance concerning the treatment of service animals in the workplace. Lastly, E&TTF joined our colleagues on the Veterans Task Force to submit public comments on the information collection notice issued by OFCCP regarding 503 and VEVRAA.

**Links:**<http://www.c-c-d.org/fichiers/CCD-Comments-SSA-SSI-Youth-RFI-Docket-No-SSA20170049-final.pdf>  
<http://www.c-c-d.org/fichiers/CCD-ETTF-Letter-to-DOL-Re-EOApril-2018-FINAL.pdf>  
<http://www.c-c-d.org/fichiers/Service-Animals-in-the-Employment-Context-FINAL.pdf>  
<http://www.c-c-d.org/fichiers/CCD-ETTF-Veterans-and-Rights-Comments-re-503-and-VEVRAA-Notice-FINAL.pdf>



**Key Meetings: Neil Romano-Chair of the National Council on Disability, Senate HELP Committee staff, the House Disability Caucus, Council of State Administrators of Vocational Rehabilitation (CSAVR), the Office of Disability Employment Policy (ODEP), and the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC).**

With the new Congress and a New Year ahead, the Employment and Training Task Force is laying the groundwork for a productive 2019. Continuing Co-Chairs will be stepping up to better share administrative responsibilities and better clarity regarding member adherence to process and procedure. Of special note for next year is the report offered by the Minority Staff from the Senate HELP Committee and the office of Senator Patty Murray. This report, along with several key NCD reports, offers credible action items that will be debated, discussed and guide our work going forward.

**Task Force Meeting Time and Day of the Month – The Employment and Training Task Force meets from 10am to 12pm on the fourth Thursday of each month.**

**Task Force Website – [http://www.c-c-d.org/rubriques.php?rub=taskforce.php&id\\_task=4](http://www.c-c-d.org/rubriques.php?rub=taskforce.php&id_task=4)**

**Task Force Co-Chairs:**

**Alicia Epstein, SourceAmerica – Phone: (703) 584-3987 Email: [aepstein@sourceamerica.org](mailto:aepstein@sourceamerica.org)**

**Susan Prokop, PVA – Phone: (202) 416-7707 Email: [susanp@pva.org](mailto:susanp@pva.org)**

**Aaron Kaufman, JFNA – Phone: (202) 785-493 Email: [aaron.kaufman@jewishfederations.org](mailto:aaron.kaufman@jewishfederations.org)**

**Philip Kahn-Pauli, RespectAbility – <https://>Phone: (202) 517-6272 Email: [philipp@respectability.org](mailto:philipp@respectability.org)**