



WASHINGTON UPDATE

Join Us
for an aging issues forum

Addressing Aging Policy: Looking Forward with a New Administration

Please join Benjamin Rose Institute on Aging for an open forum on aging policy and the impact on Northeast Ohio older adults.

Thursday, March 2
3:00pm—5:30pm

Conference Center at
Benjamin Rose
11890 Fairhill Road 44120

A cocktail reception will follow the program.

For more information and registration visit:
www.benrose.org

Sign up for the email version of this newsletter at
www.benrose.org/KPI



New Affordable Care Act and Medicaid Proposals

Republicans in Congress have revealed a 19-page outline for Affordable Care Act and Medicaid policy. The plan includes using a 2015 repeal bill as a beginning, and then including replacement policies such as the creation of high-risk pools, health savings accounts, and tax credit assistance.

It also proposes ending Medicaid expansion and converting Medicaid into a per capita caps system, offering states set amounts per beneficiary from the federal government for Medicaid administration and benefits. Under the outline, states that had expanded Medicaid under the ACA “could continue to receive enhanced federal payments for currently enrolled beneficiaries for a limited period of time,” but if they keep that coverage in place, they would eventually return to “traditional match rates.” States would also have the option to pursue block grants.

Call to Action

With the President’s Day recess ending tomorrow (February 24), members will be at home in their districts. This is the last recess for almost two months, until April 10. Call district offices, visit offices, and/or send emails to say: *Don’t weaken programs for older Americans.*

More specifically:

- Support increased funding for Older Americans Act programs, especially nutrition.
- Don’t block grant Medicaid.
- Don’t privatize Medicare through premium support.

Nominations and Agencies Updates

Slowly, a Cabinet for President Trump is taking shape. Rep. Tom Price (R-GA) is now the HHS Secretary; Sen. Jeff Sessions (R-AL) was confirmed as Attorney General.

The nominee for the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), Seema Verma, had her confirmation hearing before the Finance Committee on February 16. Dr. Patrick Conway is acting in the role of CMS Administrator until a successor has been confirmed. Verma has not yet had a vote in the Committee or before the full Senate.

No appointee for ACL Administrator or nominee for Assistant Secretary for Aging has yet been named. (The position of ACL Administrator is appointed; the position of Assistant Secretary for Aging must be confirmed by the Senate.) Dan Berger is now acting in the role of both Administrator and Assistant Secretary, taking over for Edwin Walker.