

THE ARC OF THE UNITED STATES,  
UNITED CEREBRAL PALSY,  
AMERICAN ASSOCIATION ON INTELLECTUAL  
AND DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES,  
ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY CENTERS ON DISABILITIES,  
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF COUNCILS  
ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES, AND  
SELF ADVOCATES BECOMING EMPOWERED

*Present the:*



***A NEW ERA: EMBRACING OPPORTUNITIES  
IN THE FACE OF GRAVE CHALLENGES***

***April 27-29***

The Hyatt Regency Washington  
on Capitol Hill  
400 New Jersey Avenue NW  
Washington, DC

*A New Era: Embracing Opportunities In The Face Of Grave Challenges*, the 2009 Disability Policy Seminar theme, will explore the unique challenges and opportunities facing the new 111<sup>th</sup> Congress and Obama Administration brought about by the 2008 election results and the economic crisis.

The 2008 election results are bringing significant changes to the Executive Branch and the Congress. Republicans lost the White House and had their minority status further eroded in the House and Senate. Moderates and incumbents were other high casualty groups, losing a number of important seats.

The U.S. economy is in recession and most states are facing severe shortfalls in their budgets. As budgets shrink, many vital services and support for people with disabilities are being cut. With change as a central theme of both the elections and plans for economic recovery, we will explore effective strategies to obtain support from both sides of the aisle for disability issues.

At the 2009 Seminar, hundreds of disability advocates from around the country will gather to discuss a wide range of public policy issues affecting people with disabilities and their families. We expect the following public policy issues will take center stage:

- Budget and Appropriations
- Entitlements (Medicaid, Medicare, Social Security)
- Health Care and Long Term Services Reform
- Developmental Disabilities Act
- Employment

Once again, the Disability Policy Seminar will provide you with all the tools and information to advocate with the U.S. Congress so we can work toward these goals together. You will get to:

- Hear from leading public policy experts, disability advocates, and Congressional staff about key policies important to our constituencies;
- Put the Seminar sessions into practice by visiting Capitol Hill to meet your Congressional delegation; and
- Deliver a unified message to Congress and the Administration that disability benefits and services are our top priorities.

Together, The Arc of the United States, United Cerebral Palsy (UCP), American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (AAIDD), Association of University Centers on Disabilities (AUCD), National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities (NACDD), and Self Advocates Becoming Empowered (SABE) will look to our extensive grassroots networks to advocate in a bipartisan manner for national public policies promoting the full inclusion of people with disabilities in our society.

Send as many representatives to the Seminar from your organization as possible, including:

- Volunteers, Board Members and Parents
- Staff and Trainees
- Constituents
- State and Local Public Policy Committee Members
- Policy Staff
- Self-advocates

Your paid registration entitles you to:

- All Seminar sessions
- Tuesday's Luncheon
- A comprehensive package of issue fact sheets and other materials.

### **How to prepare for the Disability Policy Seminar:**

1. **Share this information with your Board, staff, disability community leaders, and colleagues.** Work together to determine who will attend the Seminar in 2009.
2. **Register for the Seminar.** Register on-line (preferred option) at: <https://aaiddonline.aaid.org/events/EV04EventDetail.aspx?eventID=1057>  
Please note that on-line registration is only available if you are paying by credit card or electronic check.

**OR**

Return the [Seminar registration form](#), postmarked by **April 3, 2009** to AAIDD, 501 3rd Street, NW, Suite 200, Washington, DC 20001. Please include a registration form for each participant with payment.

Registration fees increase by **\$60** after **April 3, 2009**

3. **Make your hotel reservations.** Reservations **MUST** be made directly with the Hyatt Regency Washington on Capitol Hill by **April 3, 2009**. Do not wait until the last moment as the hotel rooms, particularly the accessible rooms, have sold out quickly in previous years. A special Web site has been set up for reservations for the Disability Policy Collaboration at: [https://resweb.passkey.com/Resweb.do?mode=welcome\\_gi\\_new&groupID=143858](https://resweb.passkey.com/Resweb.do?mode=welcome_gi_new&groupID=143858) . Alternatively, you can call the hotel toll free at 1-800-233-1234.

The hotel rate is \$275.00 per night. This special rate is not available on the hotel's main Web site. The hotel requires a major credit card for the first night's deposit to guarantee a room reservation. The hotel is located at 400 New Jersey Avenue NW, Washington, DC.

**4. Make your own appointments as soon as possible with your Washington Congressional delegation for Wednesday, April 29.**

Please call your Representative's and Senators' Washington offices and ask to speak to the scheduler. You can locate Members' websites and obtain contact information (usually under the "constituent services" section) by entering your zip code at <http://www.house.gov/> and selecting your state at: <http://www.senate.gov/>.

Please prioritize your visits to those Senators and Representatives who serve on the following key legislative committees (click on the following links to see membership):

**Senate**

- \* [Senate Appropriations Committee, Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services and Education Appropriations](#)
- \* [Senate Appropriations Committee, Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies](#)
- \* [Senate Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs Committee](#)
- \* [Senate Finance Committee](#)
- \* [Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions \(HELP\) Committee](#)
- \* [Senate Judiciary Committee](#)

**House**

- \* [House Appropriations Committee, Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services and Education Appropriations](#)
- \* [House Appropriations Committee, Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies](#)
- \* [House Committee on Education and Labor](#)
- \* [House Committee on Energy and Commerce](#)
- \* [House Committee on Financial Services](#)
- \* [House Judiciary Committee, Subcommittee on the Constitution, Civil Rights, and Civil Liberties](#)
- \* [House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure](#)
- \* [House Ways and Means Committee](#)

**5. Starting in February, check The Arc, UCP, AAIDD, AUCD, NACDD, and SABE web sites for an updated registrant list from your state so that you can coordinate your Hill appointments with others in your state.**

**Don't forget these dates!**

- **April 3, 2009** – Disability Policy Seminar registration deadline without incurring a \$60 late fee and hotel registration deadline.

- **April 3, 2009** – This is the last date for submitting a cancellation. All cancellations will be subject to a 25% penalty and refund requests must be sent in writing. Requests received after close of business on this date cannot be honored.
- **April 29, 2009** – Date for visits to your Congressional offices.

For additional information and updates, contact: Evelyn Powell at tel. 202-783-2229 or [powell@thearc.org](mailto:powell@thearc.org)

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