New Horizon



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Lawmakers Look To Fully Fund IDEA

Reprinted from DisAbility Scoop / by Michelle Diament | April 2, 2019



Bipartisan legislation to substantially increase Uncle Sam's investment in special education is back on the table.

Federal funding for educating students with disabilities would gradually increase under a bill known as the IDEA Full Funding Act. which was introduced by lawmakers in the U.S. Senate

and House of Representatives late last month.

The measure calls for incremental hikes in federal funding for special education, with the government taking on 40 percent of the cost — a level known as "full funding" — beginning in fiscal year 2029.

When the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act was passed in 1975, Congress committed to paying 40 percent of the associated price tag. However, that has never happened and today the federal government is footing just 14.7 percent of the cost of special education, according to lawmakers behind the new legislation.

"Because the federal government has failed to honor its IDEA funding promise. K-12 schools and school districts throughout America have been forced to pay more than their fair share," said Rep. Jared Huffman, D-Calif., who introduced the measure, H.R.1878. "That means less funding for everything from teacher pay to class size to affording music, art and physical education classes. That's why the bipartisan IDEA Full Funding Act to finally honor the IDEA promise is probably the most significant thing the federal government can do to support K-12 schools."

In addition to Huffman, the House bill is backed by Reps. John Katko, R-N.Y., Joe Neguse, D-Colo., David McKinley, R-W.Va., Dean Phillips, D-Minn., Brian Fitzpatrick, R-Pa., Kurt Schrader, D-Ore., and Glen Thompson, R-Pa. A companion bill, S.866, was introduced by Sens. Chris Van Hollen, D-Md., and Pat Roberts, R-Kan.

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"My Two Cents" By Tim Doherty, Executive Director

This month, I asked Elaine Downes, a tenant & board member, to contribute something for my column. I think you will enjoy her thoughts.



For our tenants- transitions, transitions, transitions...

There always seems to be an adjustment phase or a new adaptation to living such as leaving home, going to college, working, traumatic loss, medical diagnosis, or worsening of an existing disability. How does one cope with these ever changing events?

Not long ago, I moved into Project Freedom which was in a new town, in a new county for me. Since I did not know the county, it was a little overwhelming for me in the beginning. I was wondering if other tenants at Project Freedom can relate to what I am talking about.

What I did at first was to get to know what was happening at PF, so I went to the office of the Social Services Coordinator to see what was available. To my surprise there many activities going on at all the PF complexes. Yoga, bingo games, nutrition class, artistic/creative activities and grocery shopping are scheduled. During the holidays, additional festivities with food are provided. Also, the wonderful bread donations from stores in the community and free fresh organic vegetables in the summer are truly awesome. I hope tenants take advantage of this because everything is so expensive these days and this sure helps with the food budget.

I also learned about transportation options. I obtained a NJ Transit bus card that reduces your fare, even though I can drive with hand controls. I did this in case my vehicle should break down. There is also Access Link and Trade, available after filing out an eligibility application. Project Freedom's Club Freedom also provides transport to local sports events, shore trips, dine out and shopping.

I then ventured out into the community and found the Senior Citizen Center in my town, which has all types of activities available. The Library (I love to read) also is filled with resources to events in the community and elsewhere.

I have settled in now and adjusted to my new living situation, but it is hard for me as a person with a disability to deal with the ever changing issues of my disability. I have learned that when our condition changes and we cannot function as well as we once did, we may need to have the aid of adaptive equipment for mobility and safety and also perhaps some counseling. I have always been a very energetic and positive person. I try to meditate at times, be around positive people and keep busy. Although doing this is never easy, it's important to persevere.

From Norman's Desk



It is May! It is time for my annual rant as we near Hurricane Season. "In the next decade, the probability of a major hurricane hitting the Northeast is one and a half to two times greater than in recent years. We are returning to the earlier decades where landfalls were more common," said the late Dr. William Gray, Emeritus Professor, Department of Atmospheric Science, Colorado State University:

That prediction came true over five years ago with Hurricane/Super-Storm Sandy slamming into New Jersey. This year's predictions by Colorado State University's team, now headed by Dr. Philip J. Klotzbach, is for a "slightly below" average season for 2019.

This is the 36th year that the CSU hurricane research team has issued the Atlantic basin seasonal hurricane forecast. Recently, the Tropical Meteorology Project team has expanded to include Michael Bell, associate professor in the Department of Atmospheric

Science, and Jordan Jones, graduate research assistant in the same department. William Gray launched the report in 1984 and continued to be an author on them until his death in 2016.

Dr. Klotzbach's team's initial prediction is: A total of 13 named storms with five hurricanes and two of them becoming major hurricanes. Last year's prediction was 14 named storms, five becoming hurricanes, and two reaching the major threshold. The actual number for the 2018 season was 16 named storms; six of these storms turned into hurricanes with six being "major" in power and scale. Remember Hurricanes Harvey and Maria? The prediction also estimates the probabilities of at least one major hurricane making landfall:

For the Entire U.S. coastline – 48% (Last year it was 62%)

For the U.S. East Coast including Peninsula Florida – 28% (39% last year)

With this year's prediction in mind, it is not too early to start thinking about severe weather and being prepared for it. The first step is being more aware of both the potential threat and the "emergent" or imminent threat. Here is what FEMA recommends that people with disabilities do to address that need.

Severe Weather Preparedness for People with Disabilities

It is important to know in advance what steps you need to take to keep yourself and your family safe.

Do you know the best way to get emergency alerts and warnings? If you have a disability that affects your communication, identify the best ways for you to access emergency information in advance. What television stations in your area offer live captioning? Can you sign up for text, email, or telephone alerts through your municipality? Keep phones and communication devices charged, and always have a backup way of learning about emergencies. Some options for alerts and warnings are listed below.

- Television stations with live captioning
- Emergency Weather Radio (some can support strobe lights, bed shakers and text readouts)
- Wireless Emergency Alerts If you are in an area where the alerts are available and have a cell phone that is equipped to receive them, you may automatically receive a text message when an emergency alert is issued.
- Smartphone applications Many smartphone apps will provide text and audio weather alerts. You can set the locations and types of alerts you would like to receive.
- Social Media If social media is accessible for you, look for local emergency management agencies and news stations that also use social media to broadcast alerts and warnings. Save these organizations to your 'favorites' or begin 'following' them in advance.
- Local warning systems Many localities have emergency alert services that will provide alert information to you
 in a format of your choice. Most locations can send messages to email addresses, mobile phones (text or
 voice), landline phones, TTYs and Braille readers. Contact your local emergency management agency to learn
 what options may be available in your community.
- Support network- Talk to trusted friends, family and neighbors and create a plan to notify each other of emergency information.

After determining how you will be notified of an emergency, put together an emergency plan and kit. Involve your friends, family, neighbors, support staff and anyone else that you trust to assist you. Determine how you will contact them in an emergency and what they can do to assist you. Think about where you will take shelter in your home if you need to. Also consider any services you need (personal care assistance services, dialysis services, etc.) and how you will access those services in an emergency. Talk to provider agencies about their emergency plans Learn more about preparing for severe weather at www.ready.gov/severe-weather.

Dentists No Longer Permitted To Turn Away Patients Due To Disabilities

Reprinted from DisABILITY Scoop by Blythe Bernhard | February 28, 2019

People with developmental disabilities may find it easier to get dental care after a national board changed its ethics policy to be more inclusive.

The American Dental Association recently revised its code of conduct to prohibit denial of care to patients with physical, developmental or intellectual disabilities. In cases where a dentist does not have the equipment or expertise to meet a particular person's special needs, the code now requires them to refer the patient to an appropriate dentist rather than simply turning them away.

Dr. James Smith, who leads the ethics council of the dental association, called the change which took effect late last year "the right thing to do." "We recognized that addressing this and including this in the code of conduct helps to ensure that we are providing justice and equity for individuals with disabilities," Smith said. Members of the dental association are required to abide by the code of conduct, which also serves as the standard for state laws, Smith added.

Because of a lack of access to dental care, advocates say adults with developmental disabilities are at higher risk for poor oral health. In Wisconsin alone, nearly one-third of adults with disabilities had a tooth removed in the last year and one in four had not visited a dentist in at least 12 months, according to Disability Rights Wisconsin. The change should improve access to care and "represents a step towards full participation, independent living and economic self-sufficiency," said Neil Romano, chairman of the National Council on Disability, in a statement. The council had recommended the change to the dental association.

Dental providers have expressed concern about the additional time it may require to treat people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, experts said. "Sometimes it's difficult to have a patient in the chair if they are very, very anxious about being treated, if they have difficulty sitting still or if they feel a lot of fear, and sometimes those circumstances are more prevalent in people with varying disabilities," said Jane Koppelman, senior manager of the dental access campaign for the Pew Charitable Trusts. Patients with special needs are then more likely to receive general anesthesia for routine dental care, Koppelman said. "Is it a sober reality that we need to anesthetize some people with disabilities or are there better ways to deal with communicating with them? There are some strides happening on that front," she said.

One option to bring up with dental providers is silver diamine fluoride, a varnish for the teeth that can prevent cavities, Koppelman said. The American Academy of Pediatrics has reported that silver diamine fluoride is useful as a preventive tool for patients whose cooperation may be limited because of intellectual or developmental disabilities.

While few dental practices specialize in treating people with developmental disabilities, most dental offices can make accommodations for patients with special needs, advocates said. The lights, sounds, textures and smells of a dental office can pose sensory challenges. A patient with autism, for example, may be helped by seeing pictures of the dental office and going over the schedule for the appointment to know what to expect, said Donna Murray, vice president of clinical programs at Autism Speaks. "It's important to work with health care professionals experienced with children on the spectrum to make the process as comfortable as possible," Murray said. The autism advocacy group supports the dental association's move toward equal access for people with disabilities, Murray said. The group also offers a dental toolkit.



Hamilton Happenings

DATE	DAY	PROGRAM (in Community Room)	TIME
2-May	Thu	Hamilton Cinco de Mayo Celebration	5:00 -7:30 PM
7-May	Tue	Hamilton/Lawrence Shopping	Bus Leaves PFR 9:30 AM
15-May	Wed	Hamilton Games	5:00 -7:30 PM
31-May	Fri	Hamilton Hoagies	5:00 -7:30 PM



Dana's recreation program created pretty decorations from egg cartons for Easter.



Lawrence Events

DATE	DAY	PROGRAM (in Community Room)	TIME
6-May	Mon	People & Stories	1-2:30 PM
7-May	Tue	Hamilton/Lawrence Shopping	Bus Leaves PFR 9:30 AM
8-May	Wed	Massages	Sign up
8-May	Wed	BINGO w/ Dana	5-7:30 PM
9-May	Thur	Live Music with Meg Hanson	2:30-4:30 PM
13-May	Mon	People & Stories	1-2:30 PM
20-May	Mon	People & Stories	1-2:30 PM
22-May	Wed	Nutrition	7:00 PM
23-May	Thu	Lawrence Hoagies	5:00 -7:30 PM



Robbinsville Events

DATE	DAY	PROGRAM (in Community Room)	TIME
6-May	Mon	Robbinsville Cinco de Mayo Celebration	5:30 -8:00 PM
10-May	Fri	Robbinsville Mom's Day Crafts	6:30 -8:30 PM
24-May	Fri	Memorial Day Picnic	11:30-3:30 PM
30-May	Thu	Robbinsville Games	6:30 -9:00 PM



Hopewell Events

DATE	DAY	PROGRAM (in Community Room)	TIME
3-May	Fri	Mercer Home Health Hosting Pokeno	3 PM
8-May	Wed	Heart to Hearts Chair Massage	1:15 -3:15 PM
22-May	Wed	Heart to Hearts Chair Mssage	9:30 - to 11:30 AM
23-May	Thur	Hopewell Twp Fire Dept. Hosting Fire/Safety Training	3:30 PM

In First, Airlines Disclose How Many Wheelchairs They Break by Lindsay Wise, Reprinted from McClatchy Washington Bureau/TNS | April 2, 2019



WASHINGTON — Airlines damaged at least 701 wheelchairs and motorized scooters in a single month — an average of more than 25 a day, according to the first such data reported by the U.S. Department of Transportation under a new law championed by Sen. Tammy Duckworth. Among the hundreds of wheelchairs damaged between Dec. 4 and 31 last year was one belonging to Duckworth, an Illinois Democrat and combat veteran and double amputee. She pushed for the law after her own wheelchair was damaged multiple times during airline travel.

December was the first month airlines had to report publicly how many customers' wheelchairs or scooters they broke or lost.

The numbers Duckworth's office announced late last week showed the nationwide scope of the problem for the first time, and also give travelers a sense of which airlines were the worst offenders during that time period.

The airlines that reported the largest percentage of wheelchairs mishandled in December were Envoy Air — a regional carrier for American Airlines — with 14.6 percent, American Airlines with 7.2 percent and Southwest Airlines with 6.4 percent. "Every airline passenger deserves to be treated with dignity and respect, but too often they aren't," Duckworth said in a statement.

Duckworth said she knows from personal experience that when an airline damages a wheelchair, it is not just inconvenient for a traveler like her. It's a complete loss of independence. "It was the equivalent of taking my legs away from me again," Duckworth said. "No air traveler should be left in the lurch, immobile on a plane."

Former President Barack Obama's administration first proposed a rule requiring airlines to provide the Department of Transportation with monthly reports on how many wheelchairs and motorized scooters they break or mishandle. But President Donald Trump's administration delayed the rule's implementation in March 2017. Duckworth responded by authoring an amendment that required the Department of Transportation to implement the rule within 60 days. The amendment was included in the Federal Aviation Administration Reauthorization Act and became law in October 2018.

Airlines say they're working on improving the travel experience for customers who use wheelchairs or scooters. "Our goal is to ensure customers of all abilities have a positive travel experience and we strive to do better every day," said Adam Simmons, a spokesman for Envoy Air Inc. "We've taken a number of steps to meet the new reporting requirements and continue to improve our processes to ensure our team members have the tools they need to properly handle and track wheelchairs and assistive devices."

Anita Silvers, an Authority on Disability Rights, Dies at 78

By Neil Genzlinger Reprinted from the March 22, 2019 New York Times

Anita Silvers, a philosophy professor who was a leading voice in the interpretation of the Americans With Disabilities Act,

arguing that disability rights should be viewed the same as other civil rights and not as an accommodation or as a social safety net issue, died on March 14 in San Francisco. She was 78.



Dr. Silvers was already a well-regarded scholar with an expertise in aesthetics in the 1990s when she started to focus on disability law and definitions related to it. She knew about disabilities firsthand: She had polio as a child, and the disease left her with limited mobility.

The Americans With Disabilities Act had been passed in 1990, and Dr. Silvers began to examine how it was being interpreted, whether philosophically, in the courts or on her own campus.

"A critical thing for her was to understand the A.D.A. as a civil rights statute," said Leslie P. Francis, a professor of law and philosophy at the University of Utah who wrote papers and edited a book with Dr. Silvers. "Not as an approach to giving people special privileges, but as a way of giving people the rights that everyone else has."

At a recent symposium honoring the legacy of Jacobus tenBroek, founder of the National Federation of the Blind, Dr. Silvers recalled one of the things that had led her to turn her attention to disability rights. She said two blind students, having heard that there was a professor on campus with a disability, sought her help in getting into a math class whose professor had turned them away. Dr. Silvers, who used a motorized scooter to get around campus, went to see him.

"He explained to me that they just could not let these two students into a math class because they didn't know how to teach them, because when you're teaching math you write on the blackboard," she related. " 'In fact,' he said, 'when you're teaching anything you write on the blackboard.' Now, as it happens, I don't write on the blackboard because I can't reach the blackboard."

"She had a voracious mind and many philosophical and political interests," Justin Tiwald, chairman of San Francisco State University's philosophy department, said by email, "but she never lost sight of the implications of her views and practices for people with disabilities.

"Her popular course on medical ethics," he added, "was both an introduction to that subject and an opportunity for her to get students thinking more deeply and sensitively about ways in which our implicit moral concepts and frameworks stack the deck against people with disabilities right from the start."

Dr. Silvers wrote or co-wrote numerous papers on the subject, arguing that a fundamental flaw in many interpretations of the act was measuring people with disabilities against an idea of "normal."

"Progress depends on constructing a neutral conception of disability, one that neither devalues disability nor implies that persons with disabilities are inadequate," she wrote in a 2003 paper published in the journal Theoretical Medicine and Bioethics. An earlier paper, published in 1994, was subtitled "Equality, Difference and the Tyranny of the Normal."

She and Dr. Francis edited a 2000 book, "Americans With Disabilities: Exploring Implications of the Law for Individuals and Institutions," for the 10th anniversary of the passage of the Americans With Disabilities Act. She was concerned about the way the act was being interpreted in legal rulings, and although most of her writing was as a scholar and not as someone affected by polio, she would play that card to make a point.

"As I search through decisions," she wrote in a 2002 article in Newsday excoriating the Supreme Court for what she viewed as its unhelpful rulings on disabilities in the workplace, "the terrors of past suffering shadow my future. To cloak my polio-crippled gait, will I have to arrive at work before dawn and leave long after other workers, as I used to do? Will I have to crawl upstairs again because colleagues take offices on the first floor?" "Judges' own privileges safeguard them against discrimination," she concluded, "while they dodge their duty to give less fortunate Americans equitable opportunity to work."

Hacienda Don Manuel to Lower Bar to Accommodate Wheelchairs

By Rich Kirby, Reprinted from Patch Staff | Apr 15, 2019

BROOKFIELD, CT — A Brookfield restaurant will build a bar accessible to patrons in wheelchairs, following a complaint citing the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990.

United State Attorney for the District of Connecticut announced on Monday that the U.S. Attorney's Office will issue a Letter of Resolution to Hacienda Don Manuel Restaurant in Brookfield to resolve allegations that the restaurant was not operating in compliance with the Americans with the ADA. The Letter of Resolution will resolve an ADA complaint



filed by an individual with mobility disabilities alleging that Hacienda Don Manuel's bar counter was not accessible to individuals in wheelchairs and that Hacienda Don Manuel would not provide "Happy Hour" services to individuals in wheelchairs sitting at tables in the restaurant.

In order for the U.S. Attorney's Office to issue the Letter of Resolution, Hacienda Don Manuel will design and construct a fully accessible bar counter with a low section for individuals who use wheelchairs. Additionally, Hacienda Don Manuel will institute a written policy regarding the provision of Happy Hour specials to individuals with disabilities who may need to sit at tables within the restaurant. Finally, Hacienda Don Manuel will train managers, bartenders and staff on the new policy and on the provision of services to individuals with disabilities. Hacienda Don Manuel will perform these obligations within six months, according to a release.

Under federal law, private entities that own or operate places of "public accommodation," including restaurants, are prohibited from discriminating on the basis of disability. The ADA authorizes the U.S Department of Justice to investigate complaints and undertake periodic reviews of compliance of covered entities. The Justice Department is also authorized to commence a civil lawsuit in federal court in any case that involves a pattern or practice of discrimination or that raises issues of general public importance, and to seek injunctive relief, monetary damages and civil penalties.

US Attorney Durham noted the commitment of the owner of Hacienda Don Manuel to work collaboratively with the U.S. Attorney's Office to address the ADA issues and to increase the restaurant's accessibility without litigation. "We appreciate that Hacienda Don Manuel's ownership and management cooperated during our investigation and we commend their prompt action to ensure the restaurant's compliance with the ADA," said U.S. Attorney John H. Durham.

Ed Reid Retires from Robbinsville Maintenance Staff After 12 Years

We miss Ed already since he retired to be his family's "Uber driver." Fortunately, he stops around to say "hi" during the week and keeps us up to date with the Allentown news.

Ed is a retired Marine who formerly worked for GM until they closed. Having his family at the party made it extra special, especially since one of his daughters came all the way from Washington State.



May General Recreation Club Freedom Events Highlighted

	110	/	
1-May	Wed	Equestrian Riding at Hopewell	Prog. Time Varies
3-May	Fri	Abilities Expo	Bus Leaves PFR 9:30 AM
4-May	Sat	Mercer Women's Expo	Bus Leaves PFR 10:00 AM
6-May	Mon	"Day-Rec Program Robbinsville	Prog. Time 2 PM-4 PM
8-May	Wed	Equestrian Riding at Hopewell	Prog. Time Varies
9-May	Thur	Lawrence Afternoon Concert - Meg Henson	Bus Leaves PFR 1:00 PM
11-May	Sat	Trenton Thunder Baseball Game	Bus Leaves PFR 5:00 PM
13-May	Mon	"Day-Rec Program Robbinsville	Prog. Time 2 PM-4 PM
14-May	Tue	Grocery Shopping - Shop Rite	Bus Leaves PFR 9:30 AM
15-May	Wed	Equestrian Riding at Hopewell	Prog. Time Varies
16-May	Thur	Mall Trip Jackson - 4 People Needed	Bus Leaves PFR 9:30 AM
17-May	Fri	Dine Out - Dinner - Olive Garden	Bus Leaves PFR 4:30 PM
20-May	Mon	"Day-Rec Program Robbinsville	Prog. Time 2 PM-4 PM
20-May	Mon	PF Golf Outing Fundraiser	
22-May	Wed	Equestrian Riding at Hopewell	Prog. Time Varies
23-May	Thur	Pre-Holiday Groceries - Shop Rite	Bus Leaves PFR 9:30 AM
27-May	Mon	Memorial Day - PF Offices Closed	
29-May	Wed	Equestrian Riding at Hopewell	Prog. Time Varies

Norman Smith Turned 66!

Happy Birthday!

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