



Hot off the Press:

Both the House and Senate chambers are in session this week, but the Senate is far from moving forward on the Democratic-drafted **HEROES Act**. This week Finance Committee staff could not commit to whether the draft bill would be released before or after the July 4th recess. There are major differences of opinion on what the package should include (e.g. extended unemployment benefits).

It is possible that the Senate will act this week on the House passed **Paycheck Protection Program Flexibility Act (H.R. 7010)**. The bipartisan bill was passed on May 28 by a vote of 417-1 and provides small businesses with further flexibility in how the loans are used and extends the period of time (24 weeks instead of 8) they may be used. Several senators are holding up a vote based on concerns that the extension is too long and that the funds are not targeted well to businesses in greatest need.

- See the bill:
<https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/house-bill/7010/text?r=1>
- See this article by LeadingAge:
<https://leadingage.org/legislation/house-passes-paycheck-protection-program-modification-bill#:~:text=Increases%20Time%20to%20Use%20Loan,and%20any%20future%20PPP%20loans.>

SNA and CCD Submit Letter on Appropriations Needs for FY 2021:

<http://www.c-c-d.org/fichiers/FY2021-Appropriations-for-Developmental-Disabilities-Autism-and-Family-Support-Programs-June-1-2020.pdf>

SNA Signs Letter to the Senate for Dedicated HCBS Funding in COVID-19 Package Four: See attached

CCD Testimony for the Senate Special Committee on Aging Hearing:

<http://c-c-d.org/fichiers/CCD-LTSS-Statement-for-Committee-on-Aging-Hearing-5-21-20.pdf>

CCD Letter Regarding the Need for More Resources in the Next COVID-19 Package, including Medicaid Home and Community-based (HCBS) services:

<http://c-c-d.org/fichiers/CCD-LTSS-TF-Letter-to-Senate-on-Package-Four-5-29-20.pdf>

Legislative Updates

From CQ: Bipartisan group wants deficits addressed in next virus aid bill:

A bipartisan group of 60 House members — evenly divided between Democrats and Republicans — wrote to their leaders Monday asking them to include measures to begin curbing the nation's mounting red ink. 'As the crisis recedes and our nation recovers, we cannot ignore the pressing issue of the national debt, which could do irreparable damage to our country,' the House members wrote in their letter, led by Rep. Scott Peters, D-Calif., and Rep. Jodey C. Arrington, R-Texas.

Here is the letter:

<https://scottpeters.house.gov/sites/scottpeters.house.gov/files/6.1.20%20Leadership%20Budget%20Reforms.pdf>

COVID-19 Timeline – See all the Federal Regulatory Responses and Legislative Activities (Produced by Healthsperien):

<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5d103f86c71ebb0001d87daf/t/5ecfdbeb6840734102f1fcf2/1590680557325/COVID-19+Federal+Response+Chronology+5.27.pdf>

From PolicyEngage: “The two reports below include all state and federal bills and resolutions referencing COVID-19, coronavirus, or pandemic, as of May 18, 2020”:

[COVID-19 State Report by PolicyEngage](#)

[COVID-19 Federal Report by PolicyEngage](#)

State Situations - Oklahoma Medicaid Expansion & Waiver Update Provided by Natalie Kean at Justice in Aging:

First, the OK governor recently vetoed a bill that would have funded Medicaid expansion beginning July 1, citing concerns about unemployment leading to too many people signing up for Medicaid. The state formally notified CMS that it is withdrawing the Medicaid State Plan Amendment (SPA) that would have effectuated expansion. CMS opened the state's [1115 waiver application](#) under the “Healthy Adult Opportunity” for a 30-day public comment period. This waiver, if approved, would go into effect in 2021 and would impose a block grant, work requirements, elimination of retroactive coverage and hospital presumptive eligibility, and many other dangerous restrictions for most adults under age 65 who do not qualify on the basis of disability. The waiver application is still alive despite the withdrawal of the SPA.

Finally, Oklahomans will vote on a ballot initiative to fully expand Medicaid without restrictions on June 30th. If it passes, it will supersede the governor's plans and would take effect in 2021.

This article provides a good summary:

<https://www.publicradiotulsa.org/post/stitt-administration-scraps-plan-expand-medicaid-july-1>

A Deeper Look (Articles of Interest)

ASAN Communication on anti-racism:

https://autistic-self-advocacy-network.dm.networkforgood.com/emails/639116?recipient_id=Ws1T9S0lTbvWR1jvueo6yQ||YnJpYW5AY29uc3VtZXJzLm9yZW==

Senator Casey's New Disability Digest:

<https://www.aging.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/CASEY%20Aging%20Newsletter%20Issue%201.1.pdf>

Healthsperien's Podcast Series – Social Isolation and More:

<https://www.healthsperien.com/listen>

Alliance for Health Policy Webinar on Medicaid and COVID-19, and other webinars in their series: <http://www.allhealthpolicy.org/covid-19-webinar-series-page/>

Observation Status Article: This *JAMA Health Forum* piece has some good recent history along with policy changes in hospital observation care payment policy and the 3-day rule as the result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

<https://jamanetwork.com/channels/health-forum/fullarticle/2766649>

Hope you and your families are well.

Brian

And the SNA Public Policy Team:

Christopher Smith, Public Policy Co-Chair

Roxanne Chang, Public Policy Co-Chair

Tara Anne Pleat, Editor

Mary Waltari, Editor