



The Grassroots Project

Engage. Connect. Advocate.



Administered by Human Services Research Institute
with funding from the Administration for Community Living



Today's webinar:

An Overview of H.R. 1

National Advocacy & Action Coalition

- National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities
- National Disability Rights Network
- Association of University Centers on Disabilities
- Autistic Self-Advocacy Network
- Self-Advocacy Resource and Technical Assistance Center
- Association of Programs for Rural Independent Living
- National Council on Independent Living
- National Paralysis Resource Center
- National Associations of State Head Injury Administrators
- Alliance for Rights and Recovery
- National Disability Family Networks (UMKC)
- #MEAction
- MindFreedom International
- Communication First

State and Local Advocacy and Action Coalitions

- Brain Injury Coalition in Iowa
 - Kansas and North Carolina Little Lobbyists
 - Project 70Forward
 - MA Accessible Transportation Coalition
 - Texas Disability Alliance
 - Get On Board
 - Disability Justice Alliance
 - Rise Up, Speak Out
 - Arizona Achieve
- Virginia Autism Coalition
 - Allied Help Coalition VI

Alison Barkoff



Alison Barkoff is the Harold and Jane Hirsh Associate Professor of Health Law and Policy at George Washington University and Director of its Hirsh Health Law and Policy Program.

She previously led the Administration for Community Living at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (2021–2024), where she oversaw national aging and disability programs and advised on related policy, including during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Earlier in her career, she held senior roles at the Department of Justice, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, and the Department of Labor, and worked in nonprofit advocacy. A nationally recognized disability rights lawyer, she has spent over 25 years advancing access to care, community living, and anti-discrimination protections.

She is a graduate of Cornell University and Emory University School of Law.

Sarah Swanson



Sarah Swanson is an Assistant Professor at the UNMC Munroe-Meyer Institute, which is Nebraska's University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities.

She is the program director for MMI's Family Care Enhancement Project, which places Parent Resource Coordinators in medical clinics across Nebraska. She serves on many state and national committees to improve access and promote activities that benefit people with disabilities and their families.

She is currently serving as a national consultant for the Association of University Centers for Disabilities as part of the Administration for Community Living's Grassroots Project.

Ben HsuBorger



Ben HsuBorger is the Advocacy Director for #MEAction and a disabled activist living with Myalgic Encephalomyelitis (ME). Ben directs a pilot program funded by the Minnesota Department of Health to increase access to Medicaid Home and Community-Based Services for people with Long COVID and ME/CFS.

He previously served on the HHS Assistant Secretary of Health's Chronic Fatigue Syndrome Advisory Committee.

Jessica Podesva



Jessica Podesva is the Director of Advocacy and Public Policy at the National Council on Independent Living. Prior to this role, Jessica worked at the Boston Center for Independent Living (BCIL) as a Senior Community Organizer working primarily on healthcare and transportation issues, including improving Massachusetts’s non-emergency medical transportation program and working with the state’s Medicaid agency to shorten the timelines for wheelchair repairs.

Prior to working at BCIL, Jessica worked as an Equal Justice Works Fellow at Greater Boston Legal Services, where she provided advocacy to ensure that people with disabilities had access to integrated and respectful healthcare in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act. Jessica has a Juris Doctor degree from New England Law Boston and a B.A. in Communications from SUNY Plattsburgh.

Erin Prangle



Erin Prangle serves as Director of Public Policy at the National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities (NACDD), representing the 56 state and territorial Councils on Developmental Disabilities across the U.S. With over 25 years of experience in public policy, law, and civil rights, she advocates for federal policies that advance the self-determination, inclusion, and empowerment of people with developmental disabilities.

Prior to NACDD, Ms. Prangle was Associate Director of Public Policy at the American Association of University Women (AAUW), where she championed educational and economic equity with a focus on diversity and inclusion. Her Capitol Hill experience includes serving as Deputy Chief of Staff to Congressman Brad Sherman (CA) and Legislative Assistant to Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton (DC). She has also practiced law in employment, veterans' benefits, and immigration.

Ms. Prangle holds a J.D. from American University Washington College of Law and a B.S. in Sociology from the University of Southern California.

H.R. 1 Advocacy Resources

- **Recommendations for Mitigating Harms to People with Disabilities, Older Adults, and Caregivers from Medicaid Work Requirements**
 - Created by National Health Law Program (NHeLP), Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law, and Justice in Aging
 - <https://healthlaw.org/resource/recommendations-for-mitigating-harms-to-people-with-disabilities-older-adults-and-caregivers-from-medicaid-work-requirements/>
- **Mitigating the Harms of Medicaid Work Requirements for Older Adults: Tools for State Advocates**
 - Created by Justice in Aging, with an excellent list of resources
 - <https://justiceinaging.org/mitigating-harms-medicaid-work-requirements-template-letter/>

Association of University Centers on Disability

Newsletter: <https://www.aucd.org/disability-policy-news>

Tuesdays with Liz, Disability Policy for All: <https://www.aucd.org/disability-policy-for-all>

Disability Scoop: <https://www.disabilityscoop.com/>

Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services

PowerPoint Presentations: [Home & Community Based Services Training Series | Medicaid](#)

Kaiser Family Foundation

Policy Briefs: <https://www.kff.org/topic/medicaid/>

National Health Law Program

Policy Briefs: [Resource Library - National Health Law Program](#)

Contact Us:

Grassroots@HSRI.org

Stay tuned for ...

- The recording and PowerPoint for this webinar will be available for download at:

<https://www.hsri.org/projects/the-grassroots-project/>



Thank you

**Please Complete Our
Engagement Survey:**

https://qualtricsxm6vjvbs97z.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_81x758iFuEqIGce

