

**JOIN VOR IN WASHINGTON, D.C.**

2009 VOR Annual Meeting and Washington Initiative, June 12, 2009  
[Click here for details.](#)

**BE A SPONSOR; FIND A SPONSOR**

[Click here for details.](#)

**YOUR FAMILY ASSOCIATION CAN HELP!**

Distribute Annual Meeting/Initiative Flyers and Sponsorship Flyers  
Put information about these opportunities in your newsletters.  
Sponsor someone from your group to attend the meeting.

Contact Tamie at 605-399-1624; Tamie327@hotmail.com for information

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**VOR Weekly E-Mail Update**

**April 10, 2009**  
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**VOR ACTION ITEMS**

- 1. **NEW!** Sign a PETITION in support of MR/DD Residential choice! Share with everyone you know!
- 2. **NEW!** Member Request for Information.
- 3. **ONGOING!** Support H.R. 1255 - One week left to visit with your U.S. Representatives in his/her District office.

**FEDERAL NEWS**

- 4. Florida Congressman Introduces Resolution on Improving Access to Long-Term Health Care

**COMING UP: STATE NEWS**

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**1. NEW! SIGN A PETITION IN SUPPORT OF MR/DD RESIDENTIAL CHOICE! SHARE WITH EVERYONE YOU KNOW!**  
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**Summary: VOR's has issued a Petition in support of CHOICE. To sign it, go to <http://www.PetitionOnline.com/DDchoice/petition.html>. Sign it and Share it!**

**April 9, 2009:** Today, VOR launched a Petition which calls for "Support for a Full Array of Residential and Support Options for People with Developmental Disabilities." VOR seeks thousands of signatures in support of the Petition, which will be presented to Congress.

VOR seeks thousands of signatures in support of a common sense approach to public policy on behalf of persons with mental retardation and developmental disabilities (MR/DD). The Petition specifically notes support for the ICFs/MR option and expanded community options:

"We support the expansion of quality community-based service options; we oppose the elimination of the ICFs/MR ("institutional") option. We strongly object to attempts by some advocates and policymakers to eliminate the ICFs/MR option, despite its proven success and express support for it by individual residents and their family and legal guardians. Public policy should support expanding, not narrowing, options for people with MR/DD."

To review the complete Petition and SIGN THE PETITION, go to:  
<http://www.PetitionOnline.com/DDchoice/petition.html>

## **WE NEED YOUR HELP!**

First, **SIGN** the Petition.

Then, **SHARE** the Petition! Share the website address for the Petition with EVERYONE you know (family, friends, family associations, church groups, social clubs, coworkers, etc., etc.!).

## **THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP!!**

### **2. NEW! MEMBER REQUEST FOR INFORMATION**

Dear VOR Members:

If any of you have any insights regarding the following questions, please email me at [Tamie327@hotmail.com](mailto:Tamie327@hotmail.com).

(1) Do you know of a state that has a very good code of laws for their Department of Disabilities to serve as a model?

(2) Do you know of any state that has a good structure for the Department of Disabilities? Does it work better in a cabinet under the Governor? Or stand alone with the director chosen by a commission?

Thank you!

***Tamie Hopp***

***Tamie327@hotmail.com***

### **3. ONGOING! SUPPORT H.R. 1255 - ONE WEEK LEFT TO VISIT YOUR U.S. REPRESENTATIVE IN HIS/HER DISTRICT**

The District Work Period for Congress will end April 17. Don't miss your chance to meet with your U.S. Representative in person! Seek support for H.R. 1255! **WE NEED COSPONSORS!!**

If you need help finding contact information for your U.S. Representatives District office, contact Tamie at 605-399-1624 or [Tamie327@hotmail.com](mailto:Tamie327@hotmail.com).

Visit <http://vor.net/HR1255AlertTemplates.htm> and <http://vor.net/HR1255positions.htm> for template messages and position papers.

Thank you!

### **5. Florida Congressman Introduces Resolution on Improving Access to Long-Term Health Care**

For a copy of H.Res. 271, visit [http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getdoc.cgi?dbname=111\\_cong\\_bills&docid=f:hr271ih.txt.pdf](http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getdoc.cgi?dbname=111_cong_bills&docid=f:hr271ih.txt.pdf).

**Press Release  
March 19, 2009**

**Hastings Introduces Resolution on  
Improving Access to Long-Term Health Care**

Today, Congressman Alcee L. Hastings (D-Miramar) introduced a resolution calling for long-term care to be made a part of our nation's comprehensive health care reform agenda. "We are tasked with solving one of the most serious financial and health care crises of our era, Congress must implement a long-term plan to address the challenges we face," said Hastings.

Long-term care encompasses a broad range of health and social services that are used by people who cannot care for themselves because of a physical, cognitive, or mental disability. Over 9.4 million adults receive long-term care in America, and roughly 80 percent receive long-term care in their home and surrounding community. This number is expected to rise with a growing elderly population, longer life spans among the chronically ill, and higher incidences of acquired disabilities from unmanaged conditions such as HIV/AIDS, diabetes, obesity, and heart disease.

Hastings' resolution will improve the working conditions and training for home health aides, expand long-term care and health services, and promote preventative health measures to decrease the dependence on long-term care in the future.

"The lack of streamlined standards and dominant payment methods for long-term care has left our health care system in disarray, depriving countless people of much needed services and placing tremendous financial and emotional burden on families and caregivers. It is clear to me that this issue has been overlooked for too long. We must further improve our nation's health care system - the American people deserve nothing less."

Joining Hastings as original cosponsors of the resolution include: Representatives Donna Christensen, Barbara Lee, Robert Wexler, Gregory Meeks, Corrine Brown, John Conyers, Joe Courtney, Kathy Castor, Raúl Grijalva, Marcy Kaptur, James McGovern, Peter Welch and Barney Frank.

Congressman Alcee L. Hastings is Vice Chairman of the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, a senior member of the House Rules Committee, and Co-Chairman of the U.S. Helsinki Commission.

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***Tamie Hopp***

**VOR MEMBERSHIP/CONTRIBUTION FORM  
THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!**

**TO JOIN OR CONTRIBUTE:** \$25 per individual, \$150 per family organization, or \$200 per provider/professional organization. Extra donations are welcome!

You may pay by check or credit card  
VOR (Voice of the Retarded)  
836 S. Arlington Heights Rd., #351  
Elk Grove Village, IL 60007  
847-253-0675 fax (for referrals or credit card payments)  
Tamie327@hotmail.com (for referrals or credit card payments)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name

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Address (if paying by credit card, use billing address). All forms must include complete address including zip code)

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Family/Professional Organization Affiliation (if applicable)

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Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_

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