

## Happy New Year!

Congress reconvened this week and faces an immediate challenge of passing 4 appropriation bills by January 19 or those agencies including the Department of Agriculture could see their funding expire. By February 2, Congress must pass the funding bill for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services and Education or those agencies also risk expired funding. The February 2 deadline would include funding for the Older Americans Act including nutrition and adult protective services. Congress has a number of options including another short term Continuing Resolution or a yearlong one.

On December 7, Senator Bob Casey (D-PA) and Senator Chris Murphy (D-CT) introduced the Addressing Social Isolation and Loneliness in Older Adults (SILO) Act ([S.3437](#)). The SILO Act provides grants and training to community-based organizations and area agencies on aging (AAA) to develop interventions and connect older adults at-risk of isolation with support.

During a White House meeting, the Centers for Medicaid and Medicare (CMS) released new data, revealing the American Rescue Plan investments in Home and Community-Based Services have totaled nearly \$37 million nationwide. This includes over \$25 billion allocated for base wages, bonuses, recruitment tools, and training for direct care workforces. Additionally, CMS has issued new guidance on tools such as worker registries, enabling states to connect individuals in need of care with qualified providers.