



WASHINGTON, DC UPDATE: CONGRESSIONAL RECESS EDITION (AUGUST 11, 2023)

While Congress is back home until early September, there are no shortage of policy developments impacting the business events industry. Read on for the latest from ECA!

1. NEW VISA DELAY BILLS INTRODUCED

Over the last 2 weeks, members of Congress have dropped 2 new bills to address ongoing visa delays.

- In the House of Representatives, Reps. María Elvira Salazar (R-FL) and Susie Lee (D-NV) re-introduced the [Visitor Visa Wait Time Reduction Act](#), which would require the State Department to address delays at any post where visitor visa appointment wait times exceed 100 days.
- In the Senate, Sens. Amy Klobuchar (D-MN) and Jerry Moran (R-KS) introduced the new [Visa Processing Improvement Act](#), a comprehensive bill that would increase consular office flexibility and capacity, improve transparency and accountability, revise interview waiver eligibility, and improve the service experience. **(Stay tuned for more from ECA on this bill in the coming days!)**

Introduction of these bills were a key priority for ECA Legislative Action Day attendees!

- Alongside proposed government funding bills, there are now 5 separate legislative proposals to address visa delays “in play” on Capitol Hill.

2. ECA-SUPPORTED WORKFORCE BILL READY FOR ACTION

When Congress returns, the Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions (“HELP”) Committee will hold a hearing on the ECA-supported [JOBS Act](#).

- This future-workforce legislation would allow Pell Grant funds to be used for non-college and university skills-based training for the first time.
- If passed and signed into law, the JOBS Act would potentially allow millions of next-generation workers to use federal funding to acquire skills that are important to the business events sector!

Action on this bill was another ECA Legislative Action Day ask that Congress is acting on!

3. CALIFORNIA FORKLIFT SURVEY

If your organization operates forklifts in California, please take this [important survey](#) from ECA’s partners at the California Coalition for Smart Decarbonization.

- Survey findings will support our advocacy on the pending California [zero-emission forklift rule](#).

4. ECA NEWS AND NOTES

- Congratulations to [IAVM](#) and [ASAE](#) on their successful recent annual meetings!
- Good luck to SISO ([SISO Summer Conference](#)) and CEIR ([CEIR Predict](#)) on their upcoming events!
- For more on the SISO Summer Conference, as well as the latest news from ECA and its alliance partners, check out the latest edition of the [EXHIBITOR Now Association Focus podcast](#).
- The next ECA Washington, DC Update newsletter will go out on Friday, September 8, 2023.