



Hot off the Press:

No COVID-19 Pandemic Package May Complicate the Lame Duck Session: Suffice it to say, the so-called negotiations between Speaker Pelosi and Treasury Secretary Mnuchin did not lead to a pre-election deal on the next pandemic emergency recovery bill. Thus, none of those running for office could claim success or a role in making it happen. The Speaker has said she is still open to talks and wants a bill shortly after the elections. President Trump has said the bill will move after the election. Senate Majority Leader McConnell has recently stated that there *will* be another pandemic bill, but it will be considered in early 2021. Advocates and others are now discussing whether an end of the year appropriations bill (current CR expires December 11) will be merged with a version of the pandemic bill, creating a massive package. There is also a need to do the end of the year “tax extenders” bill. All of this will be influenced by who wins the White House and the Senate, and how early the results are official.

On the Legislative Front

Bipartisan Retirement Bill from Ways & Means Committee Chairman Neal and Ranking Member Brady - Securing a Strong Retirement Act of 2020 (the next SECURE Act):

<https://gop-waysandmeans.house.gov/brady-and-neal-introduce-new-bipartisan-legislation-to-strengthen-americans-retirement-security/>

Senate Bill Introduced to Address Possible SSA Overpayments During Pandemic: As Reported by Justice in Aging: “On Thursday, October 22, Senators Brown, Casey, and Wyden introduced the ***Fairness to Seniors and People with Disabilities During COVID-19 Act (S. 4830)***. This legislation would protect older adults and people with disabilities from being required to repay extra Social Security or SSI benefits they received from the Social Security Administration (SSA) due to the agency suspending certain work during the COVID-19 pandemic. It is the companion bill to [**HR 7830**](#), introduced in the House by Rep. Danny Davis...it would require SSA to automatically waive all overpayments that occurred between March 1 and December 31, 2020, without requiring the overpaid individual to request a waiver, unless there was determination of fraud, similar fault, or misuse by a representative payee in causing the overpayment. However, SSA has already [**published an interim final rule**](#) that sets up a “streamlined” waiver process for individuals who were overpaid between March 1 and September 30, 2020. This process requires the individual to contact SSA to request a waiver, even though SSA has already determined that the agency was at fault in causing the overpayment, and it would be “against equity and good conscience” to require the individual to repay the benefits.”

On the Regulatory Front

RAISE Family Caregiving Advisory Council Upcoming Virtual Full Council Meeting:

November 18, 2020, 12:30 - 4:30 PM ET -

<https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/USACL/bulletins/2a699ef>

CMS Announces COVID-19 Vaccine Coverage and Plan:

<https://www.cms.gov/newsroom/press-releases/trump-administration-acts-ensure-coverage-life-saving-covid-19-vaccines-therapeutics>

From KFF - The Landscape of Medicaid Demonstration Waivers Ahead of the 2020 Election:

https://www.kff.org/medicaid/issue-brief/the-landscape-of-medicaid-demonstration-waivers-ahead-of-the-2020-election/?utm_campaign=KFF-2020-The-Latest&utm_medium=email&hsmi=98681727&hsenc=p2ANqtz-_lho2c3sDcO33zmW1BpAT-HBzQ1jpCkKXS03RI9Eu0oafEMckfeip5aby5A_TQboFwfJrt9nzRO0LcljsqLYSYMwrMqA&utm_content=98681727&utm_source=hs_email

A Deeper Look (Articles of Interest)

COVID-19 Often Deadly for those with Down Syndrome: <https://www.disabilityscoop.com/2020/10/28/people-with-down-syndrome-10-times-more-likely-to-die-from-covid-19/29055/>

Webinar from the National Center on Law & Elder Rights: Representing a Person with a Guardian, Tuesday, November 10, 2020, at 11:00 a.m. PT/2:00 p.m. ET. <https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/1744013868765364747?source=salsa&eType=EmailBlastContent&eId=24e31852-b2a4-4d50-b7c6-c6ff72e50fb6>

NY Times Piece on the Supreme Court's Attack on Alabama Voters With Disabilities: <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/10/28/opinion/supreme-court-alabama-voting-disability.html>

From Consumer Voice - Reuniting Residents and Families - What to Look for and Questions to Ask as You Resume Visits in a Long-Term Care Facility: https://theconsumervoice.org/uploads/files/general/CV_ChemicalRestraints_GoingBackLTFCguide_508web.pdf

Just for Fun - President Roosevelt speaking of NIH 80 years ago: <https://directorsblog.nih.gov/2020/10/29/nih-at-80-sharing-a-timeless-message-from-president-roosevelt/>

In Case You Missed this one Shared by Brian Rubin: **Trump Administration Faces Pressure To Track COVID-19 At Institutions, Group Homes** by Michelle Diamant, October 26, 2020 (see attached Word Document)

Stay safe (when you vote), Brian

And the SNA Public Policy Team:

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