

Allies for Independence Washington Insights

Week of January 15, 2023

CAPITOL HILL UPDATE

Congress avoided a shutdown Thursday evening extending government funding into March. The plan would uphold the laddered-CR approach by extending some agencies until March 1, including the FDA, and the remaining agencies through March 8. This gives Congress roughly six weeks to finally finalize FY2024 appropriations.

It also gives Congress time to tie loose ends from 2023, including health extenders, but also several expired health programs contained in PEPFAR, PAHPA, and the SUPPORT Act. Several health extenders, including the Community Health Centers, teaching hospitals, diabetes programs, and delayed cuts to Medicaid DSH, are now extended through March 8 under this deal.

While Speaker Johnson initially opposed another CR, he softened his opposition in recent days once it became evident another CR was needed so appropriators could negotiate the final numbers for FY2024. While there were several notable defections among House Republicans, the House overwhelmingly passed the CR to get out of town before the overnight snowstorm in DC.

Advancing this CR also gives time to key health care and tax players on Capitol Hill to jockey for policy priorities, including strengthening the Child Tax Credit, legislation to address drug shortages, mental health, PBMs, hospital and insurer transparency, and other hot topics.

ON THE RADAR

Senate Aging Committee Seeks Information from Assisted Living Facilities

Chair Bob Casey (D-PA) of the Senate Special Committee on Aging launched a review of three of the largest assisted living facilities and seeking information on workforce shortages, inadequate care in facilities, and the high-cost of services. The committee will also hold a hearing on January 25, 2024, entitled “Assisted Living Facilities: Understanding Long-Term Care Options for Older Adults.” It is not clear if any of the assisted living facilities executives will be testifying, or if they will feature other stakeholders or impacted witnesses.

The investigation stems from Washington Post [reporting](#) on dementia-care residents who inadvertently or

unintentionally left their facility undetected and tragically died. The Post found nearly 100 seniors died over the past five years in instances where they left their facility unnoticed or were left unattended outside.

Staffing ratios at such facilities will likely be a key aspect of the committee's focus as the Biden Administration considers moving forward with controversial nurse staffing minimums proposed last year. There is bipartisan, bicameral legislation to block HHS from finalizing these rules, but it is possible that this investigation could spur new action.

For more information on the hearing of investigation, please [click here](#).

KFF: Who Uses Medicaid Long-Term Services and Supports?

ICYMI! The Kaiser Family Foundation published an excellent review of data on who is using LTSS, looking at demographic characteristics, dual eligibles, chronic conditions, and key issues impacting LTSS in 2024. This explores key workforce questions, expiring COVID-19 public health emergency authorities, and the increasing demand for LTSS. You can review this report by [clicking here!](#)

Funding Opportunity on Rehabilitation Strategies, Techniques, and Interventions

ACL's National Institute on Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research (NIDILRR) is announcing a new funding opportunity for a Rehabilitation Engineering Research Centers (RERC) Program. The purpose of the RERC program is to improve the effectiveness of services authorized under the Rehabilitation Act by conducting advanced engineering research and development of innovative technologies designed to solve rehabilitation problems or remove environmental barriers. For more information, please [click here](#).

Reminder! New Funding Opportunities on Rehabilitation for Individuals with Disabilities

NIDILRR is announcing a new funding opportunity for the Switzer Research Fellowships Program. The purpose of this program is to build research capacity by providing support to highly qualified individuals, including those who have disabilities, to conduct research on the rehabilitation of individuals with disabilities. This may include research, demonstration projects, training, and related activities to develop methods, procedures, and rehabilitation technology that maximize the full inclusion and integration into society, employment, independent living, family support, and economic and social self-sufficiency of individuals with disabilities.

The deadline to apply is January 30, 2024. For more information, please [click here](#).

RECOMMENDED READS

- *The New York Times* – [‘Financial Ruin is Baked Into the System’: Readers on the Costs for Long-Term Care](#)
 - *Florida Politics* – [Navigating the realities of long-term care](#)
 - *RealClear Health* – [Proposed Federal Rule Could Exacerbate U.S. Mental Health Crisis](#)
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Allies for Independence promotes inclusion, equity, and economic security across the lifespan!

Contact us!

For questions, please contact

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