

Welcome to the Legislative Update for September 29, 2015

This e-mail is provided as a courtesy of the Governor's Advisory Council on Aging. The purpose of this service is to keep older Arizonans and advocates of aging services informed about bills and actions taking place at the Arizona State Legislature and to highlight federal legislation or activities affecting older Americans. The information is intended to help you shape your own opinion about an issue and give you the necessary resources and contacts so that you can ensure your perspective and voice are heard. The *Legislative Update* is non-partisan in nature. Thank you for your interest!

Between legislative sessions we try to offer a focus on federal legislation and activities and local, state or national resources and information.

STATE FISCAL NEWS

From the Joint Legislative Budget Committee/JLBC

JLBC - Monthly Fiscal Highlights September (9/21/15) provided [HERE](#) reports “Year-to-date, base General Fund revenues are 3.9% above the prior year, and are \$32.2 million above forecast.”

Tracking Arizona’s Recovery September 2015 [HERE](#)

FEDERAL OVERVIEW

From the Congressional Record Online

Read remarks by Pope Francis from the joint meeting of Congress provided [HERE](#).

UPDATES

S.192

Older Americans Act Reauthorization Act of 2015

7/20/2015 referred to the House Committee on Education and Workforce.

H.R.876

NOTICE Act

Public Law No: 114-42 (08/06/2015)

(This measure has not been amended since it was passed by the House on March 16, 2015. The summary of that version is repeated here.)

Notice of Observation Treatment and Implication for Care Eligibility Act or the NOTICE Act

(Sec. 2) This bill amends title XVIII (Medicare) of the Social Security Act to require a hospital or critical access hospital with an agreement with the Secretary of Health and Human Services to give each individual who receives observation services as an outpatient for more than 24 hours an adequate oral and written notification within 36 hours after beginning to receive them which:

- explains the individual's status as an outpatient and not as an inpatient and the reasons why;
- explains the implications of that status on services furnished (including those furnished as an inpatient), in particular the implications for cost-sharing requirements and subsequent coverage eligibility for services furnished by a skilled nursing facility;
- includes appropriate additional information;
- is written and formatted using plain language and made available in appropriate languages; and
- is signed by the individual or a person acting on the individual's behalf (representative) to acknowledge receipt of the notification, or if the individual or representative refuses to sign, the written notification is signed by the hospital staff who presented it.

H.R.1190

Protecting Seniors' Access to Medicare Act of 2015

Repeals sections of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act related to the establishment of an Independent Payment Advisory Board to develop proposals to reduce the per capita rate of growth in spending under title XVIII (Medicare) of the Social Security Act.

6/24/15 Received in the Senate and Read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance.

S.704

Community Based Independence for Seniors Act

Introduced on 3/11/2015

To establish a Community-Based Institutional Special Needs Plan demonstration program to target home and community-based care to eligible Medicare beneficiaries.

On 7/30/2015 placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders.

S.1362

A bill to amend title XI of the Social Security Act to clarify waiver authority regarding programs of all-inclusive care for the elderly (PACE programs).

Introduced on 5/18/2015 by Senator Thomas R. Carper (DE)

9/8/2015 referred to House Energy and Commerce.

H.R.2570

Strengthening Medicare Advantage through Innovation and Transparency for Seniors of 2015

Introduced on 5/22/15 by Representative Diane Black (TN-6)

Bill amends title XVIII of the Social Security Act with respect to criteria for qualifying as a meaningful user of electronic health records. For any payment year after 2015 any patient encounter of an eligible professional occurring at an eligible ambulatory surgical center shall not be treated as one in determining whether an eligible professional qualifies as a meaningful HER user. HHS shall establish a three-year demonstration program to test the use of value-based insurance design methodologies under the Medicare Advantage plans offered by MA organizations under Medicare part C.

6/18/2015 received in the Senate and read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance.

H.R.2582

Seniors' Health Care Plan Protection Act of 2015

Introduced on 5/29/15 by Representative Vern Buchanan (FL-16)

Text Referred in Senate 6/18/15 [HERE](#)

On 6/18/15 received in the Senate and read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance.

H.R.2668

National Care Corps Act

Introduced by Representative Michelle Lujan Grisham (NM-1)

Establishes in the Department of Health and Human Services the National Care Corps through which Corps volunteers provide certain services to individuals in need who are age 65 or older or have a disability and have difficulty with self-care or living independently.

6/4/2015 referred to the House Committee on Education and the Workforce.

H.R.2846

Planning Actively for Cancer Treatment (PACT) Act of 2015

To amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for coverage of cancer care planning and coordination under the Medicare program.

Introduced on 6/23/15 by Representative Lois Capps (CA-24)

On 6/23/15 referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, Committee on Ways and Means.

Other legislation:

H.R.3099

RAISE Family Caregivers Act

Introduced on 7/16/2015 by Representative Gregg Harper (MS-31)

This bill directs the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to develop, maintain, and periodically update a National Family Caregiving Strategy. HHS shall convene a Family Caregiving Advisory Council to advise it on recognizing and supporting family caregivers. Federal departments and agencies must share with HHS any data they maintain that HHS needs to prepare the initial and updated Strategies.

On 7/16/2015 referred to the House Committee on Education and the Workforce.

Related bills: [S.1719](#)

H.R.3038

Highway and Transportation Funding Act of 2015, Part II

Introduced on 7/13/2015 by Representative Paul Ryan

Text [HERE](#)

7/15/2015 Passed/agreed to in House: on passage Passed by recorded vote 312-119

H.R.3092

To provide for the issuance of an Alzheimer's Disease Research Semipostal Stamp

Introduced on 7/16/2015 by Representative Maxine Waters (CA-43)

7/17/2015 referred to the Subcommittee on Health.

H.R.3090

Alzheimer's Caregiver Support Act

Introduced on 7/16/2015 by Representative Waters

7/17/2015 referred to the Subcommittee on Health

H.R.3091

Missing Alzheimer's Disease Patient Alert Program Reauthorization

Introduced by Representative Waters on 7/16/2015

Amends the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994 to revise provisions concerning the Missing Alzheimer's Disease Patient Alert Program to direct the Attorney General: (1) through the Bureau of Justice Assistance and in consultation with the Department of Health and Human Services, to award competitive grants to nonprofit organizations to assist in paying for the costs of planning, designing, establishing, and operating locally based, proactive programs to protect and locate missing patients with Alzheimer's disease and related dementias; and (2) in awarding grants, to give preference to national nonprofit organizations that have experience working with patients with Alzheimer's disease and related dementias and their families.

Authorizes appropriations for such grants for FY2016-FY2020.

7/16/2015 referred to the House Committee on the Judiciary.

H.R.3119

Palliative Care and Hospice Education and Training Act

Introduced on 7/24/2015 by Representative Eliot L. Engel (NY-16)

Text [HERE](#)

7/24/2015 referred to the Subcommittee on Health.

H.R.3243

To amend title XI of Social Security Act to clarify waiver authority regarding programs of all-inclusive care for the elderly (PACE programs).

Introduced on 7/28/2015 by Representative Christopher H. Smith (NJ-4)

This bill amends title XI of the Social Security Act to authorize the Department of Health and Human Services to waive applicable general and Medicaid requirements of the Program of All-Inclusive Care for Elderly (PACE) in order to conduct demonstration projects through the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovations (CMMI) that involve PACE. Prohibits HHS, however, as part of a CMMI demonstration, from waiving: (1) the requirement to offer items and services under Medicare and Medicaid without limitation to PACE program enrollees, and (2) certain requirements regarding enrollment in and disenrollment from PACE programs.

On 9/18/2015 Subcommittee Hearings Held.

Related bill: [S.1362](#)

H.R.3308

Seniors Have Eyes, Ears, and Teeth Act

Introduced on 7/29/2015 by Representative Alan Grayson (FL-9)

Text [HERE](#)

7/31/2015 referred to the Subcommittee on Health

H.R.3467

Together We Care Act of 2015

Introduced on 9/9/2015 by Representative Nydia M. Velazquez (NY-7)

To establish a pilot program to train public housing residents as home health aides and in-home-based health services to enable such residents to provide covered home-based health services to residents of public housing and residents of federally-assisted rental housing, who are elderly and disabled, and for other purposes.

On 9/9/2015 referred to the House Committee on Financial Services.

H.R.3588

To require the establishment of a Consumer Price Index for Elderly Consumers to compute cost-of-living increases for Social Security benefits under title II of the Social Security Act and to provide, in the case of elderly beneficiaries under such title, for an annual cost-of-living increase which is not less than 3 percent.

Introduced on 9/22/2015 by Representative Eliot L. Engel (NY-16)

9/22/2015 referred to the Committee on Ways and Means and Education and Workforce.

If you want to check on the status of any federal legislation, go to <http://beta.congress.gov/> and enter the bill number or title.

Check for **active federal legislation** at this [link](#).

Share your opinions with members of Congress!

If you are interested in sharing your thoughts or concerns, find out how to contact your congressional representatives or Senators by visiting: <http://www.house.gov/> for the **House** or <http://www.senate.gov/> for the **Senate**.

Links to the membership lists are provided below.

[House](#) members

[Senate](#) members

You can contact the White House at this [link](#).

ALSO: A compilation of contact information is provided at: <http://www.usa.gov/Contact/Elected.shtml>.

NEWS& RESOURCES

From **Kaiser Health News**

Seniors Tell Medical Students What They Need From Doctors found [HERE](#).

Aging related articles: <http://khn.org/topics/aging/>

AARP Blog - 8/17/2015

28 States + 34 Bills Passed + More Support for 22 Million Family Caregivers is linked [HERE](#). “The CARE Act: The Caregiver Advise, Record, Enable (CARE) Act supports family caregivers when their loved ones go into the hospital and as they transition home.”

From **National Association of States United for Aging and Disabilities/NASUAD**

Friday Updates, September 18, 2015

Listening Sessions on Draft Adult Protective Services Guidelines

The Administration for Community Living (ACL) recently released the Draft Voluntary Consensus Guidelines for State Adult Protective Services (APS) systems. ACL convened a group of national experts from the fields of Adult Protective Services and adult maltreatment to create the guidelines. ACL wants to hear from the public and is holding 6 listening sessions over the next few weeks. The proposed rule has been published in the Federal Register with a 60-day comment period. All comments must be submitted by **October 30, 2015, at 5 p.m. ET**.

[Click here](#) to view the proposed rule.

[Click here](#) for details on the listening sessions.

From the **National Council on Aging**

NCOA Falls Prevention webpage: <https://www.ncoa.org/healthy-aging/falls-prevention/>

NCOA YouTube channel:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dkZO5gMeN_A&feature=youtu.be

See 2015 Action Plan [HERE](#)

ALSO: *Flu + You*: <https://www.ncoa.org/healthy-aging/flu-you/>

From the **National Alzheimer's Project Act**

Updated information can be found at:

<http://aspe.hhs.gov/daltcp/napa/>

(Be sure to scroll up and down the page for more information.)

White House Conference on Aging Phoenix Regional Forum and Listening Session Reports found [HERE](#).

New Aging.gov website launched by the **U.S. Department of Health & Human Services**: <http://www.hhs.gov/aging>

From the **Center on Aging & Work at Boston College**

Fact of the Week (7/27/2015) – Life expectancy for 65-year-olds is 20 more years.

(7/20/2015) – **30% increase in US Adults aged 60+ from 2003-2013.**

In case you missed it...

****National Alliance for Caregiving and AARP**

[*Caregiving in the U.S. 2015 Report*](#)

****A Profile of Older Americans 2014** found [HERE](#)

****From Kaiser Health News**

Medicare and Medicaid at 50 and Beyond

<http://kff.org/medicaremedicaid50/>

****AzLinks website**

Division of Aging & Adult Services has relaunched the website:
www.AZLinks.gov.

****ITNAmerica Storybook Tour:** <http://storybooktour.org/>

From **Arizona Attorney General Mark Brnovich**

Issues [Scam Alert: Beware of Fake Lottery Scam](#)

From the **Consumer Financial Protection Bureau** - financial protection for older Americans [HERE](#)

If you're interested in seeing bills tracked by the Advisory Council last legislative session, open the FULL LIST link (below). BE SURE to click on the bill number for more information on that specific bill.

FULL LIST [Link](#)

SHORT List Wrap Up report [HERE](#)

Please be advised that the presence of a bill on a tracking list does not represent support or opposition by the Governor's Advisory Council on Aging. It does mean that the topic is something that may be of interest to or have an impact on older Arizonans.

Share your thoughts at any time! If you have a particular perspective to share with the Governor or your Legislators, you can voice your opinions at any time by contacting the:

- **Governor's Office of Constituent Services** at 602-542-4331 in Phoenix, 520-628-6580 in Tucson and in-state toll free at 1-800-253-0883 (outside Maricopa County only) or
- The **legislator(s) from your area**. You can locate your legislator by going to the **Arizona State Legislature website** [website](#) and looking for: *How do I find My Legislators*. Not sure about your congressional or legislative district? **Maps** can be found on the Arizona State Legislature website linked [here](#).

Arizona State Legislature Website Resources

Want to learn more about the legislative process ahead of the next session? See [Arizona Bill](#) or *Bill to Law* provided [here](#).

Learn about the budget process [here](#).

Review the Arizona Constitution [here](#).

Learn more at Frequently Asked Questions linked [here](#).

INFORMATION & RESOURCES

Senior Action Days coordinated by the **Governor's Advisory Council on Aging** are being held in communities around the state from September 18 through October 6. Input received from the events helps frame the priorities for the Council and is shared with state agencies for planning purposes. You can share your input by completing the stakeholder survey linked [HERE](#).

Governor Ducey will light the capitol dome purple on October 1st in observance of domestic violence awareness month; press release [HERE](#).

2015 Elders Issues Conference, October 15, 2015

High Country Conference Center, Flagstaff AZ

Registration [HERE](#)

Banner Alzheimer's Institute Inaugural National Conference on Alzheimer's disease/Dementia in Native American Communities: Impact, Issues and Next Steps

October 15-16, 2015, Scottsdale Plaza Resort, Scottsdale AZ

Information [HERE](#)

"NOW YOU SEE ME" Addiction; The Elephant in the Room

October 22, 2015 National Red Ribbon Week Kickoff Event, 8:30 – 11:30 a.m.,
Arizona State Capitol, Senate Lawn, 1700 W. Washington, Phoenix AZ

Attendance is free; registration is required.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/TheElephantInTheRoom>

27th Annual Fall Symposium – The Future of Geriatrics, October 30-31, 2015

Desert Willow Conference Center, Phoenix AZ

Follow this link:

<http://www.arizonageriatrics.org/2015-fall-symposium> to review the schedule,
registration fees, continuing education credit, etc., where you can register to
sponsor, exhibit and attend this year's Symposium.

Note: Early Bird Registration ends September 30th.

Caregiver Consortium; 20th Annual Caregiver Conference, Friday, November
20, 2015, 8:00 a.m. to 4:15 p.m., Hilton East, 7600 E. Broadway, Tucson AZ

More information at: <http://www.caregiverconsortium.org/conference.html>

Just in case you're interested

Past issues of the *Legislative Updates* are linked on the Council website at:
<http://www.azgovernor.gov/gaca/LegUpdates.asp>.

You can help circulate resource information. If you would like to submit an
educational or **public service event** for consideration, be sure to send an email
with the description and a link or pdf document to: gaca@az.gov. Please note: we
try to include resources and events of interest to older Arizonans and aging service
advocates and refrain from including fundraising or marketing materials.

We hope you enjoy the fall season!

~Governor's Advisory Council on Aging