



# WASHINGTON UPDATE

JUNE 2015

## 21st Century Cures Act Nears House Vote *Happening After July 4 Recess*

The *21st Century Cures Act*, a bill which would “help modernize and personalize health care, encourage greater innovation, support research, and streamline the system,” will be voted on after the July 4th recess, according to Chairman Fred Upton (R-MI). It passed the House Energy and Commerce Committee 51-0 in May, but arguments over how to pay for the bill have stalled its movement on the House floor. The Senate is developing its own version of the legislation. For more information on the *21st Century Cures Act*, visit: [energycommerce.house.gov/cures](http://energycommerce.house.gov/cures)

## Congressional Update

### House Subcommittee Passes Labor-HHS Spending Bill

The House Appropriations Labor-HHS-Education Subcommittee passed its appropriations bill out of subcommittee for the first time in five years on June 17. The legislation, which passed along party lines, includes \$153 billion in discretionary funding, which is \$3.7 billion below the fiscal year 2015 enacted level and \$14.6 billion below the President’s budget request. The bill defunds the Affordable Care Act’s existing programs and prohibits any new funding from being used to implement the ACA. The full report language has not yet been released, but the bill and press release specify some funding levels:

- The Senior Community Service Employment Program will be level funded at \$434 million.
- The Social Services Block Grant will be level funded at \$1.7 billion.
- The OAA congregate and home-delivered meals programs received a small increase of \$6 million total.

No other funding levels pertaining to OAA and OAA-related programs are currently known. The bill is expected to be marked up in full committee next week, at which time those levels will be released. This bill is the most contentious of the spending bills, and it is likely that without a raise in the spending caps imposed by sequestration, the bill will not become law.

To view the bill and press release visit:  
[appropriations.house.gov](http://appropriations.house.gov).

## White House Says States Without Medicaid Expansion Missed \$29 Billion

According to a new White House report, the 22 states that have not expanded Medicaid under the Affordable Care Act will go without \$29 billion in federal funding through the end of 2016. The 28 states and DC that have already expanded Medicaid eligibility will receive \$37 billion over that time period.

To view the report visit: [whitehouse.gov](http://whitehouse.gov).

## Popular Generic Drugs Had Large Price Jumps in 2013, AARP Finds

The AARP Public Policy Institute found in a report that in 2013, though the majority (73%) of generic drugs examined experienced price decreases, at least 11 drugs examined had retail price increases of more than 30% in 2013. Two antibiotics increased by almost 2000%. Overall, generic drug prices fell by 4%, but this was the smallest decline since 2006. The National Community Pharmacists Association said that in a 2015 survey, the situation had become worse. Several bills are attempting to address the situation for Medicare reimbursement rates, including *H.R. 244*, *S. 1364*, and *H.R. 2391*.

To view the report visit: [aarp.org](http://aarp.org).

To view the bills, visit: [congress.gov](http://congress.gov).

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### Contact Us

We welcome your feedback!  
Please share questions,  
suggestions or concerns.

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