

Lame Duck Session

On November 12th, Lawmakers returned to Capitol Hill from recess, facing a full agenda with tight deadlines. Congress must pass a FY25 funding bill by December 20 to prevent a government shutdown. This could either be a bill for the rest of the fiscal year (which started in October) or a Continuing Resolution extending the funding deadline into the new administration. Congress is also expected to discuss a supplemental bill addressing disaster relief, healthcare issues like telehealth extensions and doctors pay, and potentially other urgent issues.

New Congress

The 119th Congress starts on January 20th with the Republican party controlling the trifecta: White House, Senate (53-47), and House (margin to be determined). With any new Congress, any bill that did not pass in the previous Congress must be reintroduced in the new to be considered. Representative Mike Johnson (R-LA) will remain speaker of the House and Senator John Thune (R-SD) will be the new Senate Majority leader. In the coming weeks, committee chairs and ranking members will be determined. In the House, committees of Ways and Means, Energy and Commerce, Education and the Workforce, and Judiciary cover aging issues. In the Senate, committees of Finance, Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions, and Judiciary cover aging issues. More information will be provided in the next report.

Legislative and Administrative Update

Representative Don Davis (D-IL) introduced a resolution “Recognizing the Need for a Senior Security Promise” ([H.R.1564](#)) that serves as a call to action for reaffirming the country’s commitment to older adults, and working on a bipartisan basis to protect programs for older Americans.

The Federal Communications Commission [announced](#) the Telephone Consumer Protect Act (TCPA) Consent Order to make it easier to stop unwanted robocalls and texts. It requires callers and texters to honor a consumer’s request to be removed from their contact list in a timely manner. It is set to go into effect in April 2025.

Aging Reports and Resources

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) released a [report on rural-urban health disparities in Medicare](#). ADvancing States released a new [report on the Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program](#), with a breakdown of each state’s structure. They released an additional report focused on the [National Survey of APS](#), which highlights how state APS programs operated, funded, and main issues they are facing.

November is National Family Caregivers Month which is led by the Caregiver Action Network (CAN). Visit CAN’s website for [free caregiver resources](#), and read the [latest blog](#) by the Administration for Community Living’s Deputy Assistant Secretary for Aging, Kari Benson, on expanding supports for caregivers.

Election 2024 - After the Dust Settles

Join Benjamin Rose Institute on Aging and the Elder Justice Coalition on December 10 from 1 – 2 p.m. for “Election 2024 – After the Dust Settles.” With the historic and closely contested 2024 election behind us, one thing is clear: the new administration taking office on January 20 will bring with it new priorities in aging policy. Based on the campaign platform, Bob Blancato, President of Matz, Blancato & Associates and National Coordinator of the Elder Justice Coalition, will provide an in-depth analysis of which aging policy issues are likely to take center stage in the coming years, given the new Congress. He will also explore what to expect from the aging policy agenda and whether the election results make a 2025 White House Conference on Aging more—or less—likely. [Register now!](#)