



Leadership Council of Aging Organizations

James Firman, Chair

MINUTES

December 6, 2017

LeadingAge – 2519 Connecticut Ave NW

1. Approval of the Minutes
 - Approved by voice vote
2. Committee Reports
 - Community Services
 - FY18: Discussed expected timing, process, multiple CRs, remaining need for budget deal
 - PAYGO threat: Shared intel on programs at risk
 - OAA reauthorization: Will share info on past LCAO consensus process and proposals. Will invite authorizing committee staff to future meeting. LCAO members not on Community Services but want to be involved in reauthorization discussions should contact the co-chairs.
 - Senior nutrition legislation: Two bills introduced relevant to senior nutrition in Farm Bill debate – one on SNAP and another on the Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP).
 - December meeting: One week earlier than usual rotation, on Dec. 21 at 10am.
 - Health
 - Tax bill and health: Shared intel on the tax bill timing and threat of health cuts from PAYGO and response to deficit growth.
 - Health extenders and MFP: making therapy caps permanent and extending low-income outreach still in the mix, still working on introduction of Portman-Cantwell Money Follows the Person extension. MFP sign-on letter in the works. Offsets still an issue with extenders, but no intel on what's being considered yet.
 - Medicare SHIP appropriations: Non-LCAO opt-out / sign on letter deadline Dec. 5.
 - Medicare Parts C and D proposed rule: Comments due Jan. 16.
 - Medicare Part D appeals auto-escalation appeals: Probably won't be included in extenders, so non-LCAO sign-on letter tweaked and will be circulated with new deadline (16 current signers).
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 - Patient Choice and Quality Care Act: LCAO sign-on letter currently has 20 signers; will recirculate.
 - BENES Act: Still working to get the bill passed.
 - Chronic Care legislation: Some individual provisions and other bipartisan bills marked up by Ways & Means and Finance could also be in year-end package.
 - Income Security
 - Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) developments: Discussed changes following the resignation of Director Cordray. Looking to other groups who work on the issue about weighing in to protect Office of Older Americans.

- Lawson SNAP bill. Adam LaRose of Rep. Lawson's office spoke on the Congressman's SNAP Simplification for the Elderly Act. Summary circulated, office seeking organization endorsements.
 - SSA funding: Stacy Braverman Cloyd of the National Organization of Social Security Claimants' Representatives (NOSSCR) detailed the potential impact of proposed cuts in FY18 SSA operations funding, and the effects of recent level funding. The Committee has drafted a Chair's letter to weigh in on FY18 funding letter; will circulate for a vote.
3. December debates discussion (Part 1)
- Tax bill
 - Articles and other materials in shared yesterday, including quotes from members of Congress on the entitlement cuts that are expected next.
 - Expected issues in final bill: individual mandate, medical deduction, estate tax, corporate rate, AMT, mortgage deduction, SALT. Unlikely to change significantly, so expect we will all still oppose.
 - Targeting includes Sens. McCain, Flake, Collins, Murkowski, with different messaging for each of them. Americans for Tax Fairness is targeting 36 House Republicans.
 - Discussion of ways to get some members of Congress on record about threats to health and low-income programs, perhaps with pledge campaign.
4. Guest Speaker: **Ellen Nissenbaum** – Senior Vice President for Government Affairs, Center on Budget and Policy Priorities
- Focus on tax bill:
 - Gimmicks cover real cost of tax bill; rather than \$1.5 trillion, a good estimate is \$2.2 trillion.
 - Bill has been pre-conferenced, with aim to pass by week of Dec 18.
 - Sen. Collins really got just 1 thing, not 4: the medical expense deduction for 2 years. SALT property tax provision was already going to be added in conference; PAYGO has never taken effect and was already going to be waived; and commitment to do Alexander-Murray, Collins-Nelson only from McConnell and Trump - not House GOP. Grassroots need to tell Collins can't exchange tax vote for problems in ACA/Medicaid – won't change her vote, but she needs to know it's a problem for accountability, next year's debates.
 - Shouldn't be focusing on PAYGO waiver and give Congress credit for something that was already going to be waived.
 - Important pivot point
 - Need to be smart, fast to respond for next year's threat. Already being put on notice that GOP going after entitlements and health care next year.
 - Center is amassing quotes about plans to cut spending. Medicare is not where they're headed. Biggest three: Medicaid, SSI, SNAP, and will be framed as welfare reform, likely with time limits and work requirements.
 - Upcoming CRs and year-end packages
 - Current thinking: 2nd CR with temporary CHIP fix through Dec. 22 and 3rd CR until mid-January with possible add-ons: disaster supplemental, health and CHIP extenders, ACA bills, PAYGO waivers, deal to lift Budget Control Act caps, DACA.
 - Schumer still insisting on parity in lifting caps.
 - Freedom Caucus balked on large package on Dec. 22. Defense hawks want FY18 funding approved this year.

- January: FY18 omnibus with potentially raising debt ceiling. White House saying ceiling runs out in January, CBO says March.
 - Recap
 - Worried about Collins and the price for passing Alexander-Murray and reinsurance.
 - Dec. 22 package: It's all about health offsets – related to sequester, extenders, and other items. Could include ACA grace period reduction, cap on premium tax credits and repayment (disproportionate effect on elderly), third-party liability. Message: They should not use permanent offsets from ACA or low-income programs to harm people or remove/reduce coverage or create impediments to health care coverage (ACA or Medicaid) for a temporary, two-year deal.
 - Pivot quickly and strategically. Once the tax bill conference report is released, ask members to commit to oppose cuts in ACA, low-income programs. Start thinking about materials for networks to educate about implications for next year.
 - Q&A
 - Q: Hearing that other offsets could include \$140-160 billion proposed in Obama budgets, what else might be possible? A: Extension of Medicare BCA sequester cap a done deal; grace period and other items in Energy & Commerce package are possible. Offsets for raising the NDD cap haven't been leaked yet, but maybe SSI or other non-health programs targeted? FYI – the next budget resolution could propose NDD cut below sequester in the out-years because was in the Senate FY18 version (usually is in House version).
 - Q: Threat of Dec. 22 shutdown? A: If so, likely over DACA, but Democrats don't want Dreamers blamed for shutdown. Don't think it would be over parity or health issues unless negotiations blow up badly.
 - Q: Where are Democrats now on parity? Seems it has already been broken. Which Democrats should be targeted on parity and offsets – the 10 up for re-election? A? Schumer and Murray are so out front on parity, but it would depend on how you define it. They can't be allowed to take a deal on bad permanent health offsets – Murray is a leader on this point. Those up in 2018 should be a focus, especially McCaskill, Tester, Heitkamp, Donnelly and Manchin. Educate Democrats, moderate Republicans and leaders on not taking a sequester deal with permanent, bad health provisions.
 - Q: Will focus next year be on work requirements or more on Medicaid threats? A: More likely to do work requirements but not time limits on SSI, Medicaid, and SNAP. Note: Congress can't reconcile both welfare reform and health. GOP might think they can move welfare reform outside reconciliation and dare Democrats to vote against it. Also beware of Graham-Cassidy coming back separately.
 - Q: How are Republicans who have opposed raising the debt ceiling going to vote next time? A: It will either be attached to the FY18 omnibus package or added to budget process changes that'll make it difficult for us to message on.
5. December debates discussion (Part 2)
- Budget caps/FY18 appropriations
 - Community Services proposed a letter urging Congress to raise the BCA caps, but we want to be mindful of threats of offsets affecting other priorities.
 - Potential themes:
 - Raise the caps to stop the threat of sequestration and allow for much-needed investment.
 - Growing number of seniors relying on programs and services, but also bipartisan endorsement of modest OAA funding growth in last reauthorization.

- Spare mandatory programs, particularly those for vulnerable older adults and their families, from offsetting cuts.
 - Ensure parity in providing relief to Defense and NDD
 - Provide fair and equitable investment when subsequently revising FY18 302(b) allocations.
 - Older Adults not only rely on programs in the Labor-HHS bill, but also Ag, THUD, etc, as evidenced by our FY18 Appropriations priorities letter (<http://www.lcao.org/letter-fy18-appropriations/>).
 - General agreement to work with Co-Chairs to draft Chair's letter, to be circulated soon for review and approval.
 - Next year's messaging: proposal to expand LCAO outreach to CCD, CHN, NDD United, and health 'big tent' group with Families and AFSCME. Maybe do conference call or bring in representatives to speak at future LCAO meeting.
6. Announcements
- National Alliance for Caregivers: 12th Annual National Conference of Caregiver Advocates is March 12 in conjunction with ASA conference; flyers available. Also interested in connecting with LCAO members on getting info from other sectors to caregivers.
 - National Association of Social Workers: Call for proposals for the [2018 NASW National Conference, Shaping Tomorrow Together](#) extended to Friday, Dec. 8.

Next Meeting: January 3