# **2024 Washington Seminar Frequently Asked Questions**

## **General**

1. *What is the preferred dress code?*

- Professional dress is strongly recommended.

2. *What should we do if we are running late for a meeting?*

- You should call the office in question and let them know. Depending on how late you may be, it might be best to try and reschedule the meeting. Whether you decide to try and make it to the office or reschedule the meeting, it is essential that you do not leave the office hanging.

3. *How long does it take to move from building to building?*

- Depending on your familiarity with the Congressional office buildings, it typically takes five to fifteen minutes to move from one House office to another, or from one Senate office to another. You should allocate an additional thirty minutes to move from the House side to the Senate side, or vice versa.

4. *Will someone from the national office be attending my meeting?*

- Possibly. However, this is not a reflection of your group’s experience or performance. It is more than likely because the member in question sits on a relevant committee to one of our issues.

5. *If someone from the national office attends our meeting, what should we do differently?*

- Nothing. You should plan to conduct your meeting as you typically would, but feel free to ask us help answer a question if needed.

6. *What do I do if the office in question is not getting back to me to schedule the meeting?*

- You should be persistent. However, some offices never get back to us. This could be for a variety of reasons. In these situations, it may be best to restart your efforts after a month or two. Additionally, instead of asking for a meeting in Washington, you could try asking for a meeting in the member’s district.

## **Websites and Software Applications Accessibility Act**

1. *Does the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) already cover websites and software applications?*

- Yes, the Americans with Disabilities Act covers websites and software applications.

2. *Does this law amend the ADA?*

- No, this bill does not amend the ADA. It creates a separate and specific statutory requirement for website and software applications accessibility.

3. *Could you give an example of commonly inaccessible websites?*

- Apartment portals and healthcare portals.

4. *Does the National Federation of the Blind support the recent DOJ Title II website NPRM?*

- The National Federation of the Blind appreciates the Department of Justice’s work on the ADA Title II website accessibility NPRM, but strongly opposes the seven exceptions introduced in the proposed regulation. Our comments can be found on the policy statements page of our website.

5. *Is this legislation necessary considering the DOJ recently released the ADA Title II website accessibility NPRM?*

- Yes. The recent DOJ NPRM only covers Title II entities (state and local governments). The DOJ has not even begun to promulgate regulations regarding Title III entities (places of public accommodation). The Websites and Software Applications Accessibility Act will cover both. Additionally, the Websites and Software Applications Accessibility Act provides a statutory definition of “accessibility” and covers third-party content creators.

## **Medical Device Nonvisual Accessibility Act**

1. *Does this bill require companies to retrofit medical devices that have already been sold?*

- No.

*2. Will this legislation negatively impact small medical device manufacturers?*

- No. The legislation contains exceptions for undue hardship and fundamental alteration.

*3. If medical devices are inaccessible, what are blind people doing now to use them?*

- Frequently blind people are forced to rely on family and friends to ensure proper medical care. This compromises both the privacy and independence of the blind person. Additionally, when family or friends are unavailable, the blind person may be forced into an unnecessary medical facility visit.

## **Blind Americans Return to Work Act**

1. *Do we have draft bill language?*

- The NFB government affairs group has draft language. Please refer members of Congress to Jesse Shirek.

*2. Didn’t Congress already authorize two pilot programs to study this issue?*

- The Social Security Administration conducted the Benefit Offset Four-State Pilot in 2005 and the Benefit-Offset National Demonstration from 2011 through 2012. Neither of these demonstrations surveyed a reasonable number of blind people. Additionally, given that both of these pilot programs are more than ten years old, they do not reflect the current state of accessible employment opportunities for the blind.

*3. How will this affect Medicare eligibility?*

- Blind SSDI beneficiaries will remain eligible for Medicare during the duration of the phase out period.

*4. How will this compare to the SSI program?*

- This change would bring the two programs more into alignment given that the Supplemental Security Income program already contains a two-for-one phase out.