

Weekly Update

August 10, 2022



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President Biden Signs CHIPS and PACT Bills as House Returns to the Hill for Reconciliation Vote

President Joe Biden signed the Creating Helpful Incentives to Produce Semiconductors Act into law on Aug. 9, along with a resolution supporting Sweden and Finland's entry into NATO. He also signed the Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics Act, allowing veterans exposed to toxic substances during their military service to receive VA health care and benefits.

The Senate passed the \$700 billion Inflation Reduction Act on Aug. 7, requiring Vice President Kamala Harris' vote in favor of the legislation to break the 50-50 vote tie. Following its passage, Senators returned home for the August recess. The bill includes:

- Allowing Medicare to negotiate on prescription drugs and capping out-of-pocket costs at \$2,000;
- Setting a corporate minimum tax rate of 15%;
- Investing \$369 billion in Energy Security and Climate Change programs over the next ten years;
- A three-year extension of Obamacare premium subsidies; and
- Approximately \$300 billion in deficit reduction.

The House is expected to pass the Inflation Reduction Act when it returns to Capitol Hill on Friday, Aug. 12.

SourceAmerica Grassroots Advocacy Conference Garners Additional Cosponsors

Representatives Joseph Morelle (D-N.Y.) and Dina Titus (D-Nev.) recently joined 71 of their Democratic colleagues in the House in cosponsoring [H.R. 2824](#), the Supplemental Security Income Restoration Act of 2021. The bill would enhance the SSI program, adjust the total amount of benefits, and make it easier for people with disabilities to gain employment without the fear of losing access to critical benefits.

Rep. Titus also cosponsored [House Resolution 159](#) alongside Rep. Jason Crow (D-Colo.). The resolution recognizes essential employees with disabilities for their efforts during the COVID pandemic. Their support brings the number of cosponsors to 21 Democrats and 12 Republicans. In June, SourceAmerica's Grassroots Advocacy Conference attendees met with Rep. Titus and Crow's offices, including AbilityOne Program participants Fabio Villaquiran from Opportunity Village and Gail Martinez from Bayaud Enterprises.

Administration for Community Living Releases Issue Brief on Competitive Integrated Employment

The Administration for Community Living has released a [new issue brief](#) summarizing the research supporting competitive integrated employment. The issue brief touches on the benefits of customized employment, a process for individualizing the employment relationship between a job seeker and an employer based on a match between the unique strengths, needs, and interests of the job candidate with a disability and the identified business needs of the

employer. It also highlights a handful of recent studies that looked at and found positive results for the return on investment and cost-benefits of CIE.

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Releases Two Reports on Long COVID

On Aug. 3, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services released two reports in response to President Biden's [Memorandum on Addressing the Long-Term Effects of COVID](#):

- [The Services and Supports for Longer-Term Impacts of COVID-19 Report](#), which outlines federal funded supports and services that can help individuals experiencing the longer-term effects of COVID-19; and
- [The National Research Action Plan on Long COVID](#) which proposes a comprehensive and equitable research strategy to inform the national response to long COVID.

Fourteen federal agencies partnered to develop the reports, describing the wide range of services and support available nationwide and laying out a research strategy for the future.