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INSTITUTE ON AGING
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washington UPDATE



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We welcome your feedback!

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suggestions or concerns.

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Congress had until midnight on September 30, to pass a Continuing Resolution (CR) to avoid a government shutdown. Late that night, the President signed a CR into law, funding the government at its current spending levels until November 17th. This will allow extra time for Congress to pass its appropriations bills for Fiscal Year 2024.

Representative Suzanne Bonamici introduced a bipartisan House Resolution with Representatives Jim McGovern, Don Bacon, and Brian Fitz to designate September 18 through the 22 as Malnutrition Awareness Week ([H.Res.708](#)). The companion resolution ([S.Res. 371](#)) was introduced in the Senate by Senator Chris Murphy and cosponsored by Senators Ben Cardin, Cory Booker, Dianne Feinstein, Richard Blumenthal, and Maggie Hassan.

The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) through the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) [finalized a rule](#) to simplify enrollment in the Medicare Savings Program (MSPs). The rule streamlines the process, particularly for those receiving Supplemental Security Income (SSI). This will reduce barriers to high quality care for over a million low-income older adults and individuals with disabilities.

HHS proposed [establishing minimum staffing standards](#) for long-term care facilities through the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). Under the proposal, nursing homes enrolled in Medicare and Medicaid would have to guarantee residents receive a minimum of 0.55 hours of care from a registered nurse daily, along with 2.45 hours of care from a nurse aide per resident per day. Nursing homes would be mandated to have a registered nurse on site 24/7. Public comments will be accepted until November 6, 2023.

The Administration for Community Living (ACL) is [proposing changes to regulations](#) for the Adult Protective Service (APS) systems under the Older Americans Act (OAA) and the Elder Justice Act (EJA). This will mark the first-ever federal standards for APS. These proposed rules aim to provide clear guidance and improve the response to APS cases ensuring consistent standards across states. The public comment period is open until November 13, 2023.

The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP), a group of medical and public health experts that develop recommendations on how to use vaccines, voted to allow persons over 6 months of age to get the [updated COVID-19 vaccine](#). The CDC Director approved the recommendation, and new COVID-19 vaccines are now available nationwide.