NANASP PRESENTS:

2017 WASHINGTON UPDATE

PRESENTED BY:
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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
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.

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.

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](http://nanasp.org/take-action)
- mponder@nanasp.org for advocacy questions

Registration Opening Soon!

2017 Joint Conference | June 14-16, 2017
Hyatt Lodge in Oak Brook (Chicago), IL
[www.nanasp.org](http://www.nanasp.org)