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Date: 1/11/2017 4:36:18 PM
Subject: We're here to keep you informed & fight against safety net cuts

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High Stakes for Older Adults in 2017

With the New Year upon us, one thing is clear: the stakes could not be higher for older adults in 2017. As the number of people age 65 and over living in America continues to rise, new leadership in Washington, DC is promising to dramatically reform and reduce the safety net upon which older adults rely. These changes—should they occur—will negatively impact all older adults, but they will cause particular harm to the millions of older adults already living in or near poverty. [Read this post on our blog.](#)

Repealing ACA Would Have Dire Consequences for Seniors' Health Care

Congressional leaders in the 115th Congress are moving forward with efforts to immediately repeal the Affordable Care Act (ACA). Repealing the ACA without a replacement will impact both Medicare and Medicaid and will impact low-income older adults in a number of ways. [Learn more on our blog.](#)

Be Wary of Moves to Cut Social Security

While cuts to health care safety programs are the first order of business in the new Congress, we must also be wary of moves to cut Social Security benefits, which could come at any time. An example is the Johnson bill, introduced in the last Congress. It's a good indication of the types of legislation we'll likely see. [Read more on our blog.](#)

Social Security Launches Representative Payee Training Program

The Social Security Administration's (SSA) representative payee program is critical for older adults and people with disabilities who are unable to manage their own finances. Last year [we outlined some of the problems with Social Security's representative payee program](#) and recommended some possible solutions. One of those solutions was to increase the training for representative payees. In response to our advocacy, the Social Security Administration recently released a [training video series](#) for representative payees and others who work with older adults.

GAO Report Finds Older Americans Pushed into Poverty by Student Loan Debt

Last year, [we worked to raise awareness](#) of the increasing numbers of economically vulnerable seniors whose Social Security benefits are being garnished to pay off old student loan debt. The issue got the attention of members of Congress who urged further investigation by the U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO). In late 2016, the GAO [released a report](#) that showed the scope of the problem and outlined some recommendations that Justice in Aging and other advocates have pushed for. The Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) [released its own report](#) on older consumers and student loan debt, showing a dramatic increase in both the number of individuals age 60 and older with student loan debt and the average amount they owed. [Consumer Reports covered the release of the GAO report](#), quoting Justice in Aging attorney Kate Lang, who said, "The rising cost of higher education means that the debt itself is much larger and it's much more difficult to pay it off over time. What's

really troubling is that there will be more and more people in this situation.”

We're Hiring

We're expanding our efforts to advance our fight against senior poverty. [Read more and share the job postings here](#). Both positions provide excellent opportunities to lawyers or advocates looking to have a positive impact during a challenging time.

To get more of our insight into current happenings in Washington and beyond, subscribe to our blog by adding your email address to the form on [this page](#).

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