

## **Congressional Update**

Much attention has been focused on negotiations between the Trump Administration and the Democrats on a new round of stimulus funding. The House passed the HEROES Act months ago, and negotiations were at a stalemate until late September when Speaker Pelosi heeded calls from some moderate House members and instructed her team to put together a slimmed-down version of the HEROES Act.

The result was a \$2.2 trillion bill known as HEROES Act 2.0. This represented Pelosi's negotiating position that the Democrats would be willing to come down \$1 trillion if the Administration came up \$1 trillion from its original offer. The Administration is responding with a \$1.8 trillion proposal.

If a deal is reached, the fastest it could find its way to President Trump's desk is likely the last week of October, but a hurdle remains in the Senate, where Majority Leader McConnell has not indicated that he is willing to pass such a large stimulus bill.

We have successfully secured some of our priorities in HEROES Act 2.0 and are urging Congress to reach a deal and to get help out the door as soon as possible.

## **Hill Activity Report**

During September, our team was busy pursuing priorities on behalf of AJA. As was mentioned earlier, the House Democrats released a slimmed-down version of the HEROES Act known as HEROES Act 2.0.

We requested that the Reentry Act be included in the bill but were unable to secure that language, however HEROES Act 2.0 includes reinstatement of coverage 30 days prior to release and a report that examines the current state of healthcare access for state-incarcerated individuals. Though the chances of HEROES Act 2.0 passing before the election are slim, we are hopeful that the bill and this language will be part of a negotiated agreement in the next several months.

We also successfully lobbied for reinstatement of the Payment Protection Plan and access to a second round of funding for organizations that experienced more than 25% revenue loss. This percentage is significantly lower than the 50% that was originally proposed.

Additionally, we participated in a phone call with the National Sheriffs' Association (NSA) and other stakeholders and presented our position in support of Senator Duckworth's bill that would grant the FCC the authority to regulate intrastate call rates.

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