

## PACE Organization Update

April 23, 2021



**What's on Congress's Agenda:** Based on conversations with key Senate and House leadership staff, LeadingAge has developed an article that provides an outlook for upcoming Congressional action on "What's on Congress's Agenda." We highlight: the CMS/HHS nominations; President Joe Biden's Joint Session; The American Jobs Plan - infrastructure process; the President's FY22 Budget Request; and the timing of immigration reform legislation. You can access the article here:

<https://leadingage.org/legislation/whats-congresss-agenda>

**Update on PACE Legislation:** In addition, we continue to work in support of two PACE bills working their way through Congress. On April 19, a letter signed by a coalition including LeadingAge sent a letter of support to the telehealth bill sponsors, citing specifically the importance of the bill for PACE organizations. You can see the letter here: <https://bettermedicarealliance.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/BMA-Support-Letter-on-Audio-Only-Legislation-FIN.pdf>. We also began socializing the [PACE Plus Act](#) to Hill offices following its introduction late last week. If you or your organization would like to get involved in advocacy for either or both of these bills, let us know and we'd be happy to help facilitate that. More on member advocacy below...

**LeadingAge Virtual Lobby Day Wrap Up:** Thank you to everyone who helped make our Virtual Lobby Day a huge success. We had 442 members participate in 298 meetings with U.S. House and Senate offices. The feedback has been very positive from those attending meetings. Advocates received an email thanking them for participating and reminding them to fill out the report form and to follow up with their congressional offices. Our goal is for this to be the start of a relationship with the congressional offices.

**Johnson and Johnson Vaccine Update:** Late on April 23, the CDC vaccine advisory panel recommended the Johnson & Johnson vaccine for those 18+ again, following the pause on April 13. The pause is not yet lifted, but the CDC's endorsement is a step toward resuming administering this vaccine. The CDC panel considered but did not vote on whether to include a warning for women ages 18-50 related to potential clotting risks. The FDA is meeting soon to consider its own recommendations as well. We are reviewing the CDC panel's decision and other administration activity (like FDA) and will provide a more detailed update next week as we learn more- stay tuned. Links from the CDC meeting are found on the advisory panel landing page: <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/acip/index.html>.

**Alternative infrastructure plan:** A group of Senate Republicans led by Sen. Shelley Moore Capito (RW.Va.) on Thursday unveiled a \$568 billion infrastructure proposal, a much smaller counteroffer to President Biden's \$2.3 trillion American Jobs Plan. The proposal seeks to define infrastructure more narrowly than the American Jobs Plan, focusing on roads and bridges, public transit systems, rail, wastewater infrastructure, airports and broadband infrastructure. Notably for PACE members, the proposal does not include anything about the \$400B HCBS proposal in the American Jobs Plan. [LeadingAge continues to advocate that the aging infrastructure is part of the American infrastructure.](#) There will be many more proposals and trade-offs; this conversation on infrastructure is just getting underway.

**New CDC Resources on Vaccine:** See the following links providing information, communication materials and data related to COVID-19 and the vaccine.

- Possibility of COVID-19 post-vaccination: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/effectiveness/why-measure-effectiveness/breakthrough-cases.html>
- Percent of delivered doses administered by state: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/distributing/first-doses.html>
- Updated guidance for community-based organizations: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/organizations/community-based.html>

**ARP Tax Credits Available to Small Employers to Provide Paid Leave to Employees Receiving COVID-19 Vaccines:** President Biden is calling on [every employer](#) in America to offer full pay to their employees for any time off needed to get vaccinated and for any time it takes to recover from the after-effects of vaccination. He announced a paid leave tax credit that will offset the cost for employers with fewer than 500 employees to provide full pay for any time their employees need to get a COVID-19 vaccination or recover from that vaccination. The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) released and posted a [fact sheet](#) to educate employers on how to claim the paid sick leave credit on their quarterly tax filings. The U.S. Department of the Treasury also outlines the tax credits available to small employers in their press release [here](#). Moreover, President Biden called on employers to use their unique resources to provide information about how people can get vaccinated and why people should get vaccinated.

**2021 LeadingAge Annual Awards Call for Nominations:** The LeadingAge Annual Awards honor individuals that embody excellence in nonprofit aging services leadership, are models of quality and innovation, and are making outstanding contributions to our field that merit national recognition. Learn more about the award criteria and nomination process here: <https://my.leadingage.org/awards/>

**LeadingAge Update Calls Next Week.** LeadingAge update calls at 3:30 PM ET next week are Monday, Wednesday and Thursday. We are finalizing Monday's speaker. On Wednesday, Vicki Loucks of Redstone Presbyterian Seniorcare will join us to talk about her experiences with Temporary Nurse Aides. Is this a model we can work with going forward....and how? On Thursday, Dr. Kara Jacobs-Slifka will once again join the call, this time to talk about the new nursing home guidance we are expecting soon. If you haven't registered for Update Calls and wish to, you can do so here: <https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/2218416852977539339>

#### Update archive

- April 16: <https://leadingage.org/sites/default/files/PACEupdate41621.pdf>
- April 9: <https://leadingage.org/sites/default/files/PACEupdate4921.pdf>
- April 2: <https://leadingage.org/sites/default/files/PACEupdate4221.pdf>
- March 26: <https://leadingage.org/sites/default/files/PACEupdate32621.pdf>
- March 19: <https://leadingage.org/sites/default/files/PACEupdate31921.pdf>
- March 12: <https://leadingage.org/sites/default/files/PACE%20update%203.12.21.pdf>