

Allies for Independence Washington Insights

Week of November 13, 2023

CAPITOL HILL UPDATE

On November 15th, Congress approved the two-tiered continuing resolution (CR) to temporarily fund the government through early next year. The CR extends four spending bills through January 19th and the remaining eight through February 2nd. While the two-tiered CR plan was initially met with intense scrutiny, Democrats opted to support the plan to avoid a government shutdown on the eve of Thanksgiving week.

The CR also includes an extension of some health care programs, including the community health centers (CHCs), the National Health Service Corps, the Teaching Health Centers Graduate Medical Education program, and the Special Diabetes programs. The bill also includes a delay of the Medicaid Disproportionate Share Hospital pay cuts through January 19th.

Both chambers are on recess until the week of November 27th. It is not clear how December will play out given the extension of government funding, but there are several priorities members hope to advance in the interim.

ON THE RADAR

House FY24 Labor, Health and Human Services Bill Would Block LTSS Rule

On November 14th, during consideration of the House FY24 Labor, Health and Human Services (LHHS) spending bill, Rep. Greg Murphy (R-NC) and other Republicans offered an amendment to block the implementation of the long-term care staffing rule. Republicans have been vocally opposed to the rule since it was proposed in the spring, and recently held a hearing on the subject last month. While the House did not vote on final passage of the LHHS spending bill, expect Congress to closely follow the status of this rule and any changes offered by the Administration prior to finalizing the rule.

FDA Workshop to Promote Clinical Trial Diversity

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is holding a two-day virtual public workshop to promote diversity in clinical trials on November 29 and 30. The two sessions will focus on clinical trial study participation of individuals with disabilities as well as individuals with mental illness. You can view the [full agenda for the two-day workshop](#) and [register for the event](#) by clicking on the link. You can

also [submit comments](#) until January 29, 2024.

14(c) Stakeholder Engagement Session Hosted by Department of Labor

The Department of Labor is holding a series of stakeholder engagement sessions to hear from members of the public on the Section 14(c) program. The program authorizes employers, after receiving a certificate from the Wage and Hour Division, to pay subminimum wages to workers whose disabilities impact their productivity for the specific work performed. You can register and listen to the engagement session, which occurred on November 15th, by [clicking here](#).

Call for Presentations: 2024 Older Adult Mental Health Awareness Day Symposium

The National Council on Aging will be hosting the 7th Annual Older Adult Mental Health Awareness Day symposium on May 2, 2024. This virtual symposium is designed to raise awareness to better address the issues of older adult mental health and substance use disorders and highlight resources, case studies, and initiatives available to practitioners working with adults age 50+ living in the community. If you are interested in registering or learning more about this event, please [click here](#).

Caregiving At the Capitol Movie Event

On Tuesday November 28, 2023, please join caregiving advocates in recognition of National Family Caregiving Month in highlighting the experience of family caregivers, including a screening of the documentary *Unconditional* which follows three families and their caregiving stories. The evening will begin with a reception, short program, and a brief post-movie Fireside Chat/Talkback with Director, Richard Lui. If you can attend, please RSVP directly to unconditionalmovie.com/capitol.

ALLIES FOR INDEPENDENCE POLICY SYMPOSIUM

We would like to extend our thanks to everyone who attended the Allies for Independence Policy Symposium. It was a fantastic event with a variety of speakers who shared updates on important policy issues, including the landscape around self-directed care, home- and community-based services (HCBS) funding, reforming the pharmacy benefit manager (PBM) industry, and insurance industry updates. Thank you to all the speakers for making this an enormously successful event.

If you are interested in re-watching the event, you can do so by [clicking here](#). Please enter this passcode to watch the event: UigT%F9.

RECOMMENDED READS

- *New York Times* – [Facing Financial Ruin as Costs Soar for Elder Care](#)
- *New York Times* – [What Long-Term Care Looks Like Around the World](#)
- *CBS News* – [What is the best age to get long-term care insurance?](#)

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