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***Annual Report***

**GOVERNMENT RELATIONS (GR )**

**September 1, 2023**

**Leadership Information**

* **Co-Chair for 2022-23:** - Diana M. Bailey, dibailey@comcast.net, 443-996-1788; 5117 Lynngate Road, Columbia, MD  21044

**Co-Chair/retired:** Steven Myers, steven.myers.lpc@gmail.com; 703-507-8428; 3518 Willow Green Ct. Oakton, VA 22124

**Co-Chair/incoming:** Elle O’Flaherty,elleoflaherty@interlacesolutions.com; 202-906-0618; 1864 Monroe St., NW, Washington, DC 20010

**Shelby McIntyre: Incoming Co-Chair:** shelbynmc@gmail.com 541-207-6506; 12817 Moorpark St. Apt #4 Studio City, CA 91604

**List Committee Members**: Niel Carey (honorary/now deceased), Rebecca Dedmond (honorary) Natalie Kauffman, Amy Policastro Schroeder; Rae Anne Stout; Shelby McIntyre; Lana Kaye Farley, Nina Talley, Jonae Watts, Sarah Jan Tausch, Guila Todd (ACA)

* **Board Liaison**- Marty Apodaca
* **Lobbyit representative(s)-** Juan Mejia; Casin Spero

**Activities to Date:**

* Lobbyit submits a detailed monthly legislative report throughout the year that was posted to the NCDA website, as well as weekly updates on the situation in Washington. These reports are shared with state GR contacts.
* Continued a team of four State Coordinators who took turns throughout the year disseminating Lobbyit legislative updates as well as announcements and general legislative information to Government Relations/Legislative Contacts across NCDA’s chartered and active states. Following the conference, the new co-chair developed a GR Resource Guide of dissemination and website addition.
* The website was updated in later 2022 but will be updated again in Fall 2023.
* Additional new team members added to GR Committee for 2022-23 year to support overall work of committee (Shelby McIntyre, Lana Kaye Farley, Jonae Watts, and Sarah Jan Tausch.
* Juan Mejia and Casin Spero from LobbyIt recently joined NCDA GR in beginning of 2023. Richard Hoar is no longer working with Lobbyit. Juan is our main contact.
* During National Career Development month, Lobbyit and the GR committee facilitated the development and dissemination of Career Dev. Month proclamations. In addition to the national one, others were secured for Washington DC, VA, North Carolina, and VT. California is already working to secure one in 2023.
* Diana M. Bailey participated in an NCDA podcast with current NCDA President Lakeisha Mathews. <https://ncda.buzzsprout.com/1963679/11972365-advocating-for-work-related-legislation-with-diana-bailey>
* Hill Day was April 25th in Washington DC with Lobbyit partners, NCDA GR committee, and NCDA leadership. Hill Day team: Deneen Pennington, Lakeisha Matthews, Sharon Givens, Carolyn Jones, Marty Apadoka, Diana M. Bailey, Jonae Watts, and Lana Farley with the Lobbyit team. Several members of the GR Committee will attend the annual conference in June and present at several sessions with Juan Mejia from Lobbyit. Juan will also attend part of a Board meeting, Leadership Academy, President’s meeting, and other sessions as needed to promote member knowledge of our GR and legislative work.
* In addition to ACA, the GR team share resources from DOL, CTL and CCD on linked issues and training opportunities.
* This year, no new legislative representative, or federal staff we are clear nominee for the GR award. Unbeknownst to then GR chair, the committee nominated and submitted the current GR chair for the award for her service for many years to the GR committee. Diana M. Bailey was very surprised and honored by the special recognition. NCDA provided the plague and PR materials.
* Committee reports, agenda and other files are being combined into goggle docs to better share files with committee members and NCDA members as needed." update to: "Committee reports, agenda, historical reference docs, state proclamation examples, and other files are collected in Google Drive to better share files with committee members and NCDA members as needed.
* Several members of the GR Committee attended the annual conference in June and presented at several sessions with Juan Mejia from Lobbyit. Juan also attended part of a Board meeting, Leadership Academy, President’s meeting, and other sessions as needed to promote member knowledge of our GR and legislative work.
* ACA GR staff regularly attend monthly meetings, and they have period direct meetings with Lobbyit for coordination and collaboration purposes.
* With the new co-chairs, Diana is planning to step away from her role as a co-chair at the end of Sept. but plans to stay on the committee while in leadership transition. Since early summer, the incoming Co Chairs have been meeting and planning for 2023-24. Elle O’Flaherty band/Shelby McIntyre will assume the co-chair roles Oct. 1.
* Committee reports, agenda and other files are being combined into goggle docs to better share files with committee members and NCDA members as needed.
* Lobbyit is working with Education and Workforce Committee leadership in the House and Senate. This includes Senator Bernie Sanders as well as the HELP Committee (Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions) on the House side. Efforts are bipartisan when possible.
* Members of the GR committee and Lobbyit staff were very active at the June 2023 conference. Lobby it was as all committee meetings, BD meetings and the GR committee meeting and conference session.
* The meeting of the state CDA reps was before the GR chair and Lobby it arrived at the conference. In coming co-chair, Shelby McIntyre, met with state CDA reps in August for updates and linkages for PY 2024. (Current Chair was unavailable due to family emergency.)
* Created and disseminated statement in response to Supreme Court decision.
* Expanded outreach to Congressional Black Caucus and Hispanic Caucus

If you received funding for your work, what specific outcome(s) benefited NCDA?

* To date, we have Lobbyit services at the tier one level monthly but in preparation for Hill Day and follow-up, we have limited additional hours/services.
	+ Benefits to NCDA: legislative engagement and visibility to the mission of NCDA, member engagement, exposure of NCDA presidents to the process and participation, coordination with other organizations like ACA in our mutual GR efforts and needs.
* GR team Co-Chairs were invited to present at the VCDA in Nov. Diana’s travel expenses were provided, and she delivered the session as a NCDA GR volunteer. Unfortunately, Steve Myers was ill and could not attend. They were also pleased that an NCDA rep was at their conference and could promote NCDA membership as well.

**SAMPLE LOBBYIT MONTHLY REPORT: AUGUST 2023**



**Looming Shutdown Pressures Lawmakers Ahead of September**

Even while adjourned for August recess, leaders in Congress have continued discussions over fiscal year (FY) 2024 appropriations, including how to avoid a government shutdown when the new fiscal year begins on October 1. Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-NY) and House of Representatives Speaker Kevin McCarthy (R-CA) have reportedly agreed that a short-term spending measure – known as a continuing resolution (CR) – will be necessary to keep the federal government funded until at least early December, giving members of Congress more time to reach a final agreement on an FY24 spending bill.

However, the House Freedom Caucus has repeatedly made a line in the sand regarding federal spending levels and the group of conservative lawmakers remain upset with Speaker McCarthy for negotiating a debt deal in May. As a result, it appears that the cohort of lawmakers are prepared to shutdown the government at the end of the month.

There is still time in September to avoid a shutdown. However, our sources remain pessimistic about Congress finalizing spending that avoids a continuing resolution as a short-term measure.

**NCDA**

Meetings

Del. Eleanor Holmes Norton

**Congressional Black Caucus & Congressional Hispanic Caucus**

After our July meeting, Lobbyit began building out a contact list of legislative directors and Chiefs of Staff to members of both the Congressional Black Caucus (CBC) and the Congressional Hispanic Caucus (CHC). NCDA’s goal was to expand its reach with members of a broad delegation that translate into legislative support.

Our targeted outreach will introduce the association, explain its top-level issues, and request an audience with either the representative or their legislative staff. This will be in addition to our other efforts including the JOBS Act and administration’s efforts to address workforce shortages.

**Biden Admin Launches SAVE Plan Following Supreme Court Decision on Student Loans**

The Biden administration on Tuesday launched an application for a new student loan repayment plan as part of its latest attempt to offer relief to borrowers as payments resume despite significant political hurdles. The new plan is part of the administration's continued efforts to tackle student loans after its push to outright cancel up to $20,000 in debt for some borrowers was struck down by the Supreme Court earlier this year.

The SAVE, or Saving on a Valuable Education, plan is an income-driven repayment program that calculates payment size based on income and family size. It allows borrowers who consistently make their monthly payments to see their debt forgiven after a certain number of years.

Starting in July 2024, borrowers approved for a SAVE plan will see their monthly payments slashed in half for undergraduate loans, falling from 10% to 5% of disposable income -- the money left over after paying for necessities like food and rent.

For those with both graduate and undergraduate loans, payments would be between 5-10% of their income, weighted based off their initial loan amounts.

Student loan interest resumes in September with payments becoming due on October 1st for most borrowers.