

JUSTICE IN AGING

FIGHTING SENIOR POVERTY THROUGH LAW

Older Adults and ACA Repeal



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- All on mute. Use Questions function for substantive questions and for technical concerns.
- Problems with getting on to the webinar? Send an e-mail to trainings@justiceinaging.org.
- Slides and a recording are available at Justice in Aging - Advocate Resources - Trainings: <http://www.justiceinaging.org/resources-for-advocates/webinars>. See also the chat box for this web address.

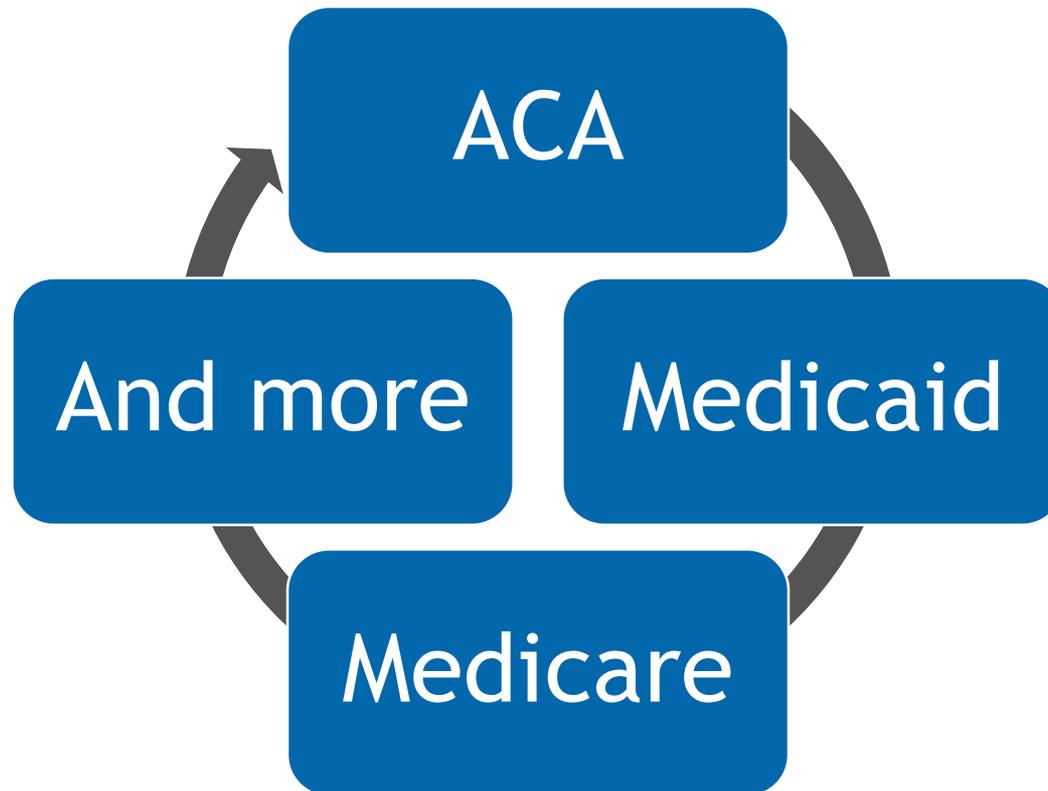
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Justice in Aging is a national organization that uses the power of law to fight senior poverty by securing access to affordable health care, economic security, and the courts for older adults with limited resources.

Since 1972 we've focused our efforts primarily on populations that have traditionally lacked legal protection such as women, people of color, LGBT individuals, and people with limited English proficiency.

High Stakes for Seniors in 2017





Seniors and the ACA

Coverage for Adults 55-64

- 4.5 million adults age 55-64 gained coverage
 - **Marketplaces or Medicaid expansion**
- This expansion in coverage improves health as individuals become Medicare eligible
- If repealed, the number of individuals who would not have enough insurance to meet their needs increases from 8% to 19%

Home and Community Based Services

- Community First Choice
 - Increased funding for HCBS personal care
- Increased protections for spouses
 - Same financial protections for those who receive HCBS as those in nursing homes
- Increased options for states to provide HCBS
 - Increased access to optional Medicaid benefits that help people remain in the home and communities through waivers and state plans

Medicare Improvements

- ACA eliminated the Part D “donut hole”
 - Without it, 1 in 4 will fall into the coverage gap
 - Saved \$1,945 per person in coverage gap in 2016
- Free preventive services
 - Annual exam, diabetic, cardiovascular screenings, mammograms
- Strengthened Medicare Trust Fund
 - Extended the solvency of the Medicare Trust Fund by 11 years

Innovation

- Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation
 - Initiatives estimated to save \$34 billion from 2017-2026
- Financial Alignment programs - dual eligible demonstrations

Benefits to the Entire Healthcare System & Safety Net

- Medicare & Medicaid strengthened
 - Trust fund strengthened
 - Expanded Medicaid benefits, increased funding for HCBS
- Connections to other safety net programs/effort
 - Older Americans Act funded services and more



Legislative Process

Where are we now?

- House and Senate passed budget resolution last week
- First step in process of repealing ACA
- Next, Congress writes budget reconciliation bill

Why Use Budget Reconciliation?

- Requires only a majority to pass
- No filibuster in the Senate
- Process is much faster
 - No mark-ups or committee hearings; limited amendments
 - Limited floor debate

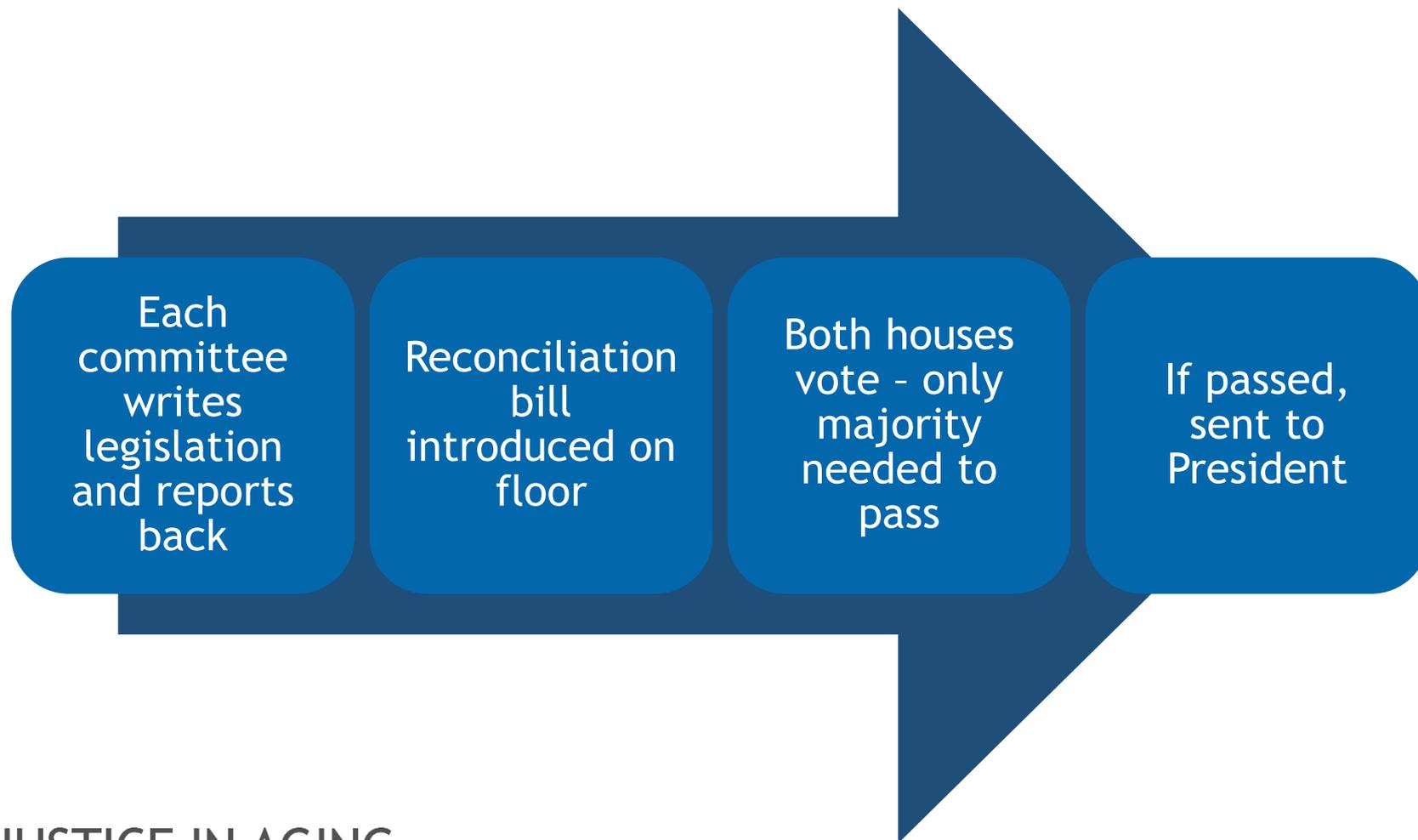
Constraints of Budget Reconciliation

- Must impact spending, revenues, or the debt ceiling.
- Cannot increase the deficit or increase mandatory spending.
- Overall budget cannot increase the deficit 10 or more years in the future.
- Changes to Social Security are not permitted.

Directions to Committees

- Each committee makes changes to the laws under their jurisdiction.
 - Senate Finance; Senate HELP; House Ways & Means; House Energy & Commerce
- Must achieve savings of \$1 billion over 10 years
 - Floor, not a ceiling.
- House will go first
 - January 27 reporting deadline
- Includes provision to place money into “reserve fund” to help pay for ACA replacement

The Process from Here



Proposed Timeline

Budget Directive is passed by both houses of Congress

- Completed January 13, 2017
- House Committee mark-ups expected week of January 23

Committee Legislation is introduced on the Chamber floor

- January 27 deadline for House committees
- Senate Majority leader aiming for passage by President's Day

Budget Bill Sent to President

- The Trump Administration seeks to have bill on President-elect's desk by February 21st

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