



# WASHINGTON UPDATE

JUNE 2016

Upcoming Programs at  
Benjamin Rose

**Using Evidence-Informed  
Programs: Quality Care and  
Health Promotion**

July 14, 2016  
8:30am-3:15pm

**Expressive Arts for Older  
Adults: Promoting Quality of  
Life and Social Connection**

August 31, 2016  
8:30am-4:00pm

For more information and  
registration, visit  
[benrose.org/education](http://benrose.org/education)

## Contact Us

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

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## Senate Proposes Complete Elimination of Funding for SHIPs

The Senate version of the FY 2017 Labor-Health & Human Services funding bill has proposed complete elimination of funding for the State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP).

SHIPs receive funding under the Administration for Community Living (ACL) and oversee a network of more than 3,300 local SHIPs and over 15,000 counselors. SHIPs assist individuals in navigating the increasingly complex Medicare program and help beneficiaries make choices among a vast array of options to best meet their needs. To find a SHIP near you, visit [www.shiptacenter.org](http://www.shiptacenter.org).

The National Council on Aging (NCOA) has posted an issue brief with even more information about the SHIP program on their website ([www.ncoa.org](http://www.ncoa.org)), as well as a joint press release from NCOA, the National Committee to Protect Social Security and Medicare, the Medicare Rights Center, and the Center for Medicare Advocacy which details more of the harmful effects of the elimination of the SHIPs. *Kaiser Health News* ([www.khn.org](http://www.khn.org)) reported on the elimination in detail as well.

The House Appropriations Committee is expected to take up the Labor-HHS funding bill next week after their July 4 recess.

### WHAT YOU CAN DO:

Send a letter to your Member of Congress to discuss the issue. Learn more about writing your member of Congress at [www.benrose.org/KPI/advocacytips](http://www.benrose.org/KPI/advocacytips).