

## Continuing Resolution Averts Government Shutdown

President Biden signed the second Continuing Resolution (CR) into law on November 16th averting a government shutdown. The newly signed CR will keep federal funding at Fiscal Year (FY) 23 levels with two deadlines in early 2024. By January 19, four appropriation bills must be passed or funding for those specific departments will lapse. Appropriation bills that fund 80% of the government, including Defense and Labor Health and Human Services (LHHS) which covers funding for the Older Americans Act, Adult Protective Services, and elder justice programs, must be passed by February 2.

On November 16, the U.S. Senate Special Committee on Aging held a [hearing on the role of artificial intelligence in fraud](#), featuring testimonies from victims. During the hearing, Chairman Bob Casey (D-PA) released the committee's [annual fraud book](#) and a [brochure](#) on AI-powered scams.

On November 7, Senators Gary Peters (D-MI) and Shelley Capito (R-WV) introduced the Preventing Diabetes in Medicare Act of 2023 ([S.3233](#)) which would extend coverage under Medicare for medical nutrition therapy services to beneficiaries with pre-diabetes or at risk for developing type 2 diabetes.

On November 14, Representative Robin Kelly (D-IL) and Senator Susan Collins (R-ME) introduced bicameral legislation ([H.R.6407](#), [S.3297](#)) that would expand Medicare coverage of Medical Nutrition Therapy (MNT) services. This would expand access to MNT and include outpatient services for conditions like pre-diabetes, obesity, malnutrition, cardiovascular disease, and more.

On November 13, Representative Marcus Molinaro (R-NY) introduced the Friendly Calls for Our Seniors Act of 2023 ([H.R.6388](#)) that creates a program providing telephone reassurance services that promotes social connection to older adults and other adults with disabilities. The bill currently has bipartisan support among the four cosponsors.

On November 16, the White House released its first ever [U.S. Playbook to Address Social Determinants of Health](#), and was accompanied by the Department of Health and Human Services [Call to Action to Address Health Related Social Needs](#).

## Finalized Rule Aims to Improve Nursing Home Care

The Biden-Harris Administration announced their latest efforts to improve care among nursing home residents and their families through a finalized rule. On November 17, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) released the [finalized rule](#) to implement portions of Section 6101 of the Affordable Care Act, which aims to increase transparency in nursing home ownership. Nursing homes enrolled in Medicare or Medicaid will be required to disclose additional information regarding owners, operators, and management, allowing for families to make better informed decisions about choosing a place of care for their loved one. These regulations will go into effect on January 16, 2024 with data being publicly available in a year.

## Statehouse Update - Ohio

The Ohio Senate has formed a select committee on housing. The committee plans to address the extra steps Ohio's housing crisis needs. State Sen. Michele Reynolds is the chair of the committee and plans to hear various perspectives to understand the challenges Ohioans face. The goal is to put forth some possible solutions with other lawmakers who are a part of the committee. The Select Committee on Housing is holding a series of public hearings across the state. According to the Ohio Housing Finance Agency, there are more than 440,000 extremely low income renters in Ohio, while approximately one-third of rental housing is considered affordable.