



**January 2023**

## **Top Ticket Aging Related Issues for 2023**

### **Funding**

A top issue will be funding for FY 24, running Oct 1-2023- Sept 30, 2024. There are already calls on the House side to return spending to FY 22 levels, which would be catastrophic for most programs. In a similar vein, discussions have started around raising the debt ceiling. What will be important to watch is how it is done, this includes concessions on each side, and possible actions taken on Social Security and Medicare. There's continued implementation of Inflation Reduction Act and its prescription drug provisions including first time Medicare negotiation for 10 drugs starting in 2026 and the long awaited \$2000 cap on prescription drug out of pocket costs starting in 2025.

### **Nutrition and Health**

The Farm bill will be reauthorized this year and includes SNAP, CSFP and senior farmers markets. The strategy from last year's White House Conference on Hunger, Nutrition and Health will start to unfold. As the Public health emergency enters its final extension, look for legislation on telehealth extension or permanence and impact on Medicaid. The administration will continue its focus on health equity and we will see further work on health equity/ value-based care/ Medicare advantage.

### **Other Aging Issues**

On elder justice, will Elder Justice Act be reauthorized and adequate funding be provided for APS, ombudsman and nursing home staffing? We also expect action on nursing home reform legislation and continued administration initiatives on nursing homes. The RAISE family caregiver outlined nearly 350 actions the federal government will take in 2023, so expect a lot of movement in this space. Oversight hearings on pandemic funds and discussions over immigration reform will continue through the year, with immigration reform tied to the health care workforce.

## **Ohio Focus**

### **Workforce Issues**

The budget bill passed by the Ohio Legislature in December includes funding to address shortages in the healthcare and direct care workforce. These include:

- Funds to grow career-focused programming in the behavioral health disciplines at state institutions of higher education and nonprofit institutions holding a certificate of authorization, and to administer other initiatives to recruit, train, and retain a robust behavioral health workforce.
- Support direct care staff compensation for organizations that provide home and community-based services through Medicaid. This includes skilled care, hospice and home health services.

## Contact Us

We welcome your feedback!

Please share questions, suggestions or concerns.

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## Community-Based Long Term Services and Supports

The budget also includes funding for the expansion of Programs for All-inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE) into additional counties in Ohio. Currently, only one PACE program exists in Ohio. New funding will provide grants to adult day program providers. Adult day programs were adversely impacted by closures during the pandemic and have struggled to reopen.

## New Legislative Session

Ohio's legislature is back in session. The 2023 session includes several new members and changes in committee assignments. Matt Huffman was elected as Senate President. Jason Stephens was elected Speaker of the House.

## Advocacy in Ohio

Contact your representatives on issues related to their committee. On the Senate side, Shontel Brown is on both the Agriculture (farm bill, nutrition programs) and Finance committees, and she represents Cleveland and the 11th district. We are still waiting for committee assignments for freshman JD Vance. On the House side, Jim Jordan (R) is on the Judiciary and Leadership committee. Brad Wenstrup (R) is on Ways and Means, which covers social security and medicare. One key representative is on appropriations, Marcy Kaptur(D). Troy Balderson (R), Bill Johnson (R), and Bob Latta (R) are all on the Energy and Commerce committee, which covers Medicaid. Fudge continues as the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

## The 118th Congress has Officially Convened

A divided government has returned with the Senate held by Democrats and the House held by Republicans, but both by narrow margins. Ohio has a new Senator: JD Vance (R), and three new House members: Greg Landsman(D), Max Miller(R), and Emilia Sykes(D). Here are new committee assignments of note:

- Senate Appropriations will now be chaired by Sen. Patty Murray (D-WA) (jurisdiction over spending)
- Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP) will be chaired by Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-VT) (Older Americans Act)
- Senate Finance committee will be chaired by Ron Wyden (D-OR) (Covers Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid, elder justice)
- Senate Special committee on Aging will be chaired by Bob Casey (D-PA) (wide jurisdiction but lot of work expected on HCBS)
- Senate Agriculture committee will be chaired by Debbie Stabenow (D-MI) (covers Farm bill)
- House Appropriations will be chaired by Rep. Kay Granger (R-TX) (spending)
- House Education and the Workforce will be chaired by Rep. Virginia Foxx (R-NC) (Older Americans Act)
- House Ways and Means will be chaired by Rep. Jason Smith (R-MO) (Social Security, Medicare, Elder Justice Act)
- House Energy and Commerce will be chaired by Rep. Cathy McMorris Rodgers (R-WA) (Medicaid)
- House Agriculture committee will be chaired by Glenn Thompson (R-PA) (Covers farm bill, includes SNAP and other nutrition programs)