

# washington UPDATE



## Flurry of Legislative Activity Expected After Labor Day

August 2019

The House and Senate are currently in recess but will return to Washington after Labor Day. There are two key priorities for the aging network that need to be decided in September: FY 2020 spending and the Older Americans Act reauthorization.

Before Congress left for recess, they passed a two-year budget agreement which offers hope that increases in funding for key aging programs for FY 2020 will hold up. Earlier this year, the House passed its funding bill for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services (HHS), and Education which included many increases for Older Americans Act programs. The Senate must now act before September 30 in order to meet the deadline for FY 2020 program funding.

The Older Americans Act reauthorization process has slowed considerably. The Senate should be able to introduce a bill soon but is currently at an impasse regarding funding authorization levels and the funding formula including "hold harmless" provisions. House leaders have said they hope to introduce a reauthorization bill in September. The OAA authorization also expires September 30.

## USDA Proposes Rule to Limit Senior SNAP Eligibility

In late July, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) proposed a regulation that would eliminate the broad-based categorical eligibility (BBCE) state option for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). This option allows states to waive asset tests for some beneficiaries, such as those receiving SSI, which allows beneficiaries to have modest savings. It also reduces states' administrative burdens. BBCE is currently in use by over 42 states and territories, including Ohio. The USDA's own analysis shows that older adults would be disproportionately hurt by this proposal, with at least 660,000 older adults losing access to SNAP benefits.

### Contact Us

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

Benjamin Rose Institute on Aging  
11890 Fairhill Road  
Cleveland, OH 44120  
216.791.8000  
[info@benrose.org](mailto:info@benrose.org)

Sign up for the email version of  
this newsletter at  
[www.benrose.org/advocacy](http://www.benrose.org/advocacy)



## Benjamin Rose Hosts Annual Katz Policy Lecture

The 2019 Katz Policy Lecture will be delivered by **Malaz Boustani, MD**, Founding Director, Sandra Eskenazi Center for Brain Care Innovation & Chief Innovation and Implementation Officer for Indiana University Center for Health Innovation and Implementation Science. Dr. Boustani will discuss strategies for successfully partnering community-based organization and health systems, utilizing examples from his extensive medical career.

Following his remarks, a panel of local leaders will provide insights into the work being done in the Greater Cleveland community to bridge gaps between community-based organizations and health systems, and continued areas of opportunity for partnership throughout Northeast Ohio.

The Katz Policy Lecture will be held Wednesday, September 4, 2019 from 3:00 PM to 6:00 PM in the Conference Center at Benjamin Rose, 11890 Fairhill Road, Cleveland OH 44120. Register at [www.benrose.org](http://www.benrose.org).