



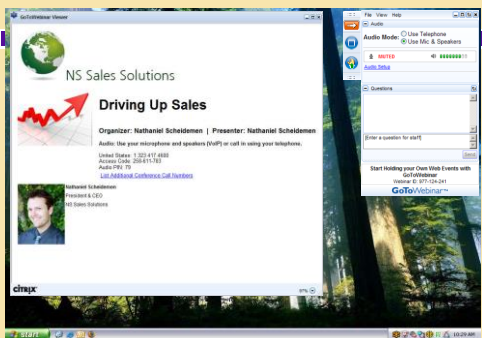
NANASP PRESENTS:

2017 WASHINGTON UPDATE

PRESENTED BY:
BOB BLANCATO & MEREDITH PONDER WHITMIRE

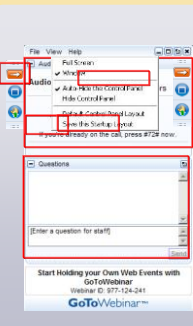
Wednesday, February 8, 2017– 12:00 pm ET

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Introduction

- Thanks for joining us!
- Breaking the update up into the following segments:
 - New Administration and Congress
 - Funding for FY2017 and FY2018
 - Healthcare Issues
 - NANASP Grants
 - What You Can Do

New Administration and Congress

The First Few Weeks of the Presidency: An Overview

- Flurry of activity (as expected)
- Examples:
 - Executive order to undo as much of the ACA as possible administratively
 - Executive order to freeze all pending regulations
 - Federal hiring freeze
 - Immigration ban from various countries
 - Supreme Court pick

Cabinet Picks

- Cabinet picks have been at center of action
- This week and next before the President's Day recess could be key
- Three of most controversial up/likely up for final vote: Price, DeVos and Sessions
- OMB right behind and needs to be watched
- Carson also but not generating that much heat
- Labor nominee (Puzder) may be in trouble
- Then range of subcabinet positions to come: CMS, ACL, key #2 posts in Cabinet agencies, and so on
- And of course SCOTUS

New Members of Importance

- New ranking members for several Senate committees
 - Sen. Patrick Leahy (D-VT), Appropriations
 - Sen. Bob Casey (D-PA), Aging
 - Sen. Dianne Feinstein (D-CA), Judiciary
- New chairs for important House committees
 - Rep. Rodney Frelinghuysen (R-NJ), Appropriations
 - Rep. Virginia Foxx (R-NC), Education and the Workforce

Funding for FY2017 and FY2018

FY2017 Concerns

- On December 9, passed another CR, which ensures that federal programs will be funded at current levels through April 28
- We are not yet sure what follows this CR and what funding levels will be through September 30
- There are discussions that another CR will be implemented to cover the rest of the fiscal year
- If no CR, two things to oppose: SCSEP cuts as in Senate bill and ending SHIP
- Beginning an advocacy blitz for President's Day recess – see your Washington Bulletin for details!

FY2018 Concerns

- FY 2018 is of real concern
- Trump SOTU will be on Feb 28, followed by his first budget
- Cuts are expected—start big, end big?
- Whose model is followed?
- We need to fight for our discretionary programs who will get hit for higher military spending
- If we can show only the government can perform a program or service, we have a fighting chance... along with showing value of the program

Farm Bill

- Reauthorization happening in 2018
- First field hearing on reauthorization: February 23, Manhattan, KS
- Not too early to discuss advocacy for this bill—SNAP and other senior nutrition programs in the bill are in real trouble
- Part of a senior workgroup with the Food Policy Working Group; will be strategizing ways to make the case for senior nutrition

Healthcare Issues

What's Next?

- In the space of older adults we know there will be action
- Where it starts and where it ends is the question
- Starting with ACA (which also means Medicare and Medicaid)
- The 4 R's are in play: repeal, replace, rebuild or redo
- All will mean something once we see language

ACA and Older Adults

- Good Medicare provisions
 - Expanded preventive benefits
 - Donut hole closing
 - Delivery system reform for a stronger Medicare: 9-10 years added to Trust Fund
 - Lower hospital readmissions
- Medicaid expansion for those under age 65
- Elder justice

Budget Passage and the ACA

- The Senate and House passed a budget resolution for FY2017 in January
- It “unlocks” reconciliation, a procedural tool that means that related legislation in the Senate only needs a majority vote (51 votes), not a filibuster-proof vote (at least 60 votes), to pass
- This would allow Republicans to repeal the Affordable Care Act on a party-line vote
- Republicans will likely be unable to replace the ACA under reconciliation, meaning that they will need 60 votes to pass a replacement bill

What Happens Next With the ACA?

- ACA plays out against backdrop of budget process
- First step done with budget resolution
- Big step being worked on: four Committees developing bills to change/repeal/etc. ACA
- It will not be repealed entirely
- And not all provisions in reconciliation
- Words are important, i.e. “universal access” vs. “coverage”
- How long does it take? Deadline keeps slipping further back. Trump said it now might take until 2018 to repeal and replace

Medicare Issues

- Deeper issues in Medicare
- Plans such as Ryan’s “premium support” which would provide a fixed amount of money for older adults to buy private insurance
- Removing government guarantee and replace with... ?
- Not a big groundswell for it and Trump not there
- Members don’t want to take vote like this
- Must all work to kill it before it grows!

Medicaid Issues

- Plans such as Ryan/others' "block grant" proposal which would give a fixed amount to states for Medicaid to spend as they chose
- This means that if a state's costs exceed the amount of the block grant, it will have to use its own funds to make up the difference
- Once a block grant amount is set it is generally not increased even if need grows
- This is very dangerous for low-income seniors who depend on Medicaid as well as for seniors who depend on Medicaid for long term care and home and community based services

IPAB Repeal

- IPAB provision of the ACA allows the HHS Secretary to appoint a panel to find cost-cutting measures in Medicare
- Independent Payment Advisory Board repeal is gaining support
- Two bills/resolutions introduced in the Senate (Wyden, Cornyn) and one resolution in the House (Roe)
- NANASP supports repeal of IPAB

Medicare Advantage

- Have been continuing our work with the Better Medicare Alliance
- The MA Rate Notice and Call Letter was just published, containing information on reimbursement rates and policies for the upcoming calendar year
- Working with members, we will determine NANASP's position

Malnutrition

- New initiatives with Defeat Malnutrition Today
- Ongoing work of Malnutrition Blueprint which will provide a roadmap for lawmakers, care providers, organizations
- Malnutrition page on National Resource Center website
- Quality measures: success at having them considered by NQF/CMS
- Looking for local/state members to join the coalition—if you're interested please let us know!

NANASP Grants

Start of Year Grants

- LRGVDC-Area Agency on Aging, Weslaco, TX
- Camarillo Health Care District, Camarillo, CA
- East Prairie Nutrition Center, East Prairie, MO
- Hillsborough County Aging Services, Tampa, FL
- Bismarck Senior Center, Bismarck, MO
- KY River Area Development District, Hazard, KY
- East Valley Family Services, Las Vegas, NV
- Senior Life Resources, Mid-Columbia Meals on Wheels, Richland, WA
- Pyramid Lake Human Services, Nixon, NV
- First TN Human Resource Agency, Johnson City, TN
- Community Services Agency of South Texas Inc., Carrizo Springs, TX

Retirement Research Foundation (RRF) Grant Work

- Received 417 participant surveys to date on socialization at congregate meal sites
- Sent out to a total of 35 providers
- Deadline to return surveys is March 1, 2017
- Will be having a webinar to discuss initial results on February 21
- Registration link in your Washington Bulletin

Vaccine Awareness

- Grants to raise awareness about pneumonia, flu, and other vaccinations for older adults
- 10 sites received microgrants
- Work is ongoing
- Reports are due February 24 from grant recipients

What You Can Do

How to Respond?

- Rapid response from concerned Americans
- Favorite sign in D.C. at rally: “Protesting is the new brunch”
- Hard to know what is next
- Need to be ready
- But also not panic at everything proposed
- Or fight everything that comes out
- Who has the resources?

What to Do?

- Work in our states
- Trump playing to outside D.C. audience—so must we
- Tweet but more importantly **CALL** to be noticed—and show up!
- Use every Congressional recess to full degree
 - February 20-24: President’s Day recess
- Members need to hear how you feel in this first month
- Need to have message on what we fight for and fight against
- Need to align with other groups with similar interests—and have it be intergenerational, diverse in all ways
- Don’t be afraid of advocacy—tomorrow’s webinar on lobbying can help!

Conclusions

- Relationship-building is more critical than ever before
- This is going to be a marathon, not a sprint: remain calm and focused
- Keep your message sharp and your priorities clear
- We’re always here to help!

Resources

- Capitol Switchboard: 202-224-3121
- NANASP Advocacy: <http://nanasp.org/take-action>
- Town hall/office hours listing: <http://bit.ly/TownHallProject2018>
- Fact sheet on contacting Congress: <https://www.scribd.com/document/331069513/How-to-Contact-Congress>
- Cabinet tracker: <https://www.theatlantic.com/politics/archive/2017/02/trump-cabinet-tracker/510527/>
- mponder@nanasp.org for advocacy questions

Registration Opening Soon!



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