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To: [Kester, Tonykester@aging.sc.gov](mailto:Kester, Tonykester@aging.sc.gov)  
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## Celebrating 50 years of Medicare and Medicaid with a New Advocate Resource

In celebration of the 50th anniversary of the day that two of our country's most successful anti-poverty programs became law—Medicare and Medicaid—we released a special toolkit for advocates of [dual eligibles](#) (the 10 million low-income Americans who receive care and services under both programs). Five years after the Affordable Care Act provided a renewed focus on coordinating the two programs through demonstrations, states and the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) are in the early stages of evaluating the demonstrations. To contribute to these efforts, we created [The Dual Eligible Demonstration at Five: Justice in Aging Toolkit on Design and Implementation](#). The toolkit is a compilation of a [brand-new tool](#) comparing different state outreach materials and resources, and materials for advocates that we developed earlier.

## Justice in Aging at WHCOA

Justice in Aging Staff Attorney Fay Gordon attended the [2015 White House Conference on Aging](#) on July 13. This once-a-decade conference touched on the struggle low-income seniors face in accessing quality health care, and the lack of economic security experienced by many. Conference panelists discussed the need to provide caregivers with a functional, navigable, long-term services and supports system, with expanded home and community-based services. An absence of specific policy proposals emphasized the need for advocates and legal services leaders to remain dedicated to working together to address the multiple challenges facing low-income older adults. For more on the 2015 WHCOA, [check out #WHCOA](#) and [archived video highlights](#).

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## Updated and Re-released: *20 Common Nursing Home Problems—and How to Resolve Them*

We had a record number of downloads in just a few days of our updated and re-released guide *20 Common Nursing Home Problems and How to Resolve Them*. If you missed it, [download the free guide here](#). We also presented a [free webinar](#) on the topic on Tuesday, August 4 that detailed the most common problems that crop up in nursing homes—from evictions to excessive medication—and provided practical, clear tips to help family members and advocates navigate solutions. Justice in Aging Directing Attorney Eric Carlson, the guide's author, also lays out a quick sneak-peek summary of the guide on our blog in [Five Steps to Resolving Common Nursing Home Problems](#).

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## Justice in Aging Submits Comments on Medicaid Managed Care Regulations

On May 27, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) released a proposed rule to update the Medicaid managed care regulations for the first time in over ten years. To aid advocates in preparation of comments, we released an issue brief, *Medicaid Managed Care Rules: Key Considerations for Aging Advocates*, which breaks down the key areas of importance for older adults and their advocates. We also [hosted a corresponding webinar](#), which explored eight key areas and what they mean for long-term services and supports and older Medicaid beneficiaries.

[Read the comments here »](#)

## CUFF Act Put to Bed—for Now

Mid-way through June, Social Security and SSI benefits were on the Congressional chopping block as an offset for a transportation bill. We mobilized our network on this issue and you responded by contacting your representatives and delivering the message loud and clear: we should not finance highways by cutting off Social Security and SSI benefits to the low-income seniors and people with disabilities who need them the most. Thankfully, we were able to build enough opposition in the Senate to get the Social Security and SSI cuts removed from the transportation bill. However, cuts to these vital programs, transparently mislabeled as the [CUFF Act](#), are likely to be proffered again as offsets on other bills in this Congress. **Please watch your email for future action alerts from us.** Thanks for

all you do!

## **Kevin Prindiville Featured Guest on *Inside Story* with Ray Suarez**

Justice in Aging Executive Director Kevin Prindiville was a guest on the Al Jazeera America show *Inside Story*, hosted by Ray Suarez (formerly of PBS NewsHour & NPR's Talk of the Nation). The episode was in response to the Social Security Trustees report and also included Mary Beth Franklin, Lacy Crawford, Jr. from Social Security Works, and Peter Morici, from University of Michigan, as guests. The interview was a chance for us to weigh in on the importance of Social Security in the lives of older Americans, and outline some modest proposals to maintain and expand the program. With more and more seniors aging into poverty, it was a welcome chance to shine a spotlight on the burgeoning inequality crisis.

## **Justice in Aging Brings on Jennifer Goldberg to Direct Health Team**

Justice in Aging welcomes Jennifer Goldberg as Directing Attorney of our Health Team, working out of our Washington, DC office. Jennifer comes most recently from Maryland Legal Aid, where she served as Director of Advocacy for Elder Law and Health Care. She brings a strong background in Medicaid, home and community-based services, nursing homes, assisted living, Social Security, and SSI to Justice in Aging, and has been closely connected with Justice in Aging's work through her position at Maryland Legal Aid. As Justice in Aging's Directing Attorney of the Health Team, Jennifer will develop and implement new projects and initiatives that improve access to health care and long-term services and supports for low-income older adults across the country.

[Read more »](#)

## **Senate Reauthorizes the Older Americans Act**

On July 16, the Senate passed the Older Americans Reauthorization Act of 2015, which reauthorizes funding for dozens of programs and services older adults and their families rely on. The Reauthorization Act continues funding for crucial programs like Meals on Wheels, family caregiver support, and elder abuse prevention training. The bill is now awaiting approval by the House.

Read more about how the OAA supports families [on our blog](#).

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**Connect with Us**

Justice In Aging  
1444 Eye Street, N.W., Suite 1100  
Washington, DC 20005

1330 Broadway, Suite 525  
Oakland, CA 94612

3660 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 718  
Los Angeles, CA 90010

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