



# Tuesday Morning Memo

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 10th, 2008

Please share these Tuesday Morning Memos with anyone that might be interested. To subscribe or unsubscribe, or submit information to include in these memos, please send an e-mail to [arcwjim@att.net](mailto:arcwjim@att.net).

Due to the snowstorm in the Madison area on Tuesday, the memo is delayed by a day.

- **POLITICAL PROGNOSTICATIONS BEGIN TO COME FORWARD**

Last Friday, Jim Hoegemeier of The Arc-Wisconsin and other members of The Partnership to Fight Chronic Disease in Wisconsin meet with Congressman F. James Sensenbrenner, Jr., at his district office in Brookfield. Congressman Brookfield predicted that there would be a strong push for significant health care reform soon after President-elect Obama is inaugurated. Congressman Sensenbrenner suggested there seems to be bi-partisan political will to bring significant changes to our nation's health care delivery system. However, there will be significant diversity of opinion regarding what changes are needed and the best ways to implement any changes.

Congressman Sensenbrenner also mentioned that there is a sense of urgency to getting health care reform moving due to the declining health of Senator Edward "Ted" Kennedy. Legislators on both sides of the political aisle, as well as incoming Administration officials, would like to get health care reform proposals moving quickly so that any changes could be considered a legacy of Sen. Kennedy, a long-time active proponent of health care reform.

At the state level, legislative leaders are also beginning to unveil plans for specific proposals. State Senate Majority Leader Russ Decker (D-Wausau) recently discussed the possibilities for mandatory insurance coverage of treatment for autism. Last legislative session, SB 178 easily passed the Democrat controlled Senate on a bi-partisan 25-8 vote. The Assembly, then controlled by Republicans, attempted to develop a substitute amendment that would expand a state waiver program that offers treatment for autism. The amendment failed, as did the original proposal. Sen. Decker has said the bill will be a priority in the upcoming legislative session. While there may be some initial progress with a new proposal, things will likely become stalled during the development of the state budget. In the past, it has been difficult for new insurance mandates to pass both houses of the legislature. However, given the change in the leadership of the Assembly and a growing resentment toward the insurance industry, prospects for mandatory autism treatment coverage are far brighter than in the past.

- **UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-WHITewater: A MODEL FOR SERVING STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES**

The main front-page story from the December 10<sup>th</sup> edition of the Wisconsin State Journal features details on the Center for Students with Disabilities at the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater. To see the story, go to The Arc-Wisconsin website at: [www.arc-wisconsin.org](http://www.arc-wisconsin.org).

*Editors' note: be sure to read the posts related to the article at the bottom of the page.*

- **WISCONSIN COMMUNITY FUND GRANT OPPORTUNITY**

The Wisconsin Community Fund is seeking applications for a \$2,000 Movement Building Grant to assist an organization in building a popular social change movement across race, class, issue and geographic lines. For more information on this opportunity, go to: [www.wisconsincommunityfund.org/~wcfundor/movement-building-grant/](http://www.wisconsincommunityfund.org/~wcfundor/movement-building-grant/).