

## Legislative Updates

On May 22, the House passed their Budget Reconciliation bill. Among its tax provisions are extending soon-to-expire tax cuts, a new \$4,000 tax credit for older adults, making the current standard deduction permanent with yearly increases, and exempting premium overtime and tips from taxation, all through 2028. It also makes significant spending cuts to Medicaid, the Affordable Healthcare Act (ACA), and Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). For Medicaid, it cuts at least \$716 billion, and an estimated 7.6 million will become uninsured over next 10 years. It also expands work and eligibility requirements, starting December 2026 or sooner. For SNAP, it cuts \$300 billion by shifting costs to states, where states must decide if/how to pay. It expands work requirements to include adults 55-64 and those with a dependent age 7-18, starting December 2026 or sooner. An estimated 3.2 million would lose SNAP in 2025. It limits enrollment in ACA with an estimated 2 million to become uninsured in 2026. It also prohibits HHS from implementing the Nursing Home Minimum Staffing Rule. This bill next goes to the Senate, where changes are expected. It should be noted that the Older Americans Act was not included in the Budget Reconciliation bill.

Senators Susan Collins (R-ME) and Tammy Baldwin (D-WI) introduced the Lifespan Respite Care Reauthorization Act ([S.830](#)), that will support family caregivers by providing temporary relief services. This bill would reauthorize the Lifespan Respite Care Program through FY2030.

Senators Tammy Baldwin and Chuck Grassley introduced the Protecting Older Workers Against Discrimination Act, (POWADA) ([S.1820](#)) This bill would restore the “mixed-motive” standard for age discrimination cases, making it easier for older workers to prove discrimination. It allows age to be considered as one of several motivating factors in employment decisions, rather than requiring it to be the sole cause.

Senators Alex Padilla (D-CA) and Jeff Merkley (D-OR) introduced the Nurse Staffing Standards for Hospital Patient Safety and Quality Care Act ([S.1709](#)) to improve hospital patient care and nurse retention by setting mandatory minimum registered nurse-to-patient staffing ratios. The bill would require hospitals to have enough nurses to care for patients safely, make yearly staffing plans, share this information publicly, and protect nurses who raise safety concerns. Representative Jan Schakowsky (D-IL) is leading companion legislation ([H.R.3415](#)) in the House of Representatives.

On May 14, the Senate Special Committee on Aging held a [hearing](#) to confront challenges older Americans face in preparing for and responding to disasters.

The House Appropriations committee has announced [its schedule](#) for consideration of the FY26 budget. Deliberation of the Departments of Labor and Health and Human Services is scheduled for July 21.

## Administration Updates

In early May, President Trump released his first of two [Presidential FY2026 budgets](#). It asks for a 20% cut to the budget, with an additional \$500 million for a new Make America Healthy Department. It calls for many Older Americans Act programs to be eliminated (first called for by the Office of Management and Budget-OMB), including Chronic Disease Self-Management Program, Falls Prevention, Respite Care, Preventive Health Services, Adult Protective Services, Long-term Care Ombudsman, and Elder Justice initiatives. It also calls for eliminating additional aging services programs, including the Senior Community Service Employment Program, the Commodity Supplemental Food Program, the Community Development Block Grant, and rental assistance and the Low-income Energy Assistance Program. It asks for FY24 funding for Older Americans Act Nutrition Programs and Supportive Services.

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It also details the dismantling of the Administration for Community Living (ACL) (first called for by OMB) and identifies where Older Americans Act programs currently in ACL will be moved. Most would move to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, with OAA Nutrition Programs sent to the Administration for Children and Families.

In response, democrats in the [House](#) and [Senate](#) wrote letters to Secretary Kennedy in opposition to the dismantling of ACL and demanding answers. Additionally, both the Senate Health, Education, Labor & Pensions (HELP) Committee and the House Appropriations subcommittee on Labor HHS held hearings with HHS Secretary Kennedy on the cuts contained in the President's FY2026 HHS budget.

## You're invited to the 19th Annual Katz Policy Lecture

Please join Benjamin Rose for our 19th Annual Katz Policy Lecture: *Advancing Dementia Caregiving* on **Tuesday, June 17, 2025, from 1:00 to 2:30 p.m. EDT.**

This year, the Katz Policy Lecture will examine groundbreaking research and innovations in dementia care. Dr. David Reuben, Archstone Professor at UCLA and leading expert on aging and dementia care, will discuss comprehensive dementia care, provide updates on the Guiding an Improved Dementia Experience (GUIDE) Model, and present findings from the Dementia-Care Study (D-CARE). He will also highlight future directions in dementia care policy and research. [Get more info and register.](#)