



## Section 811 Legislation Moving Swiftly Through Congress

### House Passes HR 1675 – Senate Holds Hearing on S.1481

The U.S. Congress has taken important steps towards the enactment of permanent supportive housing legislation – the Frank Melville Supportive Housing Investment Act of 2009. This legislation includes essential reforms to revitalize the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Section 811 Supportive Housing for Persons with Disabilities Program, and could create as many as 5,000 new units of permanent supportive housing each year.

- In July of 2009, the House of Representatives voted 357-51 to pass H.R. 1675 co-sponsored by Representatives Christopher Murphy (D-CT) and Judy Biggert (R-IL);
- An identical bill – S. 1481 – was introduced in the Senate on the same day by lead co-sponsors Senators Menendez (D-NJ) and Johanns (R-NE). A hearing was held by the Senate Banking Committee on October 29, 2009.

Section 811 is a critical HUD program that assists very low-income people with the most serious and long-term disabilities to live independently in the community by providing integrated affordable rental housing linked with voluntary services and supports. The Melville Act will help address the serious housing crisis facing millions of extremely low-income people with the most significant and long-term disabilities by: (1) making long-overdue improvements and reforms to the Section 811 Capital Advance program; and (2) authorizing a new cost-effective Section 811 Demonstration Program that could create thousands of new integrated permanent supportive housing units each year.

The Demonstration Program is designed to: (1) highly leverage capital funding provided through other federal affordable housing programs, including the Low Income Housing Tax Credit program, the HOME program, and the newly authorized National Housing Trust Fund; and (2) provide state and local housing agencies with the rental subsidy necessary to incorporate permanent supportive housing units within new mainstream affordable housing developments. This legislation will also streamline and modernize the current Section 811 Capital Advance program by reducing long-standing 811 bureaucratic barriers, improving the program's efficiency and cost-effectiveness, and providing new opportunities for non-profits to develop 'mixed population' developments that include a set-aside of Section 811 units.

HUD's FY 2011 budget requests no funding for new Section 811 units pending the enactment of 811 reform legislation. The disability community must ensure that this important legislation is passed by the Senate as soon as possible. Both House and Senate bills honor the memory of the late Frank Melville, the first chair of the Melville Charitable Trust and an inspirational leader in the national effort to end homelessness through the permanent supportive housing approach.

Updated information on this initiative is available from the Technical Assistance Collaborative (TAC) at [www.tacinc.org](http://www.tacinc.org). You may also contact Gina Schaak [www.gschaak@tacinc.org](mailto:www.gschaak@tacinc.org) with additional questions.