

**GOVERNMENT RELATIONS** (**GR**) **COMMITTEE REPORT**

**September 10, 2020**

**Leadership Information**

* Chair- Diana M. Bailey (DB), [dibailey@comcast.net](mailto:dibailey@comcast.net), 443-996-1788

5117 Lynngate Road, Columbia, MD 21044

* Co-Chair- (vacant) from 2019-20
* Future Chair and Co-Chair- still seeking Co-Chair ASAP. (DB may be retiring in 2021??)
* Committee Members- Niel Carey, Rebecca Dedmond, Latara Jones, Natalie Kauffman, Steven Myers, Amy Policastro Schroeder and Rae Anne Stout
* Board Liaison- Charles Lehman
* Lobbyit representative- Jason Ortega

**Committee Activities to Date**

* Lobbyit submitted a monthly legislative update throughout the year that was posted to the NCDA website.
* Developed 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 for 2019-20. Began in Fall 2019 with 31 Government Relations/Legislative contacts across 25 states & Pakistan and ended in Summer 2020 with two additional or **33** Government Relations/Legislative contacts across 2 more or **27** states and Pakistan.
* Lobbyit organized a HILL DAY in September 2019. Jason Ortega, Diana Bailey and Aaron Leson attended. They met with key legislators working on bipartisan engagement in proposed, career development-related legislation. Those visits, along with Jason Ortega’s ongoing communication with legislative staff, resulted in NCDA being asked to submit relevant language promoting career development inclusion and the critical need for professionally-trained and credentialed career development staff to meet the needs of K-12 youth. NCDA-provided language actually made it directly into the initial Bill and resulted in the ***Counseling for Career Choice Act***.
* Collaborated with DOL to co-sponsor a November 2019 webinar focusing on DOL resources relevant to NCDA members. Approximately 75 NCDA members attended.
* NCDA submitted a press release about the progress of the ***Counseling for Career Choice Act****,* which was jointly sponsored through bipartisan efforts by US Congressional Representative, **Glenn William “G.T.” Thompson** (**R**), representingPA’s 15th congressional district and US Congressional Representative, **James R. “Jim” Langevin** (**D**), representing RI’s 2nd congressional district.

**GR Committee Activities to Date** *(continued)*

* Submitted a first-time-ever, joint application for and secured the NCDA 2020 Legislative Award for Thompson and Langevin for their bipartisan efforts on the ***Counseling for Career Choice Act***.
* Due to continuing and consistent committee connectivity efforts begun in 2018-2019, Lobbiyit met periodically with ACA GR staff. ACA GR staff also joined multiple GR monthly meetings throughout the year to identify potential mutual efforts and areas of future interactions. In Fall 2020, ACA plans to interview President Kathy Evans for an upcoming article and their **Counselor Today** November publication plans to focus on Career Concerns to help celebrate Career Development Month.
* Presented a recorded session for the first-ever, virtual NCDA 2020 Global Conference in July 2020, “**Applying the Legislative Process to Inspire Innovation, Increase Diversity, and Promote Social Justice in Career Practice”**.
* Shared updated GR resources with Carolyn Jones, Board State Divisions Trustee. In turn, she distributed the information to her representatives.
* GR Committee member, Amy Policastro Schroeder’s Career Development Month article in **Career Convergence** and Web Editor, Melanie Reinersman’s online website marketing efforts kicking-off Career Development Month combined to elicit virtual information exchanges between GR’s State Coordinators and our **31** Government Relations/Legislative contacts across **25** states. Not only did some states share what they were doing for the month for 2019, many began to plan to request proclamations from their state legislative reps or Governor for Career Development Month 2020.
* Lobbyit additionally assisted NCDA on issues related to COVID’s impact on organizations and associations including Pandemic Risk Insurance as well as Payroll Protection Program funding.
* Began a Summer 2020 review of our GR sections of the NCDA website.

**Projected Plan/Work Completed through September 30, 2021**

**Plan to . . .**

* update our GR sections of the NCDA website.
* continue our relationship with Lobbyit.
* continue to collaborate and co-create with DOL. We already have reached out to discuss a 2nd Fall webinar. Hope to confirm a date later this month.
* continue to collaborate with ACA and to help promote their May 2021 virtual HILL Day to our NCDA members. NCDA GR may consider participating, too.
* submit an application for the NCDA 2021 Legislative Award.
* collaborate with the NCDA Awards Committee and submit an Awards article showcasing recent Legislative Award winners for the December 2020 issue of **Career Convergence**.
* continue NCDA website updates for both GR- and DOL-related resources.
* submit a proposal for the 2021 NCDA Global Conference.

**Projected Plan/Work Completed through September 30, 2021** *(continued)*

**Plan to . . .**

* further develop and enhance our State Coordinators’ relationship with our **33** current Government Relations/Legislative Contacts across **27** of NCDA’s chartered and active states for 2020-21 not only by continuing to virtually collaborate and communicate monthly by email and once again by co-sponsoring a DOL webinar, but also by going LIVE with a Town Hall Zoom Meeting in early February to discuss post-Election legislative effects with respect to career development issues and concerns at the state, national and global levels. GR hopes to invite our lobbyist, Jason Ortega, as well as a representative from ACA’s Government Affair staff to kick-off a lively interchange.

**Additional Legislative Information**

For the remainder of September 2020, all eyes will remain on Congressional negotiations for the next stimulus. Congress is at a stalemate and has not been able to find consensus on a path forward. Our GR team, with Lobbyit’s continuing assistance, is focused on securing additional PPP funds, pandemic risk insurance, automatic forgiveness of small PPP grants and tax incentives for conference attendees and vendors.

The task of building and maintaining a national career counseling framework requires targeted, significant funding and we request that our Board continues to fund our synchronous efforts with Lobbyit so Congressional leaders will prioritize the passage of the ***Counseling for Career Choice Act***.