

From: Ellen Jensby <ejensby@alliancecolorado.org>

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Subject: ACT TODAY: Ask the House to Support Key Disability Provisions in New COVID-19 Bill



Tomorrow, the House is expected to vote on the HEROES Act, its latest COVID-19 legislative package which contains significant provisions to help people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) and the providers who support them.

The Ask: Use our [email and twitter tools](#) to tell your member of Congress to vote YES on this legislation because it contains provisions essential to protecting people with I/DD during this pandemic.

The Details: On Tuesday, House Democrats released the HEROES Act, their proposal for the long-anticipated fourth COVID-19 relief package. This is the opening salvo in negotiations with the Senate and White House for the fourth package and we anticipate the final package will look different from this proposal. However, the HEROES Act contains provisions that will be enormously helpful to people with I/DD and the Medicaid-funded I/DD services that support them, and will serve as Democrats' framework for deciding what to support in the final legislation that is taken up by the House and the Senate.

Now is a very strategic time to show support for the HEROES Act provisions. ANCOR has been advocating for several of these provisions since early March when the pandemic began, and having these provisions included at the earliest stages of negotiation will help ensure that disability supports are included in whatever legislation ultimately becomes law.

The disability support-related provisions in the HEROES Act include:

1. A 10 percent increase in the Medicaid match rate (FMAP) specifically for the Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) program.
2. Explicitly defining Direct Support Professionals (DSPs) as essential workers.
3. An additional \$100 billion for the Public Health and Social Services Emergency Fund, and a specific provision to list HCBS providers among the entities eligible for the funding.
4. A "Heroes Fund," which would fund hazard pay for DSPs up to \$13 per hour in addition to current wages.

The House is expected to vote on this bill on Friday, so time is of the essence. Your advocacy has already gotten us this far—speak up today to make sure Congress continues to prioritize these issues.



American Network of Community Options &
Resources

1101 King Street, Suite 380

Alexandria, VA 22314

703.535.7850

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