



What's Happening on the Hill and Beyond?

Shannon McCracken

InterHab ~ October 13, 2022



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[ancor.org](https://www.ancor.org)

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Reconciliation Push! Now or never.



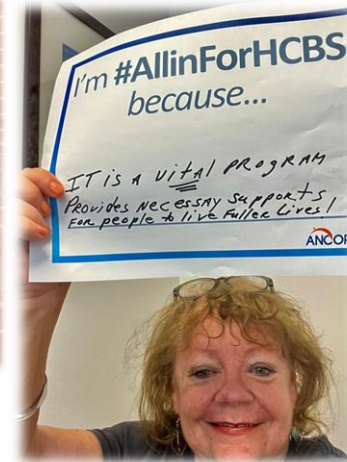
**SUPPORT
OUR DIRECT
CARE
WORKFORCE**

#ALLINFORHCBS



Support for the Home and Community-Based Services program will raise wages for the direct care workforce, create jobs, and expand access for individuals with disabilities to home and community-based care.

#AllInForHCBS



Take Action!

12:14 5G

American Network of Community Options & Resources

Hi Shannon in Prospect, KY!

It's Time To Go All In For HCBS!

The Ask:

Use our action tool to tell your Senators that you're #AllInForHCBS and now is the time to support funding for HCBS!

The Details:

Congress has an opportunity to make an historic investment in the Medicaid Home and Community Based Services

Send Message

AA votervoice.net

12:14 5G

through the budget reconciliation process.

Write **Tweet** **Call**

Compose Your Message

- Senator Mitch McConnell Jr.
- Senator Rand Paul

Tell your Senators to support an investment in the Medicaid HCBS program.

Subject

Support the Medicaid HCBS Program

Message Body

As your constituent, I urge you to support a budget reconciliation bill that includes \$150 billion in funding for the Medicaid Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) program. This funding is critical for investing in the direct

Review Your Profile [Not Shannon?](#)

Ms. Shannon McCracken
mccracken.shannon@gmail.com

Send Message

votervoice.net

ANCOR Advocacy Year in Review



18,768

The number of emails, Tweets & phone calls sent to members of Congress

ANCOR Advocacy Year in Review



718

The number of respondents to ANCOR's third annual *State of the Direct Support Workforce Crisis* survey

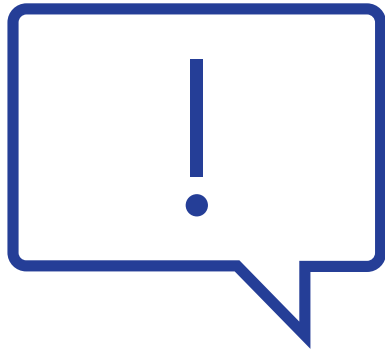
ANCOR Advocacy Year in Review



\$27,000

The number of dollars raised to support congressional disability champions through the ANCOR DC PAC

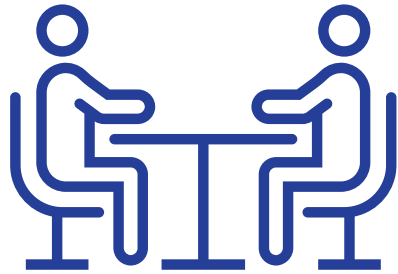
ANCOR Advocacy Year in Review



24

The number of comment letters sent by ANCOR to Congress & the Biden Administration

ANCOR Advocacy Year in Review



43

The number of meetings with congressional staffers held by members of ANCOR's staff

Inflation Reduction Act

- The Inflation Reduction Act (IRA), the revised budget reconciliation bill, passed the Senate on August 7.
- The IRA passed along party lines, with all 50 Democrats voting in favor, all 50 Republicans voting against, and Vice President Harris breaking the tie.
- The House came back into town to pass the bill on August 12.
- On August 16, President Biden signed the bill into law.



What's in the IRA?

Healthcare provisions:

- Prescription drug price reform, allowing Medicare negotiation of drug prices for certain drugs
- Expands Affordable Care Act subsidies originally expanded under the ARPA for three years
- Caps insulin costs at \$35/month and will cap out-of-pocket drug costs at \$2,000 for people on Medicare

Additional provisions:

- Deficit reduction
- 15% corporate minimum tax rate for large companies and 1% excise tax on stock buybacks; increased tax enforcement through the IRS
- Domestic energy security and climate change reform, including extending the solar investment tax credit for 10 years
- Drought resiliency for western states

What's NOT in the IRA?

The key provisions included in the House-passed Build Back Better Act were not included in the IRA. Those key provisions are:

- Increased funding for Medicaid HCBS (6% FMAP bump with an additional 2% increase to support self-directed care).
- Increased frequency of payment rates review for HCBS providers (initially after 2 years then every 3 years thereafter).
- Permanent extension of Medicaid protections against spousal impoverishment.
- Permanent extension of the Money Follows the Person program.
- \$270 million for a grant program to assist states that choose to phase out 14c certificates (i.e., those that enable providers to pay Medicaid beneficiaries subminimum wages).
- \$1 billion over a ten-year period to support the direct care workforce through grants from the U.S. Department of Labor, in coordination with the Administration for Community Living, to invest in strategies to recruit, retain, and advance the direct care workforce.

What Happens Now??

High stakes mid-term elections

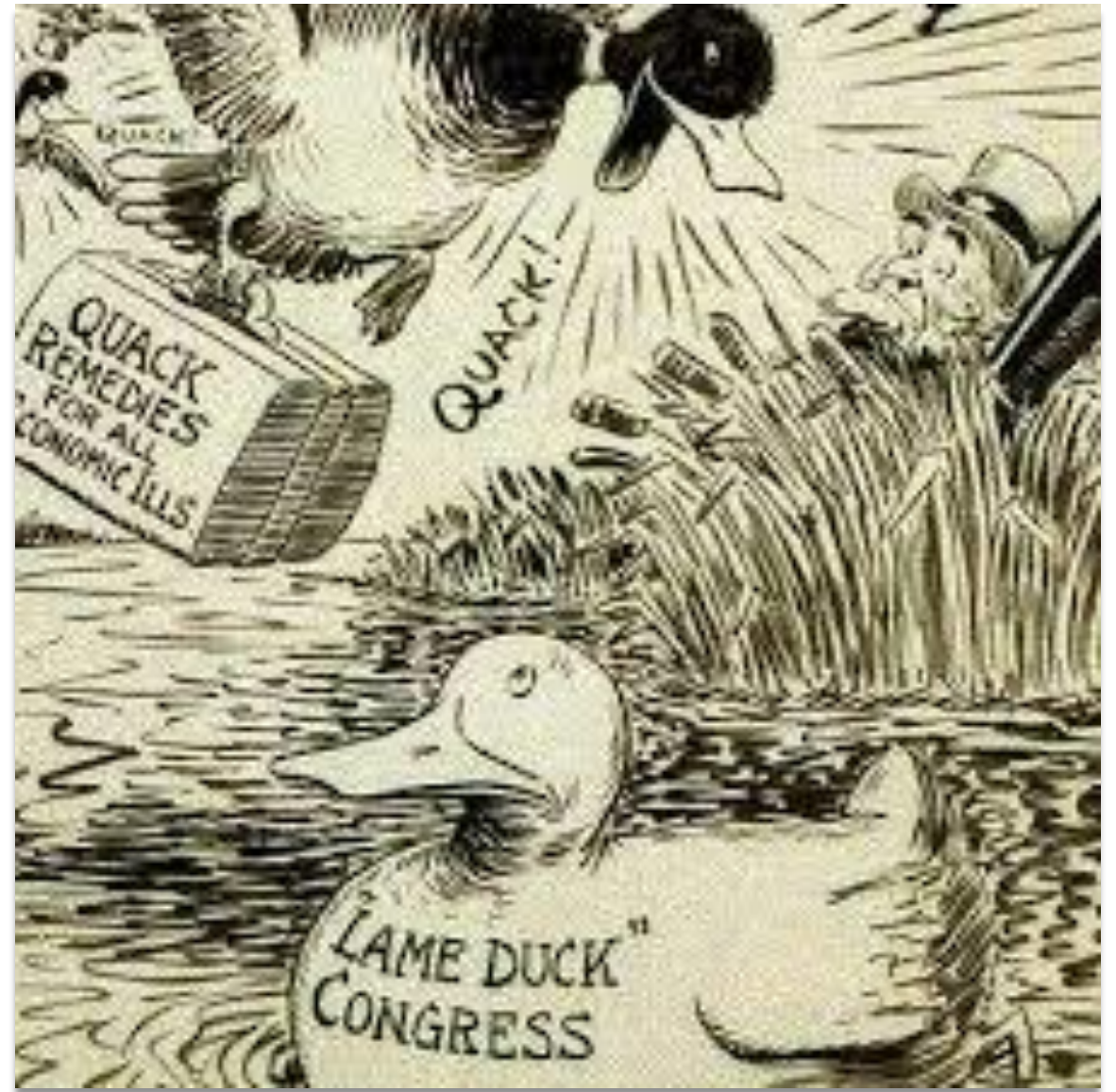
Lame Duck Session

End of Year Funding Package

- ~ Extend ARPA?

- ~ MFP permanent

- ~ Other ANCOR priorities



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The Balance of Power



Save Access to Community Services

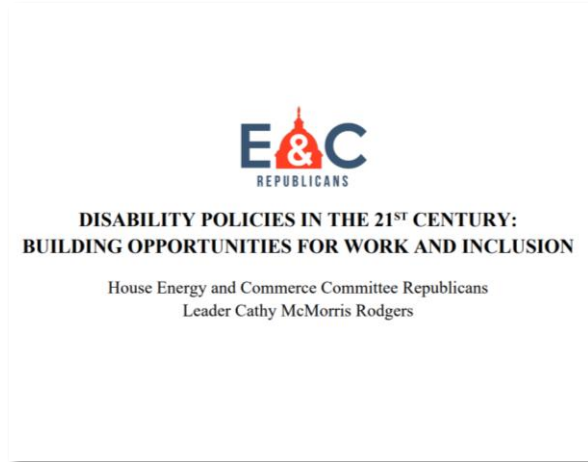
Immediate legislation to stabilize the DSP workforce is critical to ensure the home- and community-based services program remains sustainable:

- **Increase Funding for Workforce Initiatives**
- **Create a Standard Occupational Classification for DSPs**
- **Support Career Pipeline Programs for DSPs**



#NewNowNext

House Energy & Commerce Committee Request For Information



LTSS Access &
Waitlists

Assistive technologies
& accommodations

Integrated
Employment

Our Focus: DSP Workforce Emergency



- Flexibility
- Funding
- HCBS Settings Rule
- Access RFI
- SOC Legislation
- Immigration
- Technology

2022 Workforce Survey Results Just Released



The Direct Support Workforce in Crisis

The results of our 2022 survey reveal that this workforce emergency is now to the point of denying access to services and further threatening quality of services for people with I/DD. Over the course of a four-week period beginning in August 2022, ANCOR fielded a survey across its provider network that garnered 718 responses.



Providers are unable to attract and retain DSPs at a rate that, if left unaddressed, could completely collapse the system of services.



#NewNowNext

Key Survey Findings

- **83%** of providers are turning away new referrals, representing a 25.8% pre-pandemic increase.
- **63%** of providers are discontinuing programs and services, representing a 85.3% increase since the beginning of the pandemic.
- **55%** of providers are considering additional service discontinuations.
 - Another 37% indicated they were not sure,
 - Only 8% responded they would not.



#NewNowNext

Key Survey Findings

- **92%** of providers are struggling to achieve quality standards, representing a 33.3% pre-pandemic increase
- **66%** of providers are concerned vacancy/turnover rates will increase with the end of the PHE
- **71%** of case managers are struggling to find available providers.
 - 42% of respondents reported that they offer case management in addition to LTSS and 71% of those respondents indicated that it is difficult to connect families with services due to lack of available providers.



#NewNowNext

Workforce Uses for Pandemic Relief

- **85%** of respondents reported receiving some form of one-time federal pandemic relief funding:
 - **72.3%** invested in one-time wage increases
 - **75.3%** invested in one-time workforce bonuses
 - **59.1%** invested in one-time hiring incentives
 - **26.9%** invested into training/prof development

6.2% of providers indicated they were unable to invest in workforce initiatives due to financial strain.



#NewNowNext

Recognizing the Role of Direct Support Professionals Act

- Introduced in House (H.R. 4779) and Senate (S. 1437)
- Bipartisan legislation
- The bill would circumvent the lengthy OMB SOC revision process
- *“The Director of the Office of Management and Budget shall, not later than 30 days after the date of enactment of this Act, revise the Standard Occupational Classification system to establish a separate code (31–1123) for direct support professionals as a healthcare support occupation. Such code shall be a subset of 31–1120, which includes home health aides and personal care aides.”*



Not All "Caregiving" Occupations Are Alike

NADSP Competencies	DSP	NA	HHA	PCA	LPN
Participant Empowerment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Communication	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Assessment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Community and Service Networking	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Facilitation of Services	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Community Living Skills and Supports	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Education, Training and Self-Development	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Advocacy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Vocational, Educational and Career Support	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Crisis Prevention and Intervention	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Organizational Participation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Documentation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Building and Maintaining Friendships and Relationships	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Provide Person-Centered Support	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Supporting Health and Wellness	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

ANCOR SOC Advocacy



Administrative Strategy

- Reach out to OMB and BLS
- Provide input to SOC Policy Committee
- Last outreach to BLS was in 2018 (Congressional letter)

Legislative Strategy

- Increase support for SOC legislation, educate members of Congress on importance of SOC for DSPs
- Outreach to House Education and Labor Committee members, Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee members

Bipartisan Support for SOC Bill

Senate Co-Sponsors:

- Sen. Maggie Hassan (D-NH) **
- Sen. Susan Collins (R-ME)
- Sen. Bob Casey (D-PA)
- Sen. Joni Ernst (R-IA)
- Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand (D-NY)

House Co-Sponsors:

- Rep. Kathleen Rice (D-NY-04) **
- Rep. Brendan Boyle (D-PA-02)
- Rep. Brian Fitzpatrick (R-PA-01)
- Rep. John Katko (R-NY-24)
- Rep. Sean Maloney (D-NY-18)
- Antonio Delgado (D-NY-19)
- Rep. Josh Gottheimer (D-NJ-05)
- Rep. Susan Wild (D-PA-07)
- Rep. Ann Kuster (D-NH-02)
- Rep. Kathy Manning (D-NC-06)
- Rep. Deborah Ross (D-NC-02)

So Many Ways to Be Engaged....

- Board of Representatives
- Government Relations Committee
- Grassroots Committee
- ANCOR Disability Champions Political Action Committee
- Alternate Payment Models Workgroup
- Housing Task Force
- ANCOR Global Council
- Professional & Organizational Development Committee
- ANCOR Foundation
- ANCOR Board of Directors



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See just some of the benefits your own members would get with 100% State Association membership.

 703.535.7850

 gsedor@ancor.org



Drive Advocacy

Drive recommendations around federal policy & legislation that impact services and supports for people with I/DD.



Connect with Community

Join more than 10,000 colleagues and peers across the nation via ANCOR's Connected Community.



Access Instant Expertise

Get curated information and analysis on the top issues facing our sector delivered to your inbox almost daily.



Secure Member-Only Discounts

Access discounts from trusted ANCOR partners, as well as discounts on all ANCOR events, including conferences and webinars.

ANCOR Annual Conference 2023

<https://www.ancor.org/2023conference>

CHICAGO

April 24-26, 2023



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Questions

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