January 10, 2019
Presentation Goals

- General Outline of Legislative Process in State and Federal Government
- State Council’s Legislative Priorities for 2019 – 2020
United States Congress vs. California State Legislature

- **U.S. Congress**
  - House of Representatives - 435 Members (with 53 California Members)
  - Senate - 100 Members (with 2 state-wide Members from each state)

- **CA State Legislature**
  - Assembly – 80 Members
  - Senate – 40 Members
The process of the federal or state government by which bills are considered and laws enacted is commonly referred to as the Legislative Process.
Basic Steps of the Legislative Process

Step 1: All legislation begins as an idea. Ideas for legislation can come from a variety of sources, but a Member of Congress or of the CA State Legislature must be the one to introduce the bill. The idea becomes a bill once introduced.
Basic Steps of the Legislative Process

Step 2: The idea for the bill is sent to Legislative Counsel who drafts it in the proper bill format. The draft of the bill is returned to the Member’s office for introduction. It is given a bill number at introduction.
Step 3: After a series of readings, hearings, changes (known as amendments), the bill will move from Committees to the Floor, and ultimately to the Executive Branch for the President or Governor to sign.

Bills are voted on at each stage of the process and can die at anytime.
Legislation

Ideas and Suggestions from agencies, citizens, government executives, legislators, or lobbyists.

House 1
• Bill is Introduced
• Committee Hearings
• Passes to the House 2

House 2
• Bill is received from first House
• Committee Hearings
• Passes to the Executive.

Executive
• Executive signs bill and it becomes law
• Executive’s veto kills bill

A bill can die many ways throughout each stage of the process.
There are two types of federal legislation.

1. Authorizing legislation that creates or revises current federal policies or programs.

2. Appropriations legislation that funds the federal government and its programs.
Federal Legislation

- SCDD cannot take a position on federal legislation that is different than the National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities (NACDD).

- SCDD expresses its position through NACDD. NACDD is the lobbyist that represents all Councils with the U.S. Congress and the federal agencies.

- NACDD decides its policy agenda and positions based on two Board of Director approved agendas and the input of NACDD’s Public Policy Committee.

- SCDD serves on NACDD’s Public Policy Committee and provides input to NACDD through the Policy Committee.

- SCDD’s role is to educate Members of Congress on the issues that NACDD has taken a position based on requests from NACDD.
State Legislation

- SCDD cannot work on policy issues that are not directly related to SCDD’s approved state plan.

- SCDD also has a Council approved legislative platform that serves as the foundation for SCDD’s policy activities.

- SCDD decides its policy priorities based on input from SCDD’s Employment First Committee (EFC) and Legislation and Public Policy Committee (LPPC). The EFC and LPPC provide recommendations to the Council to approve for SCDD’s positions.


- At times between meetings, SCDD’s Chair uses delegated authority to take positions between Council meetings when timing necessitates an immediate decision.
The Member of Congress who introduces the bill is the sponsor of the bill. Other Members of Congress from the same Chamber are known as co-sponsors.

In the California Legislature, the Member who introduces the bill is known as the author. Additional members who support the bill are known as co-authors.
There are specific deadlines for each step of the California legislative process. If a bill does not meet each deadline, the bill dies.

In the U.S. Congress, a bill only dies at the end of the two-year session. There are no other deadlines for when an authorizing bill must move through the legislative process.
The President does not have a line-item veto for any type of bill. He can veto the entire bill or sign the bill.

The Governor can veto specific items in the budget using a line item veto.
Federal vs. State (4/6)

- Funding for programs supported by the federal or state government run on different calendars.

- The Legislative calendar runs on the calendar year for both California and the federal government.

- The federal fiscal year is from October 1 - September 30. The state fiscal year is from July 1 - June 30.
In the U.S. Congress, a bill does not have to be successfully voted out of one Chamber before moving forward in the legislative process. A bill can move at the same time through the House of Representatives and U.S Senate. 

In California, bills move through the Chamber they are introduced in before moving to the other Chamber.
The U.S. Congress does not take public comment at hearings. Opinions and viewpoints on legislation is conveyed through outreach to offices in advance of informational hearings and mark-ups of bills.

The CA State Legislature does take public comment from concerned individuals during hearings. Hearings in California are also where changes to the bills are made.
SCDD’s 2019 Legislative Priorities

1. Self-Advocacy

2. Housing

3. Formal and Informal Supports
How does SCDD Categorize State Legislation?

- Support (With or Without Amendments)
- Watch
- Oppose
- No Position
It is critical that the Council Members, Committee Members, and Staff are speaking with one voice to all offices throughout California for informing and advocating with elected officials to be effective.
How Do I Find My Member?

- Official website for information activities of the U.S. Congress is at https://www.congress.gov/ (also to track bills and know daily proceedings)


- U.S. Senate Directory: https://www.senate.gov/general/contact_information/senators_cfm.cfm
How Do I Find My Member?

- Official website for information activities of CA State Legislature is at http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/ (also to track bills and know daily proceedings)

- California State Senate Directory: https://www.senate.ca.gov/

- California State Assembly Directory: https://www.assembly.ca.gov/

- Find Your Legislator is at: http://www.legislature.ca.gov/legislators_and_districts/legislators_and_districts.htm
Meeting with an Elected or Government Official

- Do some background research on the Member’s website to see what might be of interest to them.

- If you can thank the Member for something he or she has recently done that you support to start the meeting.

- Make it clear that you see the Member as a partner in ensuring people with disabilities can learn, work, live in the community etc.

- Take timing cues from the Member or their staff. Meeting with staff is equally important as meeting with the Member themselves.
Meeting with an Elected or Government Official

- Be early, and do not take it personally if you or others have to wait for the meeting to start. Be prepared to meet anywhere.

- If multiple people are attending the meeting, prepare in advance for who is going to cover what talking points in the meeting.

- Go into a meeting with no more than 2-3 topics of discussion. Share both stories and data.
Follow-up with the office is just as or more important than the meeting. After the meeting send a thank you email, and any additional information that you promised to send to them.
Questions?