



NATIONAL  
**DISABILITY RIGHTS**  
NETWORK

Protection & Advocacy for Individuals with Disabilities



## **Increasing Funding for Protection and Advocacy Programs and the Client Assistance Program Means Job Preservation and Creation**

In this time of economic uncertainty, the Congress has focused a lot of attention on preserving and creating jobs to stimulate the economy. Passing the Fiscal Year 2009 Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education appropriations bill with the current increases in some Protection and Advocacy (P&A) programs contained in both the House and Senate versions of this legislation will help with the preservation of existing jobs and the creation of new jobs in every state, the District of Columbia, and The United States territories.

- P&A systems and the Client Assistance Program (CAP) systems are federally mandated and funded to provide legal advocacy for individuals with disabilities on a wide variety of issues in every state, territory, and the District of Columbia.
- P&A funding is done by a formula grant process which means once appropriated federal agencies immediately dispense funding to the P&A and CAP systems for expenditure.
- A substantial majority (65-85%) of the funding every P&A or CAP system receives goes to pay personnel expenses (salary, health care, pensions, etc.).
- In recent years because of level federal funding (or in some cases cuts), and increasing health care and other costs, P&A and CAP systems have had to reduce the number of staff employed.
- Passing a Fiscal Year 2009 Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education appropriations bill with the current increases in some P&A programs contained in both the House and Senate versions of the legislation will allow P&As to immediately create new jobs by hiring new employees.
- Passing a job creation economic stimulus package with additional funding for the P&A and CAP programs would also allow P&A and CAP systems to immediately create new jobs by hiring new employees.
- The P&A and CAP systems have been around for more than 30 years; therefore the infrastructure to quickly turn these appropriations increases into new employees already exists.
- Finally, while also creating new jobs, these additional funds would help ensure that the rights of individuals with disabilities are being protected through legal advocacy.