



Capitol News!

by the
**National Association of State Head
Injury Administrators**

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Dear NASHIA Member,

Welcome to *Capitol News!* Last week, the Senate passed the Medicaid legislation extending the Money Follows the Person demonstration program through Sept. 30, 2019, spousal impoverishment protections with regard to other home and community-based services (HCBS), and other provisions. On Friday, NASHIA submitted [testimony](#) to the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, and Related Agencies calling for increases for fiscal year 2020 for TBI Act programs administered by the Administration for Community Living (ACL) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC); and TBI research conducted by the National Institute on Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research (NIDILRR). The Congressional Brain Injury Task Force also submitted a [letter](#) to appropriators with 39 co-signers in support of increased funding for the ACL TBI and NIDILRR programs. Read further about these and other deliberations. For more information about public policy issues, go to the Key Issues [web page](#).

This Week in Congress

This week, the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services (HHS), Education and Related Agencies will hear testimony from Francis S. Collins, MD, PhD, Director of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and other NIH Center directors with regard to the fiscal year 2020 funding request. Last week, the Subcommittee heard testimony from HHS Secretary Alex Azar pertaining to the fiscal year 2020 funding request and justification for the HHS budget.



Legislation Passed

Senate Passes Medicaid Bill

Last week, the Senate passed H.R. 1839, the Medicaid Services Investment and Accountability Act of 2019, sponsored by Rep. Raul Ruiz (D-CA). The legislation includes an additional \$20 million for Money Follows the Person (MFP) demonstration program; extends spousal impoverishment protections through September 2019, includes a new version of ACE Kids, and extends the Excellence in Mental Health and Addiction Treatment Expansion Act, which expands the Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic (CCBHC) model through June 30, 2019. The Medicaid ACE Kids program provides the coordination of care across multiple providers and services for children with complex medical needs. The bill is now on its way to the President for his signature.

Legislation Introduced

Lawmakers Introduce Lifespan Respite Care Bills

Last Tuesday, April 2, Senators Susan Collins (R-ME) and Tammy Baldwin (D-WI) and Reps. Jim Langevin (D-RI) and Cathy McMorris Rodgers (R-WA) introduced the Lifespan Respite Care Reauthorization Act of 2019 in the Senate and in the House. The bills (H.R.2035/S. 995) authorize \$200 million over five years, extending the program through FY 2024, and authorizes grants to States to implement statewide coordinated systems of respite services, provide planned and emergency respite services, recruit and train respite workers and volunteers, and provide information to family caregivers to help them access respite care.

To date, 37 States and the District of Columbia have received Lifespan Respite grants from the Administration for Community Living (ACL) to help improve access, quality and affordability of respite for family caregivers of children and adults. Extending the program for another five years will help assure that States are able to sustain their work and allow new States to receive a grant.

Senator Introduces Legislation to Preserve Rehabilitation Innovation Centers

In February, Senator Bill Cassidy (R-LA) introduced S.594 to preserve access to rehabilitation innovation centers under the Medicare program. Beginning not later than one year after the date of the enactment, the bill requires the Health and Human Services Secretary to make publicly available on its Internet website, in addition to other information required, a list of all rehabilitation innovation centers, and shall update such list on such website not less frequently than biennially. The bill defines a nonprofit rehabilitation facility as an entity under the IRF Rate Setting File for the Inpatient Rehabilitation Facility Prospective Payment System and holds at least one federal rehabilitation research and training designation for research projects on traumatic brain injury, spinal cord injury, or stroke rehabilitation research from the National Institute on Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research (NIDILRR). Government-owned facility is defined with the same criteria.

Not later than March 15, 2021, and as determined necessary by the Medicare Payment Advisory Commission as part of subsequent annual reports, the Commission shall submit to Congress a report analyzing the most recent three years of cost report data available for all rehabilitation innovation centers and assess the adequacy of payments to such innovation centers for inpatient rehabilitation services as defined in the bill. Any report submitted shall include recommendations for legislation and administrative action as the Commission determines appropriate.

Lawmaker Introduces Senior and Disability Home Modification Bill

Rep. Joe Morelle (D-NY) has introduced H. R. 1583, the Senior and Disability Home Modification Assistance Initiative Act, to amend the Older Americans Act of 1965 to establish an initiative carried out by the Assistant Secretary for Aging to coordinate federal efforts and programs for home modifications enabling older individuals and individuals with disabilities to live independently and safely in a home environment. This is to be done through the National Eldercare Locator Service, and in cooperation with centers for independent living described in part C of Title VII of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, to identify and publish an educational brochure on home modifications and repairs for use by older individuals attempting to live independently and safely in their homes and the caregivers of such individuals.

Hearings and Briefings

ABC and Neuroscience Caucus are Hosting Evening Reception on BRAIN Initiative

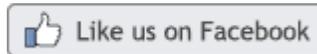
The American Brain Coalition (ABC) in partnership with the Allen Institute, the Kavli Foundation, the Simons Foundation, and the Society for Neuroscience in cooperation with the Congressional Neuroscience Caucus is hosting an evening reception celebrating the Brain Research through Advancing Innovative Neurotechnologies (BRAIN) Initiative and the researchers who are helping to advance our understanding of the body's most complex organ. The reception will be held Wed., April 10, from 5:00pm-7:00pm in the Russell Senate Office Building, Kennedy Caucus Room. RSVP to Kelly Baker at crdfellow2@dc-crd.com. Light refreshments will be served.

This *Capitol News* was prepared by:
Susan L. Vaughn, Director of Public Policy, publicpolicy@nashia.org

Becky Corby, NASHIA Governmental Relations, rcorby@ridgepolicygroup.com
Judy Dettmer, Chair of the NASHIA Public Policy Committee, judy.dettmer@state.co.us
Rebecca Wolfkiel, NASHIA Executive Director, execdirector@nashia.org



*The National Association of State Head Injury Administrators assists State government
in promoting partnerships and building systems to meet the needs
of individuals with brain injuries and their families.*



National Association of State Head Injury Administrators
PO Box 1878
Alabaster, AL 35007