

Sent to all 535 members of Congress

From: Lauren Blachowiak <lblachowiak@AUCD.ORG>

Sent: Tuesday, January 26, 2021 11:02 AM

To: whitley.oneal@mail.house.gov

Cc: Rylin Rodgers <rrodders@AUCD.ORG>

Subject: Association of University Centers on Disabilities introduction and meeting request

Good morning Whitley,

We are writing to congratulate your boss on joining the 117th Congress and to introduce our organization, the Association of University Centers on Disabilities, as a valuable resource within the disability community as you begin your work.

The [Association of University Centers on Disabilities \(AUCD\)](#) is a membership organization that supports and promotes a national network of university-based interdisciplinary programs in every U.S. state and territory. Our three types of network centers serve as a bridge between the university and the community to achieve meaningful change for individuals with developmental and other disabilities. These are the centers in your state:

- **University Centers for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities** work with people with disabilities, members of their families, state and local government agencies, and community providers in projects that provide training, technical assistance, service, research, and information sharing, with a focus on building the capacity of communities to sustain all their citizens.
 - **Institute on Human Development and Disability**, University of Georgia
- **Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental and Related Disabilities (LENDs)** interdisciplinary training, services, and care for people with disabilities across the lifespan.
 - **Center for Leadership in Disability**, Georgia State University

Attached is a one-pager which provides contact information for our network centers in your state, as well as some quick numbers on disability in your state.

We are eager to begin our work together, and share our [Disability Policy Priorities for 2021](#) for your use. We would greatly appreciate the opportunity to meet and further discuss our policy priorities and to learn how we can better support the important work of you and your boss this Congress. Please let us know if you have availability at any of the following times (EST):

Friday, 1/29: 9 am – 2 pm

Monday, 2/1: 1 pm – 5 pm

Tuesday, 2/2: 9 am – 12:30 pm

Thursday, 2/4: 9:30 am – 5 pm

Friday, 2/5: 9 am – 5 pm

We are happy to provide additional availability if none of these timeframes work for you. Additionally, please let us know if another staff member in your office is a better contact to discuss disability-related issues and Appropriations going forward. We are aware offices are settling in.

Thank you for all of the hard work of you and your boss, and we look forward to hearing from you.

Best,

Rylin Rodgers

Director of Public Policy

rrodders@aucd.org

Direct: 240.821.9381

Cell: 765.891.0075

Lauren Blachowiak

Disability Policy Fellow

lblachowiak@aucd.org

Direct: 240.821.9386

Cell: 716.867.0722

AUCD Centers Serving Georgia



University Centers for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (UCEDDs) work with people with disabilities, members of their families, state and local government agencies, and community providers in projects that provide training, technical assistance, service, research, and information sharing, with a focus on building the capacity of communities to sustain all their citizens.

Institute on Human Development and Disability

Phone: 706-542-3457

Website: <http://www.ihdd.uga.edu/>

Center for Leadership in Disability

Phone: 404-413-1281

Website: <http://www.cld-gsu.org/>

Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental and Related Disabilities (LENDs) interdisciplinary training, services, and care for people with disabilities across the lifespan.

Center for Leadership in Disability

Phone: 404-413-1281

Website: <http://www.cld-gsu.org/>

Disability in Georgia by the Numbers

219,111

Students age 3-21 receive special education supports¹

36.8%

of people with disabilities are employed²

&

18

14c certificate holders paying subminimum wages³

\$1,380,579,911

Medicaid expenditures for LTSS institutional care⁴

vs

\$1,234,336,165

Medicaid expenditures for HCBS⁴

1,246,077

Individuals with disabilities living in communities⁵

AUCD and Your Office

The Association of University Centers on Disabilities (AUCD) supports a national network of university-based interdisciplinary programs in every U.S. state and territory. We are a trusted resource on disability policy issues and stand ready to connect you to resources, research and expertise in both policy and constituent service.

1. IDEA Section 618 Data Products: Static Files. Part B. Retrieved from <https://www2.ed.gov/programs/osepidea/618-data/static-tables/2018-2019/part-b/child-count-and-educational-environment/1819-bchildcountandedenvironment-1.xlsx>.
 2. Cornell University. Disability Statistics. Employment Rate. American Community Survey (ACS). Retrieved from <http://www.disabilitystatistics.org/reports/acs.cfm?statistic=2>.
 3. U.S. Department of Labor, Wage and Hour Division: "14(c) Certificate Holders," October 1, 2020. Retrieved from <https://www.dol.gov/agencies/whd/workers-with-disabilities/section-14c/certificate-holders>.
 4. Eiken, S. et al., 2018. Medicaid Expenditures for Long-Term Services and Supports in FY 2016. IBM Watson Health
 5. U.S. Census Bureau. (2018). American community survey. In Lauer, E.A., Boege, S.L., & Houtenville, A.J. (Eds.): "Annual disability statistics compendium," 2019 (Table 1.3). Durham, NH: University of New Hampshire, Institute on Disability. Based on a sample and subject to sampling variability.