



# washington UPDATE



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## Contact Us

We welcome your feedback!

Please share questions, suggestions or concerns.

Benjamin Rose Institute on Aging  
11890 Fairhill Road,  
Cleveland, OH 44120

216.791.8000 | [info@benrose.org](mailto:info@benrose.org)

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With Congress in recess throughout August, the legislative activity on the hill has been slow. This month, all twelve Senate FY24 appropriations bills go to the floor for a vote. In the House, only one FY24 appropriations bill has passed the floor; There are many still needed to be voted on by the Appropriations committee. The government has until [September 30](#) to enact spending measures or it could risk a shutdown.

On August 29, the [Biden-Harris administration announced](#) the first ten prescription drugs selected for Medicare price negotiation. The ten drugs selected were among the highest total spending in Medicare Part D. Lower prices negotiated for these ten drugs will go into effect in 2026.

On August 21, the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) announced a [new program](#) that will allow seniors to spread out Medicare drug costs beginning on January 1, 2025. This program is a component of the Medicare Part D prescription drug benefit redesign under the Inflation Reduction Act.

The Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) expects updated COVID vaccines from Pfizer, Moderna, and Novavax to be available to the public in [mid-September](#). An independent panel of advisors to the CDC is meeting on September 12 to vote on eligibility guidelines and recommendations for the updated vaccines. The Biden administration is attempting to finalize contracts that would allow pharmacies to offer the shot to uninsured Americans in [mid-September](#).