



NCDA | National Career Development Association

NCDA Monthly Report

Since mid-December, the shutdown has been driving the narrative in DC and nationwide. The President has just come to an agreement to back down and reopen the government for three weeks. The question now is whether or not he'll shut it down again in mid-February if he doesn't get what he wants.

Advocacy Updates

The lame duck period between the election and the end of the year turned out to be both productive and devastating. On the productive side, Congress passed the Farm Bill, a key criminal justice reform bill, and a number of other small but important bills. However, a standoff between President Trump and the Democrats has led to a devastating government shutdown which is now the longest in history. This shutdown is unique because it isn't the entire government that is shutdown and the Administration has been taking steps to ease the pain of the shutdown. These two things combined have significantly lowered the pressure on Congress and the President to reach a deal. It's a two edged sword - it is a good thing that pain has been reduced but by lengthening the shutdown, the pain being felt is still very real and is for a longer period of time.

Despite the shutdown, Congress and their staff were still working. The legislative branch is fully funded and Members are mapping out their agendas for the year. The shutdown delayed some of this work by about 3-4 weeks. Committee assignments are complete and we are now waiting for subcommittee assignments to be made. This information is important as we map out which Members to target this year and who will be sitting on committees that have an impact on our legislative priorities. Our team has already been on the Hill, meeting with our staff connections and getting some insight on what into what Members plan to prioritize and on what timetable.

For now, we will continue to monitor newly introduced bills and see what happens during this break from the shutdown.

During the month of December, we worked with the Government Relations Committee to put together a strategy for the new session. We determined that it would be best to build off of the success and relationships we've built so far and push for increased funding and requirements for certification. To that end, the Lobbyit team met with the office of the incoming Chair of the Armed Services Committee to discuss pushing for increased credentialing requirements for counselors in the transition assistance program. The meeting went well and he asked that we circle back after the start of the year and determine a concrete path forward.

In January we will work to set up this meeting and work with the NCDA team to put together a document that lists the benefits of credentials to use in our push for increased requirements.

Until next month,
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