

From: info=justiceinaging.org@mail.salsalabs.net <info=justiceinaging.org@mail.salsalabs.net>
To: Kester, Tonykester@aging.sc.gov
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Subject: Securing Consumer Protections and Financial Stability for Low-Income Seniors

Stopping Medicaid Recipients from Being Illegally Billed

People who have both Medicaid and Medicare (dual eligibles) should never be charged for services covered under Medicaid or Medicare. Such improper billing is illegal and causes low-income people to skip needed health care, go into debt, or miss meals and medications in order to make ends meet. Nevertheless, providers often do bill these individuals. Last month, we released a comprehensive toolkit for advocates to use to educate themselves, their clients, and providers on the laws regarding illegal billing. You can [access the entire toolkit here](#). We are also tracking stories of improper billing to inform our advocacy. If you've worked with a low-income senior or dual eligible whose

provider has improperly billed them, you can [share their story here](#).

Fighting Cuts to Older Adults' Health Care

With Congressional leaders working to slash federal spending for Medicaid and force states to figure out how to provide needed services with less money, we've been working to educate advocates and consumers about the threat these proposals pose to low-income older adults and their families. We've created [national](#) and [California](#) fact sheets on what ACA repeal would mean for older adults, [national](#) and [California](#) fact sheets and an [issue brief](#) on the dangers of the types of Medicaid funding caps that are included in the GOP ACA replacement bill that dropped yesterday. We've also written [a blog post](#) on ACA repeal and seniors and [one about how Medicaid funding caps](#) would harm seniors. On Friday, March 3, we submitted [a joint letter](#) to Congress in partnership with 100 other national advocacy organizations outlining the dangers of capped funding. Look for a statement from Justice in Aging soon opposing the bill and the negative impact it would have on older adults.

Ensuring that Supplemental Security Income (SSI) is there for Seniors

Millions of seniors and people with disabilities rely on SSI to make ends meet. With leaders in Congress intent on cutting safety net benefits, we've been proactive about educating members of Congress about the importance of SSI for their constituents. We encourage advocates to take every opportunity to educate their local lawmakers, the media, and fellow advocates about SSI as well. Please use and share this new [SSI fact sheet](#) and [this article](#) in the Clearinghouse Review Poverty Law Journal by Justice in Aging attorney, Kate Lang. And if you have stories to share about clients on SSI that we can use in our hill visits and with media, you can share them using [this form](#).

Protecting Nursing Home Residents from Exploitation

On September 28, 2016, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) released revised nursing facility regulations. These regulations govern most aspects of nursing facility operations, and apply nationwide to any nursing facility that accepts Medicare and/or Medicaid, which is nearly all nursing homes. The revised regulations contain important consumer protections that were not included in the previous regulations. With partners at the Consumer Voice for Quality Long Term Care and the Center for Medicare Advocacy, we've released a series of short issue briefs that delve into different aspects of the new regulations. [The series](#) has thus far covered [Assessments](#),

Care Planning and Discharge Planning, Involuntary Transfer and Discharge, Unnecessary Drugs and Antipsychotic Medications, and Nursing Services. Future briefs will be on the topics of visitation rights and rehabilitation. You can also **register for this webinar** on March 15.

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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