



Hot off the Press:

Conventions: The Democratic and Republican political conventions are over. One can watch many of the speeches on <https://www.youtube.com/> And that's all I have to say about that.

The Postal Service: With the election and politics driving much of the Washington, DC, action/inaction – even during the August recess – the House came back to town and voted on Saturday, August 22 to pass legislation, 257-150, that would provide the U.S. Postal Service with \$25 billion to support service levels during the pandemic and reverse some of the Trump Administration's operational changes in the agency. Some fear that the administration changes will make it difficult or impossible to ensure that all mail-in ballots arrive and are counted in time for the election, in addition to regular delivery of checks and medications. This issue has grown in part because the Postal Service has removed mail sorting machines and the blue postal boxes in various parts of the country.

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell won't take up the House bill but will likely consider a bill that includes Postal Service funding in the next pandemic relief package. The White House has threatened to veto the bill.

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/SAP-H.R.-8015.pdf>

Legislative Updates

Senate Republicans have drafted a "skinny" version of the HEALS Act that includes \$10 million for the Postal Service and many of the other key elements of HEALS. Negotiations on the House-passed HEROES bill vs. the Senate HEALS bills have been almost non-existent in the last couple weeks. Here is some background on the "skinny" HEALS:

<https://www.politico.com/news/2020/08/17/senate-republicans-coronavirus-package-postal-service-funding-397203>

On the Regulatory Front

The IRS has extended its deadline to September 30, 2020, for people to provide information to the IRS using its Non-Filer Tool at www.irs.gov/coronavirus/non-filers-enter-payment-info-here. People should do this if they:

- receive Social Security retirement, survivors, or disability benefits, or Supplemental Security Income (SSI) payments;
- did not file a 2019 or 2018 tax return;
- have a qualifying child under age 17; and
- did not already enter information in the IRS' Non-Filer Tool for themselves and at least one child.

For more information, please visit <https://www.ssa.gov/news/press/releases/>.

The National Academy of Social Insurance has issued a statement on President Trump's payroll tax deferral policy [Keeping the Payroll Tax Holiday from Becoming a Permanent Vacation](#).

[A Deeper Look \(Articles of Interest\)](#)

From Kaiser Health News on Special Needs Education:

https://khn.org/news/for-kids-with-special-needs-online-schooling-divides-haves-and-have-nots/?utm_campaign=KHN%3A%20Daily%20Health%20Policy%20Report&utm_medium=email&hsmi=94262559&hsenc=p2ANqtz-7kUhxxg3xdf8Kh8cryWeD-dqoz5W2o03TKH6bBxSMpKw-a6DlVoIQGdBC7FuLmceunwJQmihOYIRicuq2T-h34zw&utm_content=94262559&utm_source=hs_email

Advocacy Alerts:

- **AARP** encourages its members to write to the U.S. Postal Service and demand that the Postmaster General stop any changes to mail delivery that could disrupt service during the pandemic. [USPS action alert](#)
- **The Arc** encourages advocates to demand action on Covid-19 relief legislation: **Even if you have sent a message before:**
[Email, call, or tweet your Senators AGAIN](#), then forward this to three friends!

Here are two important topics from Families USA:

- **Insights Column:** [Fighting the COVID-19 Crisis by Protecting American Health Insurance](#)
- **Insights Column:** [It is Time to Prioritize Behavioral Health Equity](#)

News from Justice in Aging:

- Last week, the Oklahoma Medicaid agency withdrew its application for a [Section 1115 Demonstration Waiver](#) under CMS's "Health Adult Opportunity" guidance.
- Upcoming Webinar: [Combating Discriminatory Crisis Care Standards](#) (9/16)

Altarum Issue Briefs:

- [Addressing Elder Abuse, Neglect, and Exploitation in Your Community](#)
- [Financing Long-Term Services and Supports for the Elderly](#)
- [Ensuring Accessible, Healthy, and Affordable Housing for the Elderly](#)
- [Tackling Transportation Challenges in Old Age](#)
- [Addressing the Home Care Workforce Shortage](#)

Stay well, Brian

And the SNA Public Policy Team:

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