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| **Partial List of Resources on**  **Influencing Local and Federal Policy** |
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**About DC Legislative Process**

**Council of DC: How a Bill Becomes a Law**

**Website**: <http://www.dccouncil.us/pages/how-a-bill-becomes-a-law>

**DC Government Offices**

**Mayor’s Office of Talent and Appointments**

Members of boards and commissions provide an invaluable service to the District by advising the Mayor, the Council of the District of Columbia and the citizens of the District on a variety of significant matters. Their website lists the various boards and committees a citizen can serve on.

**Office Hours**: 9:00 am to 5:00 pm, Monday through Friday  
**Address**: 1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Suite 211, Washington, DC 20004   
**Phone**: 202-727-1372; **Fax**: 202-727-2359; **TTY**: 711  
**E-mail**: [MOTA@dc.gov](mailto:MOTA@dc.gov)   
**Website**: <http://mota.dc.gov>

**DC Boards and Commissions Current Openings List**This page shows the current opening on Boards and Commissions in DC. Click each entry to apply online. If you need assistance or internet access to apply for a position, please reach out to Dana or Frances and we can assist you in applying.

**Website**: <http://motaboards.theresumator.com/apply>

**DC Budget through the DC Council**

**Website**: <http://dccouncil.us/budget>

**Committee Oversight for 2015**: <http://dccouncil.us/pages/committee-oversight-2015>

**Committee Oversight for 2016:** <http://dccouncil.us/oversight/2016>

**Budget Oversight Calendar for Fiscal Year 2016**: <http://dccouncil.us/budget/2016>

**DC Council Calendar, including Oversight and Budget Hearings:** <http://dccouncil.us/calendar>

**Watch DC Oversight and Budget Hearings Live:** <http://dccouncil.us/videos/>

**Office of Advisory Neighborhood Commissions (ANCs)**

The Advisory Neighborhood Commissions consider a wide range of policies and programs affecting their neighborhoods, including traffic, parking, recreation, street improvements, liquor licenses, zoning, economic development, police protection, sanitation and trash collection, and the District's annual budget.

In each of these areas, the intent of the ANC legislation is to ensure input from an advisory board that is made up of the residents of the neighborhoods that are directly affected by government action. The ANCs are the body of government with the closest official ties to the people in a neighborhood.

The ANCs present their positions and recommendations on issues to various District government agencies, the Executive Branch, and the Council. They also present testimony to independent agencies, boards, and commissions, usually under the rules of procedure specific to those entities. By law, the ANCs may also present their positions to Federal agencies.

ANCs, agency officials, and the general public are now able to search for advice letters written by the Office of the Attorney General on ANC issues.

Maps of the current boundaries of the ANCs are available at <http://www.ancdc.us>.

**Office Hours**: 9:00 am to 5:00 pm, Monday through Friday  
**Address**: 1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Suite 8, Washington, DC 20004   
**Phone**: 202-727-9945; **TTY**: 711  
**E-mail**: [oanc@dc.gov](mailto:oanc@dc.gov)   
**Website**: <http://anc.dc.gov>

**DC Community Organizations**

**DC Vote**  
As the recognized leader and go-to source of information on the DC voting rights movement, this organization:

* advocates for enactment of critical DC voting rights legislation
* educates Americans across the nation about DC's status
* works to prevent congressional interference in DC's local democracy
* organizes its supporters to contact Congress through call-in days, letter-writing campaigns and face-to-face advocacy
* engage its coalition partners, supporters and pro bono lobbyists to educate Congress
* serves as a resource to elected officials, the media and public

**Address**: 1100 H Street, NW, Suite M-100, Washington, DC 20005  
**Phone**: 202-462-6000; **Fax**: 202-462-7001   
**E-mail:** [info@dcvote.org](mailto:info@dcvote.org)   
**Website**: [http://www.dcvote.org](http://www.dcvote.org/)

**Empower DC**

The mission of Empower DC is to enhance, improve and promote the self-advocacy of low and moderate income DC residents in order to bring about sustained improvements in their quality of life. We accomplish our mission through grassroots organizing and trainings, leadership development, and community education. Empower DC is a citywide, multi-issue, membership-based community organizing project. Empower DC builds campaigns to address key issues that directly-impact our membership. The organization is led by its membership, Board of Directors and staff.

**Address:** 1419 V Street, NW, Washington, DC 20009

**Telephone:** 202-234-9119

**Email:** [info@empowerdc.org](mailto:info@empowerdc.org)

**Website:** [www.empowerdc.org](http://www.empowerdc.org)

**DC Fiscal Policy Institute**

The DC Fiscal Policy Institute conducts research and public education on budget and tax issues in the District of Columbia, with a particular emphasis on issues that affect low- and moderate-income residents. By preparing timely analyses that are used by policy makers, the media, and the public, DCFPI seeks to inform public debates on budget and tax issues and to ensure that the needs of lower-income residents are considered in those debates.

DCFPI’s areas of work include:

* analyzing the impact of tax and other revenue policies on the District’s long-term fiscal health and on the equity of its tax system;
* working to ensure that programs serving low- and moderate-income residents are well designed, effective, and adequately funded; and
* conducting research on income and poverty trends in the District and on serious problems facing low-income residents, such as the growing shortage of affordable housing.

**Address:** 820 First Street, NE, Suite 460, Washington, DC 20002

**Telephone:** 202-408-1080 Fax: 202-408-8173

**Website:** [www.dcfpi.org](http://www.dcfpi.org)

**Serve DC**  
Serve DC strives to ensure the full, proactive inclusion of individuals with disabilities in service and actively encourages individuals with physical or mental disabilities to participate in national service programs operating in the District of Columbia. As part of its Disability Inclusion Initiative, Serve DC is currently seeking a broad range of knowledgeable, interested and diverse representatives for our Disability Inclusion Advisory Committee. Committee responsibilities include assisting, advising and providing technical assistance to Serve DC staff on issues relating to the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973; providing technical advice on the development, implementation and maintenance of activities and programs for persons with disabilities; and designing literature, projects and activities that promote the integration of qualified individuals with disabilities into national service programs.

**Address**: Frank D Reeves Municipal Center  
2000 14th Street NW, Suite 101, Washington, DC 20009   
**Phone**: 202-727-7925  
**TTY**: 202-727-8421   
**Website**: <http://serve.dc.gov/service/disability-inclusion>  
**Application form**: <http://serve.dc.gov/sites/default/files/dc/sites/serve/publication/attachments/DIAC%20Membership%20App_v2%2020130205_0.pdf>

**American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) of the Nation’s Capital**

The American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) is the nationwide non-profit, non-partisan organization devoted to ensuring free speech, equal rights, and other civil liberties. With a membership of over 5,000, the ACLU of the National Capital Area (ACLU-NCA) now defends and expands civil liberties in the Nation’s Capital, including important Federal employee matters. Those who join us also become members of the National ACLU.

Since the formation of the ACLU-NCA in 1961, our Mission has been to protect and expand civil liberties through legal action, legislative advocacy, and public education. Each year we review more than 10,000 requests for legal assistance. Sometimes our local case goes all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court.

We also work with government agencies, trying to defend liberty without litigation. For example, we worked for months to get Prince George’s County to set up a system for educating the juveniles it detains, instead of just warehousing them until their release.

Besides individual court cases, we are using public education, coalition-building and legislation to get, for instance, effective citizen review systems for police in each of our local jurisdictions.

**Address**: 4301 Connecticut Ave. NW, Suite 434, Washington, DC 20008-2368

**Phone**: 202-457-0800 / Fax: 202-457-0805

**Website**: <http://www.aclu-nca.org>

**Contact Form:** <http://aclu-nca.org/general-info-or-send-comment>

**About the Federal Legislative Process**

**The official House website has good information about the legislative branch of** **government**

**Website**: <http://www.house.gov/>

**The Official Senate Website**

**Website**: <http://www.senate.gov/>

**Congressional Glossary (from C-Span)**

**Website**: <http://legacy.c-span.org/guide/congress/glossary/alphalist.htm>

**How Our Laws Are Made, from the Government Printing Office**

**Website**: <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/CDOC-110hdoc49/pdf/CDOC-110hdoc49.pdf>

**The Library of Congress page about laws and legislation**

**Website**: <http://thomas.loc.gov/home/lawsmade.toc.html>

**Congress.gov videos about the legislative process**

**Website:** <https://www.congress.gov/legislative-process>

**Federal Advocacy Organizations and Resources**

**A Guide to Legislative Advocacy for Youth with Disabilities**

<http://www.ncld-youth.info/Downloads/legislative_policy_guide.pdf>

**National Council on Disability (NCD)**NCD is a small, independent federal agency charged with advising the President, Congress, and other federal agencies regarding policies, programs, practices, and procedures that affect people with disabilities. NCD is comprised of a team of fifteen Senate-confirmed Presidential appointees, an Executive Director appointed by the Chairman, and eleven, full-time professional staff.

**Address:** 1331 F Street, NW, Suite 850, Washington, DC 20004 **Website**: <http://www.ncd.gov/>

**Email:** [ncd@ncd.gov](mailto:ncd@ncd.gov)

**Phone:** 202-272-2004 (Voice); 202-272-2074 (TTY)

**National Organization on Disability**The National Organization on Disability (NOD) is a private, non-profit organization that promotes the full participation of America’s 54 million people with disabilities in all aspects of life, with a special focus on increasing employment opportunities for the 79 percent of working-age Americans with disabilities who are not employed.

With programs on the ground, NOD is demonstrating new employment practices and models of service delivery, evaluating results, and sharing successful approaches for widespread replication. It is conducting research on disability employment issues, including the field’s most widely used polls on employment trends and the quality of life for people with disabilities. And its subject matter experts in disability and employment provide consulting services to public agencies and employers seeking to harness the unique talents that people with disabilities can bring to the workforce.

**Address**: 77 Water Street, Suite 204, New York, NY 10005  
**Phone**: 646-505-1191 x122  
**Website**: <http://www.nod.org>

**Email:** [info@nod.org](mailto:info@nod.org)

**Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities (CCD)**

The Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities is a Coalition of national consumer, advocacy, provider and professional organizations headquartered in Washington, D.C. Since 1973, the CCD has advocated on behalf of people of all ages with physical and mental disabilities and their families. CCD has worked to achieve federal legislation and regulations that assure that the 54 million children and adults with disabilities are fully integrated into the mainstream of society.

CCD does this by:

* Identifying and researching public policy issues, developing testimony and policy recommendations and encouraging innovative solutions to public policy concerns.
* Educating members of Congress in an effort to improve public policies and programs that foster independence, productivity, integration and inclusion of people with disabilities.
* Encouraging people with disabilities and their families to advocate for themselves and coordinating grass roots efforts to support these advocacy efforts.

**CCD Website** <http://www.c-c-d.org/rubriques.php?rub=taskforce.php&id_task=1>

**General CCD Email**: [info@c-c-d.org](mailto:info@c-c-d.org)

**General CCD Phone:** 202-783-2229

**CCD Developmental Disabilities, Autism, and Family Support Task Force**The mission of the Developmental Disabilities Task Force is to advocate for federal public policies that directly relate to individuals with developmental disabilities, autism spectrum disorders, family supports and the prevention of child abuse and neglect. These include, but are not limited to, the Developmental Disabilities Act, Combating Autism Act, Lifespan Respite Care Act, National Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act.

Contact Information for Task Force Co-Chairs

**Kim Musheno**, Association of University Centers on Disabilities (AUCD)  
**Phone**: 301-588-8252; **Fax**: 301-588-2842  
**Email:** [kmusheno@aucd.org](mailto:kmusheno@aucd.org)

**Esme Grant**, National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities

**Phone**: 202-506-5813

**Email**: [egrant@nacdd.org](mailto:egrant@nacdd.org)

**Cindy Smith**, National Disability Rights Network (NDRN)  
**Phone**: 202-408-9514 x101; Fax: 202-408-9520  
**Email**: [cindy.smith@ndrn.org](mailto:cindy.smith@ndrn.org)

**Jill Kagan**, National Respite Coalition (NRC)

**Phone**: 703-256-9578

**Email**: [jbkagan@verizon.net](mailto:jbkagan@verizon.net)

**Annie Acosta,** The Arc

**Phone**: 202-783-2229

**Email**: [acosta@thearc.org](mailto:acosta@thearc.org)

**Stuart Spielman,** Autism Speaks

**Phone**: 202-955-3312

**Email**: [sspielman@autismspeaks.org](mailto:sspielman@autismspeaks.org)

**TASH**TASH is an international leader in disability advocacy. Founded in 1975, TASH advocates for human rights and inclusion for people with significant disabilities and support needs – those most vulnerable to segregation, abuse, neglect and institutionalization. TASH works to advance inclusive communities through advocacy, research, professional development, policy, and information and resources for parents, families and self-advocates. The inclusive practices TASH validates through research have been shown to improve outcomes for all people.

**Address:** 2013 H Street NW, Suite 715, Washington, DC 20006 **Phone:** 202-540-9020, Fax: 202-540-9019  
**E-mail:** [info@TASH.org](mailto:info@TASH.org)   
**Website:** <http://tash.org/>

**The National Council on Independent Living (NCIL)**

As a membership organization, NCIL advances independent living and the rights of people with disabilities through consumer-driven advocacy.

**Address:** 2013 H Street NW, 6th Floor, Washington DC 20006 **Phone:** 202-207-0334; **Toll Free**: 877-525-3400; **TTY:** 202-207-0340; **Fax:** 202-207-0341   
**Website**: <http://www.ncil.org/>

**Email:** [ncil@ncil.org](mailto:ncil@ncil.org)

**National Disability Rights Network (NDRN)**

The National Disability Rights Network (NDRN) works to improve the lives of people with disabilities by guarding against abuse; advocating for basic rights; and ensuring accountability in health care, education, employment, housing, transportation, and within the juvenile and criminal justice systems. NDRN is the nonprofit membership organization for the federally mandated Protection and Advocacy (P&A) Systems and the Client Assistance Programs (CAP) for individuals with disabilities. Collectively, the Network is the largest provider of legally based advocacy services to people with disabilities in the United States.

**Address**: 820 1st Street NE, Suite 740, Washington, DC 20002

**Phone**: 202-408-9514; TTY: 202-408-9521; Fax: 202-408-9520

**Website**: <http://www.ndrn.org>

**Email**: [info@ndrn.org](mailto:info@ndrn.org)

**The Collaboration to Promote Self-Determination (CPSD)**An advocacy network of 22 national disability organizations who have come to pursue modernization of the federal adult system of services and supports for persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities, so that they can become employed, live independently in an inclusive community, and rise out of poverty. Participating Organizations:

* American Network of Community Options and Resources
* Association of People Supporting Employment First
* Association of University Centers on Disability
* Autistic Self Advocacy Network
* The Autism Society
* Council of Parent Attorneys and Advocates
* The Council of State Administrators of Vocational Rehabilitation
* The Institute for Educational Leadership
* Muscular Dystrophy Association
* National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities
* The National Association of State Directors of Developmental Disabilities Services
* National Disability Institute
* National Down Syndrome Congress
* National Down Syndrome Society
* The National Fragile X Foundation
* National Disability Rights Network
* The National Organization on Disability
* Physician-Parent Caregivers, Inc.
* Quality Trust for Individuals with Disabilities
* Service Employees International Union
* Sibling Leadership Network
* United Cerebral Palsy
* TASH

**Address:** 1667 K Street NW, Suite 640, Washington, DC 20006

**Phone:** 202-296-2040

**Website:** <http://thecpsd.org>

**Email:** [info@thecpsd.org](mailto:info@thecpsd.org)

**League of Women Voters**

The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy. Women and men who wish to further the mission of the LWVDC are encouraged to join us. We never support or oppose any political party or candidate. The League of Women Voters has two separate and distinct roles:

* Voters Service/Citizen Education: we present unbiased nonpartisan information about elections, the voting process, and issues.
* Action/Advocacy: we are also nonpartisan, but, after study, we use our positions to advocate for or against particular policies in the public interest.

To conduct our voter service and citizen education activities, we use funds from the League of Women Voters of D.C. Education Fund, which is a 501(c)(3) corporation, a nonprofit educational organization. The League of Women Voters, an organization comprised of dues-paying members, conducts action and advocacy and is a nonprofit 501(c)(4) corporation.

**Address:** 1100 15th Street, NW, 11th Floor, Washington, DC 20005

**Phone:** 202-222-0710

**Website:** <http://lwvdc.org>

**Email Form:** <http://lwvdc.org/sendcomment.cgi?To=League+of+Women+Voters+of+the+District+of+Columbia&id=yrnthr:yjiqp/bet>

**Advocacy Tools and Opportunities**

**White House and Key Disability Issues**

**Website**: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/issues/disabilities>

**Daily Congressional Hearings on the Web**This site provides hearing schedule, time and location as well as live screenings

**Website**: <http://www.capitolhearings.org/>

**The Arc’s Legislative Action Center**

The Arc’s Legislative Action Center is made possible by the Dr. Elizabeth Boggs Fund to help The Arc advance public policy and advocacy in the pursuit of equality and justice.The State Action Centers are supported by the following state chapters of The Arc: CA, GA, IN, MA, MD, MN, MO, NC, ND, NJ, NY, PA, TN, TX, and UT.

**Website**: <http://cqrcengage.com/thearc>

**Communicating with Congress**

**Website**: <http://www.congress.org/news/communicating-with-congress/>

**Contact Elected Officials**Call, e-mail, or mail U.S. state and federal elected officials and government agencies using this website.

**Website**: <http://www.usa.gov/Contact/Elected.shtml>