



Weekly Update

September 14, 2022

NDAAs Consideration Expected After Midterms

The Senate is not expected to consider the National Defense Authorization Act before the midterm elections despite pressure from members on the Senate Armed Services Committee. The top priority for Congress this month is the passage of a continuing resolution to keep federal agencies funded beyond the end of the fiscal year. Floor action on the continuing resolution is expected to begin next week. Alongside the CR, the Senate will take up several circuit court nominations and hold a vote on a same-sex marriage bill.

By waiting until after the midterms, Congress will face a compressed timeline to pass a final NDAA by the Dec. 31 deadline. To save time, the Senate may choose to bypass a vote on its version and instead have informal negotiations with the House, which passed its bill back in July. The timeline could be further complicated by negotiations over a final budget, with any continuing resolution expected to go through Dec. 16. Possible post-midterm tensions may also push consideration of the NDAA down to the wire.

Danté Quintin Allen Nominated for Commissioner of the Rehabilitation Services Administration

President Joe Biden announced his [intent to nominate](#) Danté Allen for Commissioner of the Rehabilitation Services Administration, U.S. Department of Education. Allen currently serves as the Executive Director for CalABLE, California's qualified federal ABA Act savings and investment program for people with disabilities. He has grown the program's reach to more than 8,000 active accounts and nearly \$80 million in assets under management since its launch in 2018. Born with spina bifida, Allen is a full-time wheelchair user.

Reach Out to Your Representatives During National Disability Employment Awareness Month!

National Disability Employment Awareness Month is celebrated every October and is a great opportunity for you to reach out to your representatives. We encourage nonprofit agencies to leverage NDEAM and invite members of Congress and state and local officials to meet with you, tour an AbilityOne jobsite, and learn more about employing people with disabilities. Below is a draft letter you can customize to help in your outreach. Please contact Advocacy@SourceAmerica.org if you have any questions or would like to connect with the Government Affairs team.

DRAFT Letter inviting MOC/State/Local Officials to NDEAM events at NPA

September XX, 2022

As a nonprofit agency in your [district / state] that employs [###] people with disabilities, [NPA name] is proud to celebrate National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM) each October. I'd like to invite you to join us as we recognize the vital contributions of people with disabilities in workplaces here and across the country.

[NPA name] provides employment opportunities for people with disabilities in positions that offer competitive wages and benefits. [Insert details on types of work, customers, etc. as appropriate] In addition, our organization is part of the AbilityOne® Program – a federal procurement program that is one of the largest sources of employment in the U.S. for people who are blind or have significant disabilities.

[If having a specific event put information here and request attendance]

[If not having a specific event, extend invite to tour a work site with the following verbiage -- I encourage you to visit one of our work sites during October and meet with our employees. They have impactful stories to share about the challenges of finding employment and the importance of the AbilityOne Program.]

Please reach out to [insert name] at [insert email/phone number] if you are interested in touring one of our worksites or have any questions about NDEAM or the AbilityOne Program.