

United Spinal Association Webinar Series

How to Join the Rolling Revolution
June 7, 2018
3-4pm ET

Presenters:

Alexandra Bennewith, MPA, VP, Government Relations
Bethany Keirans, Director, VetsFirst
Brook McCall, Grassroots Advocacy Manager

Presenters



Brook McCall
Grassroots Advocacy Manager



Alexandra Bennewith, MPA
VP, Government Relations



Bethany Keirans, Director,
VetsFirst



Roll on Capitol Hill 2018

June 24-27

#ROCH2018; #RollingRevolution

Join the Rolling Revolution:

- Roll on Capitol Hill is United Spinal's annual legislative advocacy event that addresses issues that impact the health, independence and quality of life of individuals living with spinal cord injuries and other paralyzing conditions.
- Approx. 150 members from across the country advocate for legislation that improves the quality of life for people with spinal cord injuries and other paralyzing conditions.
- Issues to be discussed include:
 - Improve Air Travel for Passengers with Disabilities
 - Protect the Americans with Disabilities Act
 - Save healthcare benefits: prescription drugs; assistive and rehab technologies; medical supplies as well as community supports and services
 - Improve disabled veterans life insurance
 - Support VA Choice Program – veterans community provider healthcare

<https://www.unitedspinal.org/events/roll-on-capitol-hill/>

ROCH 2018 Schedule of Events

Capital Hilton

Sunday, June 24, 2018

- 5-6pm **New attendee advocacy orientation**
- 6-8pm **Welcome/Networking Reception**

Monday, June 25, 2018

- 8am-5pm **Sponsor Expo**
- 9:30am-5:15pm **Education Sessions, Speaker Presentations**

Tuesday, June 26, 2018

- 9am - 4pm **Capitol Hill Visits**
- 5pm - 7pm **Congressional Reception**

Wednesday, June 27, 2018

- 8:30am-10:30am **Wrap-up Breakfast/Feedback**

Roll on Capitol 2018 Hill Asks

- **Protect Our Healthcare, Rehab, Community Supports and Services**

**#accesstocare #healthjustice #health4all #ProtectOurCare
#ComplexRehab**

United Spinal supports bipartisan health reform efforts to protect against Medicare and Medicaid cuts; preserve essential health benefits; retain non-discrimination provisions for insurance coverage for pre-existing conditions and support reduced co-pay costs and subsidies for eligible enrollees and maintain comprehensive community supports and services.

<https://www.unitedspinal.org/action-center/>

H.R. 620 ADA Education Reform Act

Passed the House (2/15/18 – 225-119)

- Would require PWDs to write a notification letter to business notifying them of architectural barriers.
- Business would then have 120 days to make “substantial progress” in removing barrier before a PWD could file a lawsuit.

Sen. Tammy Duckworth (D-IL) Letter

- Sen. Duckworth along with the help of the disability community got 43 senators to sign a letter sent to Senate leadership opposing H.R. 620 or any similar legislation that includes notification: <https://www.duckworth.senate.gov/news/press-releases/duckworth-and-senate-democrats-vow-to-defeat-house-gop-led-effort-to-curtail-civil-rights-of-americans-with-disabilities>
- No real momentum in the Senate on moving H.R. 620, but we must continue to voice our strong opposition until the end of this Congressional session.

H.R. 620 ADA Education Reform Act – Next Steps

- **Roundtable Meeting with business proponents**
 - Sens. Feinstein & Flake held a joint roundtable discussion with the business and disability communities to discuss the underlying issue driving H.R. 620 – frivolous lawsuits.
 - Business and disability communities agreed:
 - that barriers and compliance with the ADA are still an issue
 - that lawyers just seeking money and not access are hurting the ADA
 - Some business proponents want to work with disability to educate their members on how to be more accessible.
 - We are continuing the dialogue with the business community re: improving access.

<https://www.unitedspinal.org/action-center/>

Roll on Capitol 2018 Hill Asks Save the Americans with Disabilities Act

#SaveADA #HandsOffMyADA

- H.R. 620 or any similar legislation would limit the ability of people with disabilities to enforce their rights under the ADA to access places of public accommodation in the same manner as all other citizens.
- This bill would amend the ADA to require the individual with a disability to send a letter of notification to the business that was out of compliance with the law giving the business a grace period of 120 days in total before someone can file suit.
- This bill is trying to protect businesses at the expense of people with disabilities.

Request to Senators:

Oppose any bills, in the Senate, like HR 620, that would amend the Americans with Disabilities Act. Bills like these are not the answer small businesses are looking for to address lawsuits against their establishments.

United Spinal Association wants to ensure that all stakeholders continue to advocate to enforce the ADA and expand access to ADA technical assistance through the ADA National Network.

Roll on Capitol 2018 Hill Asks

- **Air Travel Rights – Passengers with Disabilities**
#ACAAA #airtravelrights #accessibletravel
- **Air Carriers Access Amendments Act - S.1318/H.R.5004**
Despite long-standing federal law prohibiting barriers to access, air travel related equipment damage and personal bodily injury remain far too commonplace, especially for wheelchair users. Higher standards, increased training, and stiffer penalties would help assure passenger safety and increased protection for their mobility devices.
Senate Sponsor: Sen. Tammy Baldwin (D-WI)
House Sponsor: Rep. Jim Langevin (D-RI)

<https://www.unitedspinal.org/action-center/>

Core Beliefs:

Community Integration and Independence

Timely Access to Quality VA Health Care and Benefits

Rights of Veterans with Disabilities

www.vetsfirst.org

H.R. 4146, Disabled Life Insurance Act

#DisabledVetsLifeInsurance

#UpdateVARegs

This bill will:

- Lengthen application period
- Require industry standard updates to mortality and annuity tables
- Increase supplemental payout amounts

VETSFIRST REQUEST TO REPRESENTATIVES

Cosponsor and pass H.R. 4146, the Disabled Veterans Life Insurance Act of 2017 to mandate needed updates to Title 38 for the Disabled Veterans Life Insurance Program and provide quality life insurance for disabled veterans. House sponsor: Steve Pearce, R-NM-2nd.

<http://www.vetsfirst.org/vetsfirst-advocacy-action-center/>

Vets1First Roll on Capitol Hill 2018/VF Asks

a program of **United Spinal Association**

VA Choice & Community Care

#VACommunityCare

#SupportVAChoice

S. 2372/VA MISSION Act of 2018:

- establishes a Community Care Program at the VA;
- authorizes operations on live donors where veterans are eligible for transplant procedures;
- sets clear healthcare access guidelines and standards for quality care;
- provides education and training programs on health care options to veterans and VA and non-VA personnel;
- expands the family caregiver program at the VA; and,
- works towards establishing a high-performing integrated healthcare network

VETSFIRST REQUEST TO SENATORS

Cosponsor and pass legislation that will provide permanent funding to bolster the VA Choice program, and nurture existing health care opportunities available to Veterans across the nation. Senate sponsor: Johnny Isakson R-GA.

<http://www.vetsfirst.org/vetsfirst-advocacy-action-center/>

Congressional Advocacy: 3 Keys to Success

1. Build a long term relationship

- Find common ground
- Think and act long term
- Staff make a difference

2. Information is Power

- Tell your story
- Use our talking points
- Know the status of the issue you are addressing

3. Be yourself and always be at your best

- Be honest, respectful
- Always follow up



Congressional Hill Visits

Familiarize yourself with the issues

Who are you meeting with:

- Are they Republican or Democrat?
- What committee are they on, are they in Leadership or on the Disability Caucus?

What is the difference between a visit and a drop-by?

Which members of Congress are already on our bills?

- Look online to see who has sponsored our bills:
 - <https://unitedspinal.org/advocacy-action/resources/>
 - <https://www.govtrack.us/congress/bills/#find>
 - www.congress.gov

Invite Congressional offices and their staff to attend Congressional Reception

Capitol Hill Visits – All Shapes and Sizes



Grassroots Advocacy Network

Rolling Together for Policy Change

- 6 Regional Advocacy Coordinators
- A Chapter Advocacy Representative from each United Spinal chapter across the nation
- Straightforward and timely tools & resources for effective local and state level advocacy

Grassroots Advocacy Capstones

- Community Needs Assessment
 - Assess and address the changes you and your local SCI/D community need most
- Legislative Engagement
 - Develop two-way legislative relationships
- Communication Structure
 - Share your advocacy work with the network

Virtual Roll on Capitol Hill

Our 2018 ROCH toolkit highlights ways for you to roll with us:

- In your district office
- Over the phone
- On social media using #ROCH2018 Hashtags
- Via email

ROCH 2018 Toolkit Highlights

- Issue summaries with hashtags
- One page policy briefs
- Resource and preparatory webinar links
- Legislator introduction letters
 - One for individuals attending the Roll
 - One for virtual Rollers

Want to Roll Together All Year?

Join the Grassroots Advocacy Network:

<https://www.unitedspinal.org/action-center/>

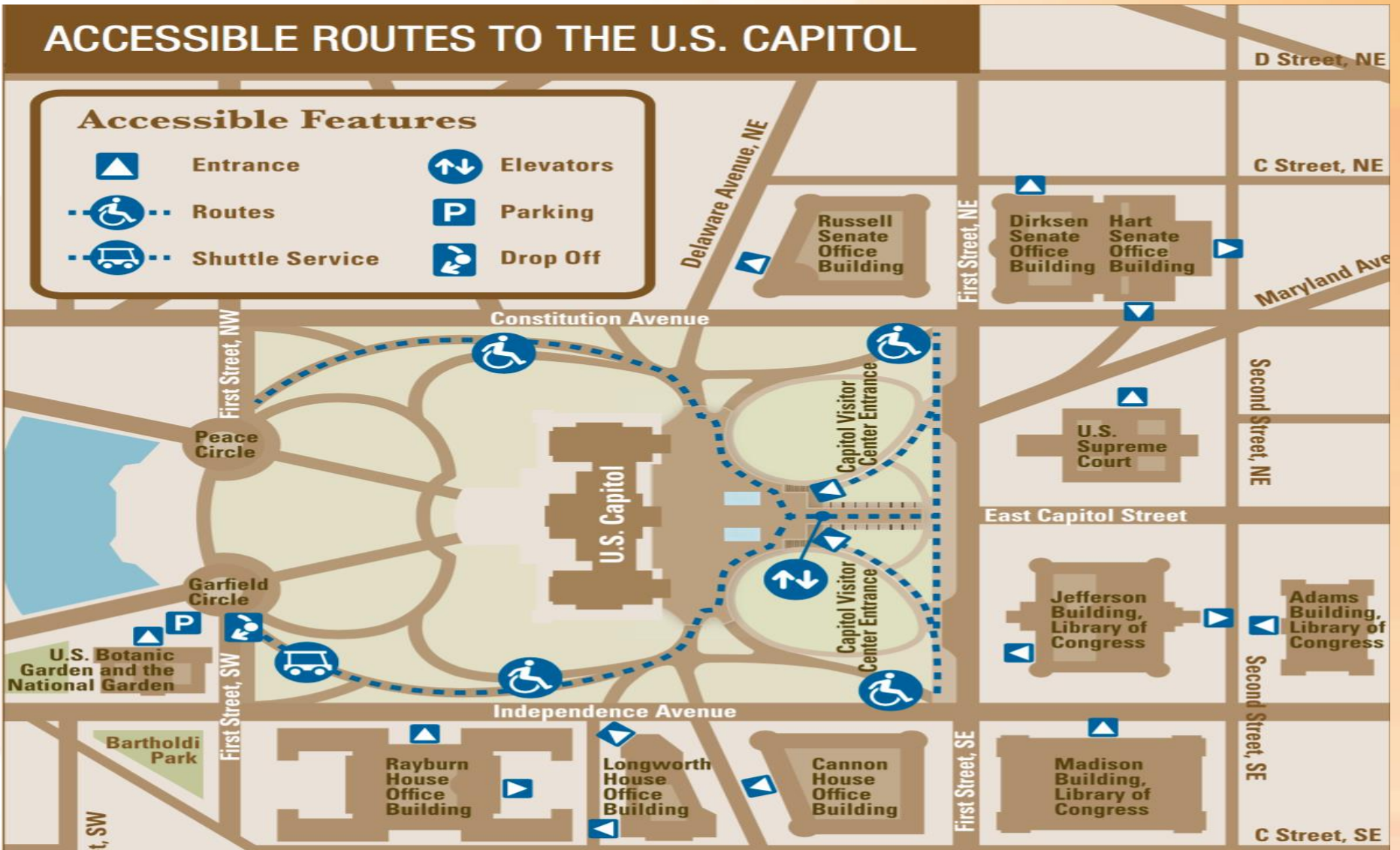
Click the “mobilize with us” button

Capitol Complex Accessible Map

ACCESSIBLE ROUTES TO THE U.S. CAPITOL

Accessible Features

- | | |
|---|---|
|  Entrance |  Elevators |
|  Routes |  Parking |
|  Shuttle Service |  Drop Off |



<https://www.aoc.gov/accessibility-services>

Navigating The House

- There are 3 House Buildings: Cannon, Longworth, and Rayburn.
- Each building is connected via the tunnel system in the
 - Basement level (Cannon/Longworth) and Sub-basement level (Rayburn).
 - Cannon: Accessible entrance from Capitol South Metro is located on First St. SE next to the garage
- There are **NO TRAINS** on the House Side.
- To get to Rayburn via the basement level tunnels, take the Longworth elevators down to the **SUB-BASEMENT LEVEL** and **follow signs for Rayburn.**
- United Spinal volunteers will be on hand to assist with navigation to Hill.

Navigating The Senate

- There are 3 Senate Buildings: Russell, Dirksen, and Hart.
- Each are connected by a tunnel system where you can roll/walk or take a train to each building.
- Feel free to ask directions from the security at the information desk at any time, United Spinal volunteers will be on hand to assist with navigation to Hill.
- Passes to use the ACCESSIBLE TRAINS and to get to the House MUST be obtained at the Russell Appointment Desk located on the basement level of the Russell Office Building.
 - Once you obtain a pass you will go through another round of security screening – no food or liquid unless for medical reasons (medicine allowed).
 - Once you arrive at the CVC, you can enter the trains labeled Dirksen/Hart (these are accessible and are colored white).
 - The trains you will see in Russell are NOT ACCESSIBLE, so you must head through the tunnel following signs for the Capitol Visitors Center.

Navigating The House To The Senate

- To go to the Senate Side from the House, you **MUST OBTAIN A PASS AT THE CANNON APPOINTMENT DESK ON THE BASEMENT LEVEL AFTER GOING THROUGH SECURITY SCREENING.**
 - Tell security you are with United Spinal Association and that you are going to a meeting in the Senate, say the building and room number.
- **PLEASE NOTE WHEN USING THE TUNNELS: YOU CANNOT GO BACK TO HOUSE SIDE ONCE YOU LEAVE THE HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING TO GO TO THE SENATE SIDE AND VICE-VERSA WITHOUT OBTAINING A PASS.**

Questions

#ROCH2018, #Rolling Revolution



Social Media Handles



@unitedspinalassociation; VetsFirst



@UnitedSpinal; @vets_first

www.unitedspinal.org; www.vetsfirst.org

Email Contacts:

Alexandra Bennewith – abennewith@unitedspinal.org

Bethany Keirans – bkeirans@vetsfirst.org

Brook McCall – bmccall@unitedspinal.org