



NCDAA Monthly Report

The month of January was dominated by the shutdown. Beyond the real-life impacts to the million or so federal workers and contractors that went without pay, the shutdown had ripple effects throughout DC that are still being felt today.

Advocacy Updates

As of now, another shutdown has been averted and the hope is that for the remainder of the two-year session, the tactic of shutdown politics won't come into play again. The impacts of the shutdown are still being felt as Congress is almost a month behind schedule and the impacted agencies, especially the IRS, are struggling to get back on track after falling behind. In the House, things are more noticeably behind because of the transition of power from the Republicans to the Democrats. Committees have just been finalized and only over the past couple weeks have hearings begun in earnest. Most committees have yet to identify the priorities they will be pursuing, partially due to the fact that they are still staffing up.

The shutdown has made it clear that only the most bipartisan pieces of legislation are likely to get worked on this cycle. In the Senate, that means that the bill will pass without needing floor time through a procedure that expedites voting on bills that are noncontroversial. The House has a similar process. In addition, there will be a strong push to pass infrastructure, higher education, and privacy legislation. These will be

difficult and will require multiple hearings and a lot of advocacy. Our job this year will be to monitor the progress on the difficult bills and identify bills that are likely to pass without opposition.

During the month of January, the Lobbyit team continued working on our priority to insert language in a bill that provides grant money and/or launches a pilot program to examine the improved career outcomes when credentialed counselors are working with veterans and separating members in the Transition Assistance Program (TAP). We met again with staff for the chair of the Armed Services Committee, Congressman Adam Smith (D-WA). His Committee doesn't have direct oversight of the program but is very influential on issues impacting servicemen and women and we hope to make him an ally to our goals. We will continue to work with his staff as we reach out for additional partners.

Until next month,

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