

Disability Matters – Advocacy Matters

Tuesday, May 1, 2018

Thank you, Joyce.

It's so good to hear about the work of the Office of Disability Employment Programs. We'll have a link to Jennifer's program on website so your listeners have another way to reach their information.

Work is so important to people with disabilities and we want to work.

But sometimes the government develops policies that appear to move us forward but the policy ends up doing more harm than good.

At the federal level, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services told states in January that they could submit waivers to require work or community engagement for beneficiaries of Medicaid as a condition of eligibility.

So far 3 states have received approval for their work waivers. Kentucky, Indiana, and Arkansas. 8 other states have applied and are waiting for approval. They are Arizona, Kansas, Maine, Mississippi, New

Hampshire, Utah, and Wisconsin. Ohio submitted their application yesterday. Last year, the Governor Wolf in Pennsylvania vetoed legislation that would have added us to that list.

DRP has posted on our website the letter from CMS to the states and a letter from the advocacy community that outlines the reasons why add the added work requirements may have a harmful effect on people with disabilities and not have the effect of putting more people to work. For example, transportation is still a barrier to work in many rural areas.

This will be an issue to continue to follow as states debate the issue of whether to pass legislation or administratively apply for the work requirement waiver.

Advocacy matters each day and we thank you and Jennifer for your outreach to businesses to successfully put people with disabilities to work.