

The Senior Alliance

COLLOQUY

The Senior Alliance's Monthly Advocacy Update

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Volume 6.5

*Welcome to The Senior Alliance's advocacy newsletter, COLLOQUY!
This monthly e-mail is a look at the issues, legislation, and events impacting aging.*

Medicaid HCBS & SNAP at Risk!

On May 22, the U.S. House of Representatives passed H.R. 1, a reconciliation package, by a narrow margin of 214-215-1. The legislation will now proceed to the Senate, where changes are anticipated.

This bill includes significant federal budget cuts, particularly to Medicaid and the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)—the most substantial reductions in these programs' history. These proposed changes have raised serious concerns about their impact on older adults and low-income individuals.

Key Issues:

- Elimination of critical funding for programs such as Meals on Wheels.
- Extensive cuts to Medicaid and SNAP:
 - Approximately 1.4 million low-income older adults with Medicare could lose essential cost-sharing assistance.
 - At least 4.6 million individuals per month are projected to lose SNAP benefits entirely, while others may see a decrease in annual benefits of approximately \$300.
 - Expanded work requirements for Medicaid and SNAP recipients up to age 64, likely resulting in the loss of benefits for vulnerable populations.
 - New restrictions on updates to the Thrifty Food Plan, which is used to calculate SNAP benefit amounts--limiting the program's ability to respond to rising food costs.
 - Cost-sharing mandates that shift a portion of SNAP expenditures to states, potentially straining state and local budgets and threatening benefit stability.

Additionally, the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) estimates that the bill would increase the federal deficit by nearly \$4 trillion between 2026 and 2034. If enacted, this increase would trigger automatic sequestration measures under the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act (S-PAYGO) of 2010, requiring the Office of Management and Budget to cancel approximately \$230 billion in spending annually, beginning in fiscal year 2027. However, only \$120 billion in discretionary spending is projected to be available for cancellation in 2026, leading to potentially severe funding reductions--especially affecting programs like the Social Services Block Grant (SSBG). While some members of Congress have expressed a desire to waive sequestration, such an outcome remains uncertain.

The proposed legislation threatens to severely reduce access to essential services for older adults and adults with disabilities. These cuts would likely exacerbate food insecurity and isolation among seniors, while also increasing the demand on already overextended programs such as Meals on Wheels.

Take Action!

Contact your U.S. senators using the buttons below to oppose provisions in the reconciliation bill that would negatively impact Medicaid and SNAP for older adults and adults with disabilities.

Advocacy is critical to ensuring that the needs of America's aging population are prioritized in the federal budget.

Advocate for SNAP

You're Invited: June Advisory Council Meeting

Our June Advisory Council meeting is open to the public, including elected officials and senior center directors from Western and Southern Wayne County.

The meeting will feature a presentation on the services offered by The Senior Alliance. We encourage community members, local leaders, and senior service professionals to attend and learn more about the programs and resources available to support older adults in our region.

[Find more information here.](#)

Inside The Senior Alliance Podcast

In this episode, Emma Case, Planning and Advocacy Manager at the Senior Alliance talks to Jennifer Frush, Executive Director for New Hope Center for Grief Support.

They discuss the various problems and the situations that can cause those problems when dealing with grief. Everyone has a different way of grieving, and grief affects everyone differently. whether you're a senior, or younger or even a child.

New Hope Center for Grief Support is a free advocacy and counseling organization that offers help for people who are grieving in many different ways. From support groups to individualized help to events and activities, New Hope can provide care for those who are grieving and feel like no one understands what they are going through.

[Listen to the episode.](#)

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