Closing Plenary: Engaging with Policymakers on Pressing Issues

Facing the Disability Community

Wednesday November 8, 2023, from 9:30 am – 12:00 pm
Senate Dirksen Office Building, Room G-50

At a Glance

7:30 AM - 8:30 AM
Hot breakfast, coffee, and tea available in Potomac Ballroom Foyer in Westin Hotel

7:00 AM - 2:00 PM
Luggage check at bellman station at the front desk of the Westin Hotel for AUCD attendees

8:30 AM
Walkers or metro riders meet AUCD staff guides in front of hotel

9:30 AM – 12:00 PM
Plenary in Senate Dirksen Office Building, Room G-50

12:00 PM +
Individual Hill Visits

Breakfast
Breakfast will be served starting at 7:30 AM in the Potomac Ballroom Foyer at the Westin. Please feel free to eat your breakfast in the Potomac Ballroom or grab-and-go. Food and drinks will not be provided on Capitol Hill.
Luggage Storage
You cannot bring your luggage to the Hill if you are checking out on Wednesday morning and plan to attend the Closing Plenary. Please store your luggage at the bellman station at the front desk.

Transportation
Wednesday’s Closing Plenary will take place starting at 9:30 AM on Capitol Hill, at the Dirksen Senate Office Building in G-50. There is no public parking located at the Dirksen Building so driving is not advised. Uber, Lyft and taxis are all options that can drop-off and pick-up directly in front of the Dirksen Building for about $8 to $10 one-way. AUCD will also facilitate two other modes of getting to Capitol Hill (please note that attendees are on their own for the return).

*NOTE: Staff will not be making a facilitated return trip to the Westin Hotel, so please plan accordingly.

Metro 8:30 AM – Meet at Hotel Entrance
AUCD Staff Metro Guides with signs will be leading a group of attendees on a 5-minute walk to the Gallery Place-Chinatown Metro Station at 8:30 AM. They will be boarding the Red Line train to Union Station, in the direction of Glenmont. Upon arrival at Union Station, attendees will be led on a 10-minute accessible walking route to the Dirksen Building. For those that want to metro to Union Station on their own, AUCD Staff will be staged along the route between Union Station and the Dirksen building to guide attendees. See metro map at the bottom of this packet.

Walking 8:30 AM – Meet at Hotel Entrance
AUCD Staff Walking Guides with signs will be leading a Walking group to the Dirksen Building at 8:30 AM. This 30-minute route is mostly flat but there may be some accessibility barriers to go around. If you are interested in joining this group, please meet AUCD Staff in the lobby no later than 8:30 AM. You are also free to
walk to Dirksen on your own. See walking map located on the bottom of this packet.

Security
The Dirksen Senate Office Building is a federal building. All attendees will be required to go through metal detectors upon entrance. Items such as purses, backpacks, tote bags, medication, keys, pen/pencils, cellphones, tablets, and laptops are permitted but it is not recommended to bring more to the Hill than what is necessary. Do try to limit things that may cause undue delay getting through metal detectors such as heavy jewelry, clothing with lots of buckles and metal, multiple bags, and other unnecessary electronic items that must be scanned by security personnel.

Here is a list of prohibited items from the Dirksen website
Firearms to include replica guns and ammunition. Weapons (to include but not limited to): Black jack, sling shot, sand club, sandbag, knuckles, electric stun guns, knives (longer than 3”), martial arts weapons or devices. Explosives and explosive devices to include Molotov Cocktails and components of a destructive device, and fireworks. Pointed objects to include but not limited to razors, box cutters, knives, knitting needles, letter openers. Pens and pencils are permitted. Sealed envelopes and packages.

Cafeterias on Capitol Hill
There are several places to get food on Capitol Hill. All attendees are welcome to use the cafeterias and cafes on Capitol Hill to refuel and wait in between their Hill visits. Below is a list of various places to get food or coffee during your time on Capitol Hill. If you need help locating any of these places, feel free to ask Capitol Police for directions.

- Dirksen Senate Office Building, Basement – cafeteria style food and service, including pizza, hamburgers, cold salad bar, and deli sandwiches and wraps. Large seating area.
- Cups and Company – Russell Senate Office Building, Basement – sandwiches and salad bar (hot and cold); very limited seating.
• Longworth House Office Building, Basement – cafeteria style food and service, including pizza, hamburgers, cold salad bar, deli sandwiches and wraps, and a global food table. Large seating area.

• Rayburn House Office Building, Basement – cafeteria style food, including salad bar (hot and cold), deli sandwiches and wraps.

• Capitol Visitor Center (CVC), located in the Capitol Contains two large cafeterias open to the public, featuring soups, salads, specialty entrées, pizzas, sandwiches, desserts, and beverages. Lower level of the CVC. Large seating area. (Note: you will have to go through security again and the list of prohibited items is different than for the office buildings:
(https://www.visitthecapitol.gov/visit/know-before-you-go/prohibited-items)
Walking from Union Station/Metro Station to Dirksen Senate Office Building

Union Station
701 First St NE, Washington, DC 20002

Dirksen Senate Office Building
50 Constitution Ave NE, Washington, DC 20002

1. Head east on Union Station Dr NE, 72 ft
2. Turn right toward First St NE, Take the stairs, 0.1 mi
3. Turn left toward First St NE, 43 ft
4. Turn right onto First St NE, 0.3 mi
5. Turn left onto Constitution Ave NE< 115 ft
6. Dirksen Senate Office Building
Walking from Westin Washington, DC Downtown to Dirksen Senate Office Building

Westin Washington, DC Downtown
999 9th St NW, Washington, DC 20001

Dirksen Senate Office Building
50 Constitution Ave NE, Washington, DC 20002

1. Head east on K St NW toward Techworld Plaza, 456 ft
2. Continue onto Massachusetts Ave NW, 0.3
3. Slight right to stay on Massachusetts Ave NW, 0.5 mi
4. Continue onto Columbus Circle NE, 433 ft
5. Turn right at Delaware Ave NE, 472 ft
6. Turn right onto First St NE, 0.2 mi
7. Turn left onto Constitution Ave NE, 115 ft