



# **Federal Policy Updates**

**for the Ohio Association of Area  
Agencies on Aging**

**3.5.2025**

# 2025: A Pivotal Year

- Anniversaries of Major Pieces of Legislation
- New Administration
- New Congress
- Reauthorization to the Finish Line!
- *OAA Regulation Implementation?*
- *National Plan on Aging?*
- *White House Conference on Aging?*





# **New Trump Administration**

**“Our mission hasn’t changed. Our messaging needs to.”**

**-Sandy Markwood, USAging CEO**

# USAgging Transition Memo

- Transition Priorities and Messaging
  - Leadership Opps in Aging
  - OAA
  - Medicare and Social Care Integration
  - Caregiving
  - Medicaid HCBS
  - Workforce Needs



# Federal Funding Pause/Freeze

- Two court cases filed
- Temporary halt by judge later turned into an injunction
- Judge's order in effect throughout the court case
- One part of larger issue: **the President's executive orders** (EOs) to change messaging, direction and government support on several fronts
- Much remains unclear including impact on our network
- The priority for USAging is protecting the work you do!

# Presidential Power

- Mandatory programs have set streams of funding set by Congress
- Congress also appropriates discretionary funds and the vast majority are clearly directed and *not* at the discretion of the Administration
- The Administration has some pots of funding that they have discretion over
- President Trump is asserting he will stop funding or change programs according to his executive orders (EOs)—can he? The courts to decide.

# What's an Impoundment?

- When the Administration withholds funding provided (through authorization or appropriation) by Congress
- President Nixon's efforts were stopped by the courts
- Congress passed the Impoundment Control Act of 1974 to set up a process by which the President can ask Congress if he or she can rescind some of that funding
- Congress has 45 days to rescind that funding and approve the request...or not! President must comply with their decision.

Source: Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, [www.cbpp.org](http://www.cbpp.org).



# 1/31 Notice of Court Order

**1. Federal agencies cannot pause, freeze, impede, block, cancel, or terminate any awards or obligations on the basis of the OMB Memo, or on the basis of the President's recently issued Executive Orders.**

2. This prohibition applies to all awards or obligations—not just those involving the Plaintiff States in the above-referenced case—and also applies to future assistance (not just current or existing awards or obligations).

3. Agencies may exercise their own authority to pause awards or obligations, provided agencies do so purely based on their own discretion—not as a result of the OMB Memo or the President's Executive Orders—and provided the pause complies with all notice and procedural requirements in the award, agreement, or other instrument relating to such a pause.

# 2/25 Court Issues Preliminary Injunction

- “Defendants cannot pretend that the nationwide chaos and paralysis from two weeks ago is some distant memory with no bearing on this case. The relief Plaintiffs now seek is a more durable version of the relief they sought then, when their members were on the brink of extinction.”
- “Entire funding portals were taken offline with no rhyme or reason, generating significant confusion and fear. Many organizations had to resort to desperate measures just to stay operational. The pause placed critical programs for children, the elderly, and everyone in between in serious jeopardy. Because the public’s interest in not having trillions of dollars arbitrarily frozen cannot be overstated, Plaintiffs have more than met their burden here.”

# What's Next?

- Lawsuits on funding freeze and EOs have to play out, weeks→years?
- Will Republicans in Congress push back more forcefully or just continue to beg the President or DOGE for relief on specific programs?
- What does this mean for the 3/14 appropriations deadline?
- **What do the EOs mean for OAA service provision?**

# DEI EO

- Section 1. Purpose and Policy. The Biden Administration forced illegal and immoral discrimination programs, going by the name “diversity, equity, and inclusion” (DEI), into virtually all aspects of the Federal Government, in areas ranging from airline safety to the military.
- Section 2....(b) Each agency...shall take the following actions within sixty days of this order:
  - (i) terminate, to the maximum extent allowed by law, all DEI, DEIA, and “environmental justice” offices and positions...all “equity action plans,” “equity” actions, initiatives, or programs, “equity-related” grants or contracts; and all DEI or DEIA performance requirements for employees, contractors, or grantees.
  - (ii) provide the Director of the OMB with a list of all:
    - (A) agency or department DEI, DEIA, or “environmental justice” positions, committees, programs, services, activities, budgets, and expenditures in existence on November 4, 2024...
    - (C) Federal grantees who received Federal funding to provide or advance DEI, DEIA, or “environmental justice” programs, services, or activities since January 20, 2021.

# “Gender Ideology” EO

- “Sec. 2 (f) “Gender ideology” replaces the biological category of sex with an ever-shifting concept of self-assessed gender identity, permitting the false claim that males can identify as and thus become women and vice versa, and requiring all institutions of society to regard this false claim as true. Gender ideology includes the idea that there is a vast spectrum of genders that are disconnected from one’s sex....”
- “Sec. 3 (e) Agencies shall remove all statements, policies, regulations, forms, communications, or other internal and external messages that promote or otherwise inculcate gender ideology, and shall cease issuing such statements, policies, regulations, forms, communications or other messages. Agency forms that require an individual’s sex shall list male or female, and shall not request gender identity. Agencies shall take all necessary steps, as permitted by law, to end the Federal funding of gender ideology.”
- “Sec. 3 (g) **Federal funds shall not be used to promote gender ideology.** Each agency shall assess grant conditions and grantee preferences and ensure grant funds do not promote gender ideology.”

# Citizenship/Border EOs

- At least 8 EOs related to citizenship and border security: including...“Protecting the American People from Invasion”
- Sec. 19. Funding Review. The Attorney General and the Secretary of Homeland Security shall:
  - (a) Immediately review and, if appropriate, audit all contracts, grants, or other agreements providing Federal funding to non-governmental organizations supporting or providing services, either directly or indirectly, to removable or illegal aliens, to ensure that such agreements conform to applicable law and are free of waste, fraud, and abuse, and that they do not promote or facilitate violations of our immigration laws;
  - (b) Pause distribution of all further funds pursuant to such agreements pending the results of the review in subsection (a) of this section;
  - (c) Terminate all such agreements determined to be in violation of law or to be sources of waste, fraud, or abuse and prohibit any such future agreements;

# Trump OMB Questions Asked

- Does this program provide Federal funding to non-governmental organizations supporting or providing services, either directly or indirectly, to removable or illegal aliens?
- Does this program provide funding that is implicated by the directive to end discriminatory programs, including illegal DEI and “diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility” (DEIA) mandates, policies, programs, preferences, and activities, under whatever name they appear, or other directives in the same EO, including those related to “environmental justice” programs or “equity-related” grants?
- Does this program promote gender ideology?

# HHS Communications Pause

- HHS communications pause still mostly in effect; assume that will change over time now that Secretary Kennedy is in place and staffs up
- Pause has affected events, webinars, newsletters



# Impact on Federal Programs

- Documents that “implicated by” EOs taken down, including wide variety of health data
- Funding opportunities also have been pulled
- The page that provides resources on ACL’s OAA regulations has also been pulled:  
*Documents and text on this webpage are being reviewed and updated as necessary to comply with President Trump's executive orders.*

# Impact on Federal Programs

## **Congress has control over the OAA statute and the OAA formula funds but...**

- That hasn't stopped the Administration or DOGE in other areas from cutting staff and programs
- The Administration has control over the regulations: will the Trump Administration strike the regulations in part or in full?
- May depend on who is nominated for Assistant Secretary for Aging/Administrator of ACL
- First political appointee only arrived at ACL Monday



**Questions?**



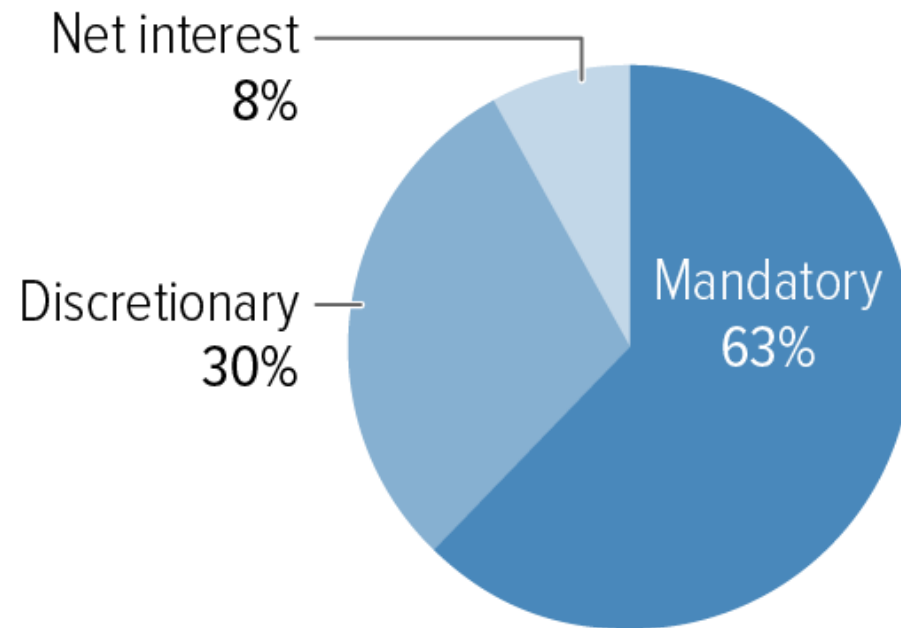
# **Congress' 2024**

# **Unfinished Business**

# Most of the Federal Budget = Social Security and Major Health Programs (Mandatory Spending)

---

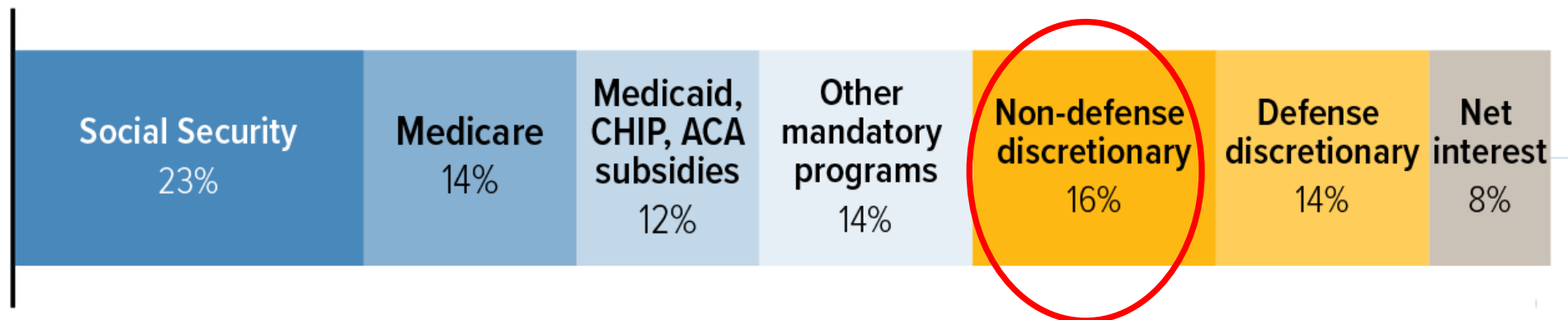
## Types of Federal Spending, Fiscal Year 2023



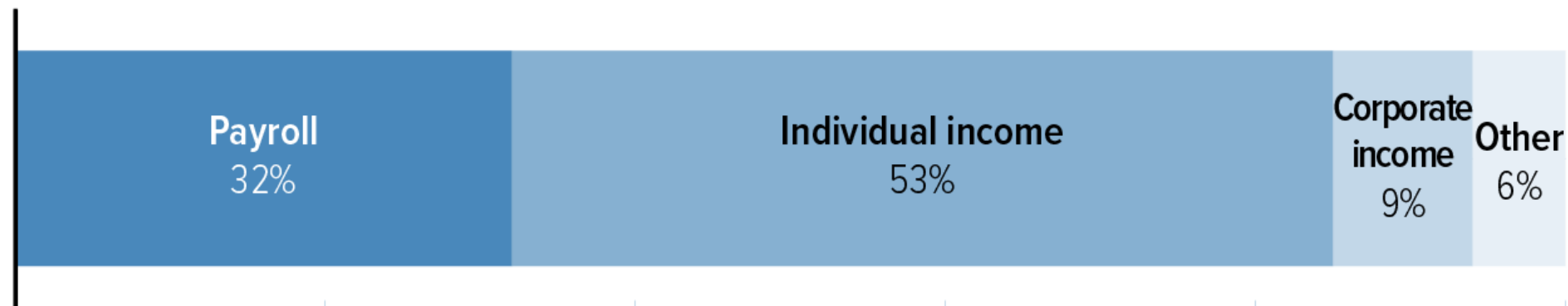
Note: Does not add to 100 percent due to rounding.

Source: Congressional Budget Office

## Components of Federal Spending



## Components of Federal Tax Revenue



Note: "CHIP" = Children's Health Insurance Plan. "ACA" = Affordable Care Act. "Other" includes excise, customs duties, and more. Data are for fiscal year 2023 and do not add to 100 percent due to rounding.

Source: Congressional Budget Office

# FY 2025 Appropriations

- Continuing resolution (CR) expires March 14
- House bill increases OAA III B, Title VI, NSIP but cuts Title III C and eliminates Title V and APS funding
- Senate bill is level funding
- Most likely outcome is a rest-of-the-year CR, although possible it's another short-term CR
- **Please reach out to your Senators and Reps on OAA funding!** See our 3/3 Advocacy Alert at [www.usaging.org/advocacyalerts!](http://www.usaging.org/advocacyalerts!)

# MIPPA Funding

- Medicare Improvements for Patients and Providers Act (MIPPA) low-income outreach and assistance program
- \$50 million annually in funding is made up of \$15 mil SHIPs, \$15 AAAs, \$5 ADRCs and \$15 Million to NCOA for national center (and funding local efforts)
- Current funding and authorization expires March 31, 2025
- We want Congress to reauthorize this for two years!
- Health extenders like this one could move on next CR!



# OAA Reauthorization

- Expired at the end of FY 2024, Sept. 30, 2024
- Senate HELP Committee passed a bipartisan bill on 7/31 (S. 4776)
- House and Senate quietly negotiated all fall
- Revised S. 4776 was passed Dec. 10
- Included in bipartisan end-of-year package
- Dropped from final bill

# OAA Reauthorization

- Desired Scenario:
  - House passes the same bill under suspension of the rules, then it could move quickly and without fuss
  - Senate would then need to pass the bill all over again (under its speedy process) before sending to the President for signature

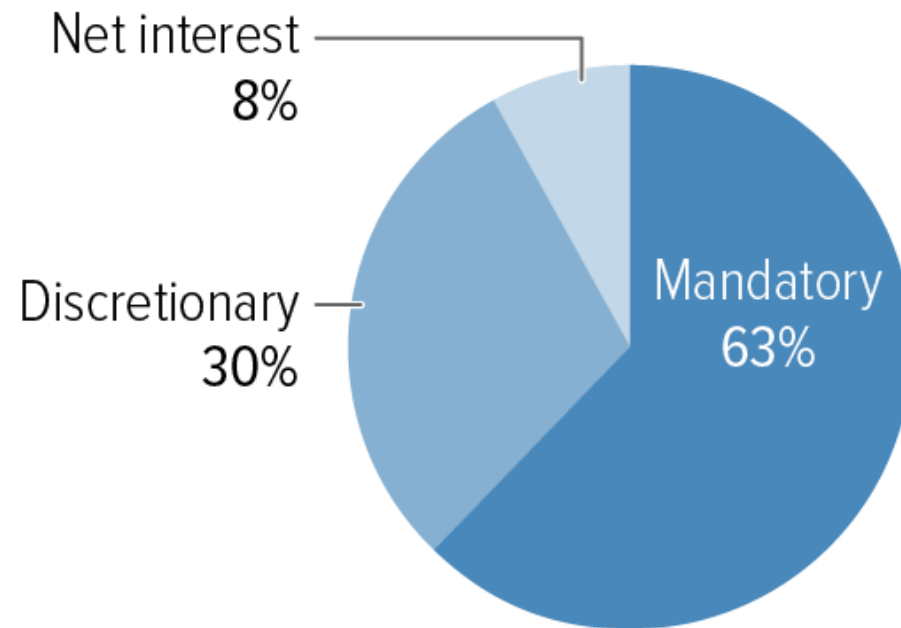


# **119<sup>th</sup> Congress**

# Most of the Federal Budget = Social Security and Major Health Programs (Mandatory Spending)

---

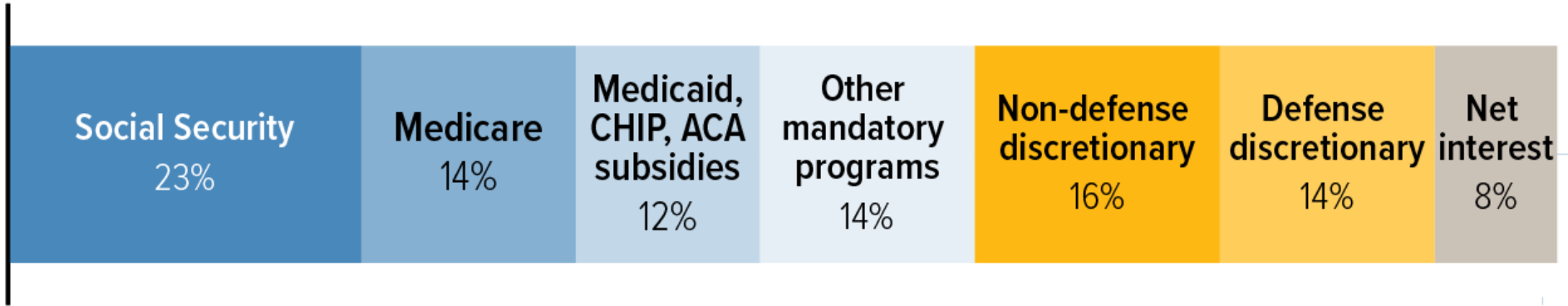
## Types of Federal Spending, Fiscal Year 2023



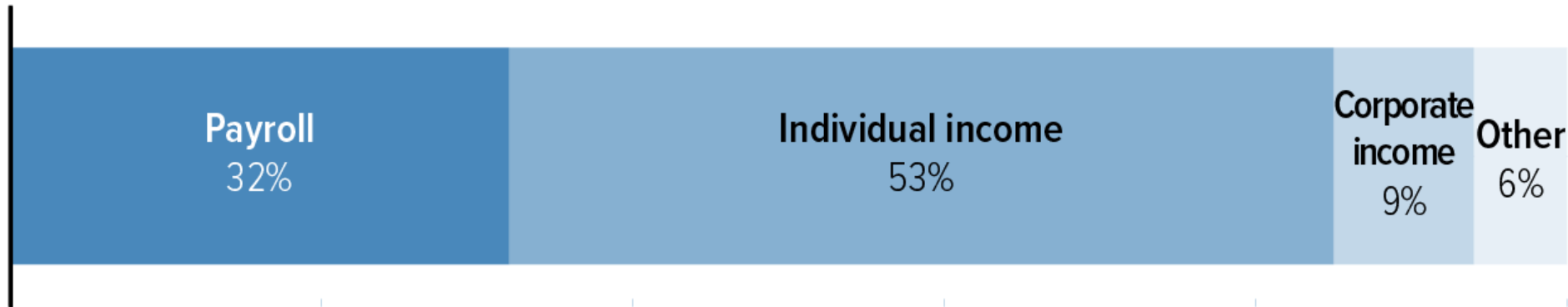
Note: Does not add to 100 percent due to rounding.

Source: Congressional Budget Office

## Components of Federal Spending



## Components of Federal Tax Revenue



Note: "CHIP" = Children's Health Insurance Plan. "ACA" = Affordable Care Act. "Other" includes excise, customs duties, and more. Data are for fiscal year 2023 and do not add to 100 percent due to rounding.

Source: Congressional Budget Office

# Budget Resolution

- Sets broad spending targets
- Doesn't have the force of law
- Often not even completed
- 119<sup>th</sup> Congress will need a unified one to make the policy and spending/tax changes they want
- Because it's the budget resolution where the Budget Committees give authorizing committees "reconciliation instructions"

# What is Reconciliation?



- A budget maneuver created in 1974
- Allows for expedited consideration of certain tax, spending and debt limit legislation
- In the Senate, reconciliation bills aren't subject to filibuster (so you only need 51 votes to pass it) and the scope of amendments is limited
- Now this process is used for enacting controversial budget and tax measures that don't have 60 votes in the Senate

# Current Status

- Senate passed its budget resolution on 2/21, 52 to 48
- House passed another approach last week, 217 to 215
- House wants Senate to take up their bill by mid-March, but Senate Majority Leader John Thune (R-SD) saying late March is earliest they can get to it
- Reconciliation can't happen until both chambers pass the *same* budget resolution
- Then the committees have to draft reconciliation legislation, which is then brought back as a package to the floor



# House Budget Resolution

- Reduces potential revenues by \$4.5 trillion over 10 years by extending the 2017 Trump tax cuts permanently and adding \$900 billion more in tax cuts
- Cuts up to \$2 trillion dollars in existing programs
- From CBPP.org: “the cost of extending tax cuts for households with incomes in the top 1 percent – \$1.1 trillion through 2034 – equals roughly the same amount as the proposed potential cuts for health coverage under Medicaid and food assistance under the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)”

# House Budget Resolution

- The House resolution directs the House Energy and Commerce Committee, which has jurisdiction over Medicaid, to cut \$880 billion in federal funding.
- If Social Security and Medicare are off the table, a large part of this amount would have to come from Medicaid.
- The proposed cuts put older adults and people with disabilities at risk of losing coverage and critical home and community-based services (HCBS) under Medicaid.

# Medicaid Threats in Reconciliation

- Medicaid is the most at-risk major program
- 72 million people
- Medicaid cuts can take many forms:
  - ~~Per capita caps (Johnson saying no?)~~
  - Work requirements
  - ~~Reduce the federal share (FMAP) (Johnson saying no?)~~
  - Reduce or eliminate provider taxes
  - Allow states to cut eligibility and benefits
  - Kill the 90% expansion FMAP
- Waste, fraud and abuse?

# Politico, “How 7 States Could Thwart GOP Plans to Overhaul Medicaid,” 2.27.25

“Republicans face similar skepticism across red and purple swaths of the country where voters have used ballot initiatives to expand Medicaid since Congress last targeted the safety net health insurance program in 2017 – not only in South Dakota, but also in Idaho, Nebraska, Maine, Oklahoma, Missouri and Utah. President Donald Trump won all of those states except Maine. And even there, he won an electoral vote by defeating Kamala Harris in the state’s 2nd Congressional District, where [nearly a third of people](#) are enrolled in Medicaid.”

# Other Threats in Reconciliation

- Other entitlement programs on the block:
  - Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)
  - Social Services Block Grant
  - Other sources of federal funding for community work (Prevention and Public Health Fund which has funding for falls prevention)
- Programs targeted by the President's EOs?
- TAX CUTS (and impact on non-defense discretionary funding)

# Our To-Do List

- Ensure a final appropriations bill passes for FY 2025, then advocate for FY 2026
- Educate Congress as needed on how White House policies or actions potentially hurt those you serve
- Fight cuts to Medicaid HCBS, SNAP other programs at risk in reconciliation
- OAA reauthorization done soon and quietly

**EDUCATE AND ADVOCATE!**



The logo for US Aging, featuring the letters 'US' in a bold, blue, sans-serif font, followed by 'Aging' in a blue, script font where the 'A' is stylized with a swoosh that extends over the 'g'.

## **Aging Policy Briefing & Capitol Hill Day**

*Save the date!*

**March 31–April 1, 2025**

**WASHINGTON, DC**



**USAging**  
Answers on Aging

[usagingconference.org](https://usagingconference.org)



**CHICAGO**

**50<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL**  
Conference and Tradeshow

**SAVE THE**  
**July 20–23, 2025**  
**DATE**





# USAging

Leaders in Aging Well at Home

**Amy Gotwals**  
**Chief, Public Policy & External Affairs**  
agotwals@usaging.org

1100 New Jersey Ave, SE, Suite 350  
Washington, DC 20003  
202.872.0888

[www.facebook.com/theUSAging](https://www.facebook.com/theUSAging)

[www.x.com/theUSAging](https://www.x.com/theUSAging)

[www.x.com/amygotwals](https://www.x.com/amygotwals)



**Questions?**