

March 13, 2009

ANCOR's Government Relations Weekly E-Update

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**Card Check Legislation Introduced Would Undermine Balance of Employee, Union and Employer Interests.** This week House Education and Labor Chairman Miller (D-CA) and Senate HELP Committee Chairman Kennedy (D-CA) reintroduced the Employee Free Choice Act (commonly called *Card Check*) that would significantly change the Fair Labor Relations Act in ways that would negatively affect workers and providers. [ANCOR's recent Alert](#) asks members to contact their Congressional delegation--especially their Senators--and urge them to oppose this legislation.

**HHS Creates Office of Recovery Act Coordination and Launches [Website](#) to track the progress of HHS activities funded through the ARRA .**

**[Michigan](#) Kicked Off Obama Administration's Health Care Reform Forums Yesterday, [California, Iowa, North Carolina and Vermont](#) to Follow with Forums in March and April.**

**Obama Signs \$410 Billion FY 2009 Omnibus Spending Bill.** The measure ([HR 1105](#)) funds government agencies through September 30th and includes eight previously unapproved FY 2009 appropriations bills, including funding for the departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and HUD. The [House approved the measure](#) last month, and the [Senate approved the bill](#) on Tuesday. Since October 2008, the federal government has operated under a continuing resolution that funded most Cabinet departments and federal agencies at FY 2008 levels until March 6th. Approval of FY 2009 appropriations clears the decks for Congress to begin considering FY 2010 appropriations.

## State Updates

**Arizona Court Orders [Preliminary Injunction](#) Brought by State Association Prohibiting State from Implementing DD Service and Provider Cuts.** The Arizona Association of

## Back by Popular Demand!

**Next Step in the Medicaid FMAP Offense: Preparing ANCOR Members for State and Local Action** -- Presented by [Barbara Coulter Edwards](#), Health Care Management Associates

Encore Presentation:  
Tuesday, March 17, 2009  
1:00-2:15 p.m. (EST)

Free for ANCOR Members, members of State Associations, and state Medicaid and MR/DD Directors

[Session Description](#)  
[Registration](#)

## Reminder

[ANCOR is surveying all members](#) to determine how states are planning to use Federal Medicaid (FMAP) money from the recovery package to prevent further cuts to supports and services to people with disabilities.

## NAC Corner



**YOU NEED TO KNOW ME**  
I am a Direct Support Professional

**H.R.868 gains 4 new co-sponsors!** Representatives **Eric Massa (D-NY)**, **Tom Latham (R-IA)**, **Jerry Moran (R-KS)** and **Dale Kildee (D-MI)** signed on this week! Thanks to **John Severtson** of Opportunity Village for contacting Rep. Latham and **Jerry Michaud** of DSNWK for contacting Rep. Moran. Great

Providers for Persons with Disabilities (AAPPD) and a coalition of individuals with developmental disabilities and providers as plaintiffs [sought relief](#) from the actions of the Department of Economic Security in implementing state budget reductions that violated numerous federal and state laws. Writing that this Court will not "lose sight of the forest for the trees" and the state's action would likely lead to "immediate and irreparable harm," an Arizona Superior Court judge issued a preliminary injunction in March, ordering the state not to carry out service suspensions and reductions and rate cuts pursuant to individuals with developmental disabilities--[suspending \\$18 million in cuts](#). Congratulations AAPPD! Thanks to **Wendy Sokol** for the updates on this important victory!

[California Regional Center Will Stop Paying Providers and Close Doors in May, Barring Additional Funding.](#) Thanks to **Ron Cohen** of **UCP** for this update.

[ADDP Sends Briefing to Massachusetts Legislators on Using Stimulus Funds to Avoid Cuts to Disability Services.](#) Thanks to **Gary Blumenthal** of **ADDP** for this idea for working at the state level on stimulus funding for disability programs.

[Mississippi Lawmakers Agree Not to Hike Hospital Provider Tax Given FMAP Increase.](#)

[Disability Rights Activists March to Protest Cuts to Disability Programs.](#) Roughly 50 individuals with disabilities and supporters gathered at [Oregon's state capitol](#) this week in a rally to protest deep cuts to Social Services. [In Massachusetts](#), hundreds gathered at the State House to the governor's proposal to cut \$78 million from disability services for FY2010.

[Read what Governors are Saying about State Issues in Summaries of State of the State Speeches.](#)

**Reminder** -- Please send state--specific news related to Medicaid, budgets, or other issues of importance to providers to ANCOR Staffer [Anne Fiala](#).

Work!

[Help Gather Supporters for H.R.868.](#) Use ANCOR's Action Center to contact your Representative and ask them to co-sponsor [H.R. 868](#)! Using the Action Center is easy and also provides us feedback on your outreach. Check out ANCOR's [Workforce Shortage webpage](#) for more information.



## Spotlight Resources

**New Data Available from Kaiser Family Foundation:**

- [State Fiscal Distress](#)
- [State Budgets](#)
- [Children's Health Insurance Program](#)
- [Temporary Federal Medicaid Relief under ARRA](#)
- [FY 2009 State Medicaid Cost Containment Actions Taken To Date](#)
- [FY 2007 State Positive Medicaid Policy Taken to Date](#)

[Commonwealth Fund: ARRA Health Provisions and Early Impact on States](#)

[GAO: Influenza Pandemic: Sustaining Focus on the Nation's Planning and Preparedness Efforts](#)



## [Advocacy Tool Kit](#)



## Quick Links

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[2008 ANCOR Disability and Medicaid State Fact Sheets](#)

[HCBS Waiver Technical Guide: Instructions, Timelines, and Federal Requirements](#)

[CMS Medicaid Waiver and Demonstration List](#)

[CMS Medicaid Waiver and Demonstration Map by States](#)

[Cash and Counseling National Project](#)

[HCBS Clearinghouse](#)

[CMS Independence Plus & Self-Direction](#)

[Statehealthfacts.org](#)

[Suellen Galbraith](#), *Director for Government Relations* | [Jessica Sadowsky](#), *Government Relations Associate* | [Anne Fiala](#), *Government Relations Assistant*

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