



Hot off the Press:

Still No COVID-19 Pandemic Response Deal and Hope Fading: With no consensus among Republicans in the Senate and with the President, time is running low for a deal to emerge from the continuing conversations between Speaker Pelosi and Treasury Secretary Mnuchin. The amounts remain a problem (\$1.8 trillion – White House vs. \$2.2 trillion – House) but there are many other policy issues that have not been resolved. Trump appears to want a deal or to look like he wants a deal, but pundits wonder whether he could secure the necessary Republican votes in the Senate.

On the Regulatory Front

HELP Committee Senators urge the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services to collect and report COVID-19 data in congregate care facilities—including assisted living facilities, institutions for people with disabilities, group homes, and mental health facilities:

<https://www.help.senate.gov/ranking/newsroom/press/-murray-colleagues-urge-trump-administration-to-track-covid-19-in-congregate-care-facilities-to-protect-people-with-disabilities-and-older-americans->

Small Business Administration Releases FAQ for Paycheck Protection Program as of October 13: The Small Business Administration released guidance in the form of FAQs to address borrower and lender questions regarding loan forgiveness issues related to the Paycheck Protection Program loans. This is considered the SBA's official interpretation. (Same note and link sent separately last week.)

<https://home.treasury.gov/system/files/136/PPP--Loan-Forgiveness-FAQs.pdf>

ABLE Reaction From CCD: “The final regulation was unexpectedly released and many task force member organizations are concerned about provisions that were included, specifically the inclusion of Rep Payees on a list of those who can open ABLE accounts, the definition of disability, and the lack of outreach to ABLE account holders about new rules. There was interest in potentially having a presentation on the final regulation. We are going to express our concerns with the regulation and what we would like done in our taskforce administrative transition memo.”

[ABLE Final Regulation](#)

From Our Colleagues at Justice in Aging: IRS Extends Deadline for Non-Filers to Register for Stimulus Checks -

“The [IRS announced that it is extending the deadline](#) for low-income people and others who are not required to file a tax return to submit their information in order to receive an Economic Impact Payment. The new deadline to register is November 21, 2020. Those who are eligible and have not yet received a stimulus payment can [use the Non-Filers tool](#) on IRS.gov to enter their information. This deadline differs from the one for Social Security and SSI beneficiaries to claim the \$500 per child dependent payments; that deadline passed on September 30. However, there are still millions of eligible individuals who have not yet received their \$1,200 payments. The IRS recently mailed out [letters to almost 9 million people](#) who may be eligible for, but have not received, an Economic Impact Payment. Those eligible individuals who do not submit their information before the November 21st deadline will have to wait until next year to receive their payment by filing a 2020 tax return.”

Congress Questions Administration’s Drug Discount Cards: The House Energy & Commerce Committee Chairman Frank Pallone, Jr. (D-NJ), Ways and Means Committee Chairman Richard E. Neal (D-MA), and Senate Finance Committee Ranking Member Ron Wyden (D-OR) sent a letter to HHS Secretary Azar regarding the Administration’s plan to deliver drug discount cards to Medicare beneficiaries. The letter requests, among other issues, information on the Agency’s statutory authority to implement the program. <https://energycommerce.house.gov/sites/democrats.energycommerce.house.gov/files/documents/HHS.2020.10.13.pdf>

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

From the administration for Community Living: Employment Innovation: Improving Work for People with Disabilities

Save the Date: Wednesday, October 28, 2020, 12:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. EDT.

Save the date and join ACL’s [National Institute on Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research \(NIDILRR\)](#) to celebrate National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM) with a virtual event highlighting the past, present, and future of work for people with disabilities

Additional details will be shared soon through this [listserv](#) and our [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) accounts.

Looking for more NDEAM resources? [Check out the U.S. Department of Labor's Office of Disability Employment Policy NDEAM page.](#)

Disability Scoop: More than 50 disability advocacy groups are calling on senators to reject Barrett’s nomination: <https://www.disabilityscoop.com/2020/10/09/disability-groups-oppose-supreme-court-nominee/29028/>

From Healthsperien: States Expect Medicaid Enrollment and Spending to Increase in FY 2021: “Yesterday, the Kaiser Family Foundation (KFF) released their 20th annual Medicaid budget survey. State Medicaid Directors expect enrollment to grow by 8.2 percent and combined federal and state Medicaid spending to increase by 8.4 percent in the next fiscal year. The increase is primarily driven by a slump in the economy and federal conditions to maintain eligibility to access enhanced federal Medicaid funds as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Earlier in the year, Congress authorized a 6.2 percentage point increase in the federal Medicaid match rate (FMAP) as part of the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA). To be eligible for the funds, states cannot tighten Medicaid eligibility standards or raise premiums beyond the policy in place as of January 1, 2020 and must provide continuous eligibility for enrollees through the public health emergency period.

Nearly all states reported significant adverse economic and state budgetary impacts driven by the pandemic and have indicated they are using the extra federal money to offset costs related to rising Medicaid enrollment and to close general budget shortfalls. The survey report also finds that reductions in the long-term care workforce has been a consistent challenge for many responding states due to infection among direct care workers and inaccessibility to proper personal protective equipment (PPE) and widespread testing.”

From Our Friends at PHI: “This morning, PHI released our new report, [*Would You Stay? Rethinking Direct Care Job Quality*](#), which examines how COVID-19 reinforced and amplified the long-standing challenges facing direct care workers and the long-term care sector. It also introduces our new framework for direct care job quality, which spans five pillars and 28 elements. This report is the fourth installment in [a yearlong series of reports](#) examining the importance and impact of the direct care workforce. We’ll release the final, comprehensive report in January 2021.” Read *Would You Stay* [here](#).

From Families USA: Digital Toolkit: [COVID-19 Related Resources](#)

JAHF Age-Friendly in COVID: https://www.johnhartford.org/images/uploads/reports/5-takeaways-Age-FriendlyCare_FINAL_printed_MHC_10_2020.pdf

Wonderful to see so many SNA colleagues yesterday! 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