

September 17, 2008

50 Concerns with Budget Issues in GA, Presidential Election Info and More

Dearest Advocates:

As I know you are all aware, this is an election year. We **ALL** need to get involved to advocate, educate and inform others to the issues individuals with disabilities face in American. How can we make a change in this country if our legislators do not understand our issues.

I have been receiving a lot of great information to help in your advocacy and educational efforts. Below is a great summary of the Presidential candidate's views prepared by American Academy of Family Physicians (thanks Sara for forwarding this information).

In addition, we all need to help educate the Presidential candidates on all the issues including affordable, accessible housing. Goto the following website to express your concerns:

http://capwiz.com/rochestercdr/issues/alert/?alertid=11928371&type=ML&show_alert

=1

In addition, revenues are down again for the month of August in Georgia. This **WILL** impact the services individuals with disabilities receive in the coming months/years. We all need to get involved this coming legislative session to advocate for those important programs needed to support individuals with disabilities. Below is a report from Georgia Budget and Policy Institute regarding the budget crisis in Georgia. As I have more information on how we can make a difference – I will let you know. Please be prepared to get involved this year!

I have also included information on upcoming events for those families that have children with Spina Bifida and Autism.

Please note: There has been changes to my website. I am going to try very hard to start including recent copies of my newsletters on the website, as well as, general and advocacy information that you may find important. This is currently in the developing stages so please be patient as I start working on posted information you need to know to help advocate and have information to make educated decisions for your child. Please go to my website to check it out: www.heidijmoore.com. More to come at a later date!

I hope you find this information helps.

United... We Will Make A Difference!
Heidi

From: Georgia Budget and Policy Institute

For Immediate Release
September 16, 2008 Contact: Alan Essig, Executive Director
404-420-1324, Ext. 101
770-402-4630 (Cell)

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Tax Reform Resources

For More GBPI Reports:

www.gbpi.org

GBPI Releases New Report

Highlights Budget Reduction Proposals of Board of Education, Board of Regents,
Department of Human Resources and Department of Community Health

[Click here to view the report.](#)

Atlanta - The Georgia Budget and Policy Institute has released a new report, Deficit Reduction Step Three: State Agency Budget Proposals, which highlights the budget proposals submitted to the Governor by the Board of Education (BOE), Board of Regents (BOR), Department of Human Resources (DHR) and Department of Community Health (DCH). The proposed cuts to these 4 agencies total \$527 million.

The Governor had estimated the state budget gap at \$1.6 billion (0.7 percent revenue decline) in FY 2009, and immediately cut state agencies budget allotments by 6 percent. Each state agency was required to submit budget reduction options for FY 2009 and FY 2010 that total 6 percent, 8 percent, and 10 percent of their budgets to the Governor by September 2nd. The only exceptions were for 5 percent cuts to the Medicaid and PeachCare programs and 2 percent cuts to the K-12 education funding formula. In addition to the 2 percent reduction in the education funding formula proposed in FY 2009, the BOE has proposed a 3 percent education funding formula reduction in FY 2010.

In that revenues have declined by 6.8 percent over the first two months of the fiscal year, and that the Georgia State University Economic Forecasting Center is projecting a year-end revenue decline of 4.0 percent (\$2.3 billion budget gap), it is likely that, without additional sources of revenues, state agencies will be required to implement the 10 percent budget reduction option.

"Now that state agencies have submitted their deficit reduction proposals to the Governor's Office of Planning and Budget, it is important that such reductions be made in a transparent and democratic way," said Alan Essig, the executive director of the Georgia Budget and Policy Institute. "Public input and legislative debate, including a discussion of revenue options, needs to happen before budget decisions are finalized, as many of the budget cuts proposed by the state agencies will have a significant impact on the education, health, welfare, quality of life and public safety of a majority of Georgia citizens," said Essig.

The Georgia Budget and Policy Institute is the state's leading independent, nonprofit, non-partisan

organization engaged in research and education on the fiscal and economic health of the state of Georgia. The Institute provides reliable and timely analyses of Georgia's budget and tax policies and promotes greater state government fiscal accountability, improved services and an enhanced quality of life for all Georgians.

ADAPT Challenges HUD, Dems, McCain on Disability/Housing Economic Crisis

For Immediate Release

September 16, 2008

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<http://www.adapt.org>

<http://www.duhcity.org>

ADAPT Challenges HUD, Dems, McCain on Disability/Housing Economic Crisis

Washington, D.C.---ADAPT wasted no time challenging multiple policymakers on the housing crisis for persons with disabilities who have low and extremely low incomes. After setting up a tent city at HUD headquarters just after 4 a.m., ADAPT sent 100 activists to the Democratic National Committee (DNC) offices in Washington, D.C., and another hundred to a Sen. John McCain campaign office in Arlington, VA. All three entities were presented with the ADAPT platform for affordable, accessible housing.

The DNC was cordial, and they accepted our housing platform, as well as our invitation to visit DUH City which is HUD spelled backwards said octonagerian Barb Toomer, ADAPT organizer from Utah."The career HUD staff that met with ADAPT told our people they had no authority to make decisions and had to wait for the administration or administrative appointees to make any decisions, so the meeting felt like a waste of time. Sen. John McCain's campaign staff not only refused to even look at our housing platform, they had eleven of us arrested by police who caused injuries to at least one arrestee.

ADAPT's housing platform points to America's longstanding and still growing crisis in the availability of affordable, accessible integrated housing. Many people with disabilities live on benefits that are only 18% of the median income, a full 25% below the poverty level, and an amount that is less than the national average rent for a studio/efficiency apartment.

The federal government is sending stimulus payments to middle class workers, and is providing economic relief for the mortgage crisis, and maybe even the bank crisis said Dawn Russell, Denver ADAPT. What about all of us who live on fixed incomes? If we can not afford the cost of housing, we will end up on the street or being forced into nursing homes and institutions. What are the federal government, Congress, and the presidential candidates going to do to help us with our housing crisis?

In its platform, ADAPT is asking for:

- 5000 new housing vouchers per year for 10 years, targeted to people transitioning out of nursing homes and other institutions;
- Twice as much funding for the construction of new housing stock that is affordable, accessible and integrated;
- Policies and procedures to track the new vouchers to assure they remain targeted to people with disabilities when the original user becomes ineligible or no longer needs the voucher;
- People with disabilities who reside in institutional settings to be recognized as homeless

ADAPT's DUH City will remain in operation twenty four hours a day until Thursday, September 18. The DUH City Times will be delivered daily to every member of Congress, and there will be daily DUH TV coverage on You Tube. Background information, real stories of real people and photos can all be accessed at www.duhcity.org

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Presidential and Vice Presidential Debates have been scheduled:

http://www.debates.org/pages/news_111907.html

First presidential debate:

Friday, September 26

University of Mississippi, Oxford, MS

Vice presidential debate:

Thursday, October 2

Washington University in St. Louis, MO

Second presidential debate:

Tuesday, October 7

Belmont University, Nashville, TN

Third presidential debate:

Wednesday, October 15

Hofstra University, Hempstead, NY

From GCDD: The Senate Passed the ADA Amendments Act!

More Info Visit this page: <http://capwiz.com/thearc/issues/alert/?alertid=11913331&queueid=2371219301>

September 11, 2008

Thanks to all of your grassroots support, the Senate just passed The ADA Amendments Act (S. 3406) by unanimous consent. The bill included over 77 bipartisan co-sponsors. Because the Senate bill differs slightly from the House version (HR3195), the House will need to take up the ADA Amendments Act again. Given limited time, it is likely the House will vote on the Senate version as early as next week. Once both houses pass identical bills, we anticipate the President will sign the bill shortly thereafter.

The ADA Amendments Act will correct narrow court interpretations that have restricted ADA coverage in the workplace, and weakened coverage for individuals with developmental disabilities, diabetes, epilepsy, serious heart conditions, and cancer. The act will also clarify responsibilities for employers. It enjoys wide support on both sides of the aisle, as well as among employers, civil rights and disability advocates, who have formed an uncommon alliance to support this legislation.

2008 Walk 'n Roll for Spina Bifida.

Call on your family, friends, neighbors, schoolmates and business associates to form a team.

Let's make this year's Walk even more successful than the last. Don't forget there are prizes for the individual and the team raising the most donations!

Come early with your bat and glove for *Softball for All* at 10 am, a new addition to this year's Walk and Roll. Registration starts at noon and the Walk begins at 1pm – followed by a picnic for all participants hosted by our sponsors.

We are pleased to have the support of the following major sponsors: UroMed, R&R Mobility Vans & Lifts, Avalanche Entertainment, Starwood Hotels, BB&T, Publix and North Metro Miracle League.

If you need more information, please contact Chana Flieg – cflieg@hotmail.com or 404.551.3961.

Details: **October 19, 2008** at North Metro Miracle League Adaptive Sports Complex at North Park Alpharetta. More information: www.spinabifidaga.org

Autism Awareness Day at Universal Studios, Orlando November 22, 2008

For more information go to the following website:

<http://www.walkknowforautism.org/atf/cf/%7bDFA39450-E9FB-458C-A42F-666E690CCBBF%7d/CREDIT%20CARD%20FORM%20UNIVERSAL.PDF>

Autism Training Event - October 31st and November 1, 2008

More information: University of West Georgia, 678-839-6611, www.uwgce.com