



## Workforce Policy Weekly

June 17, 2022

**NO Coronavirus Update Call on Monday, June 20.** LeadingAge will be closed for the Juneteenth holiday. **Coronavirus Update Calls.** If you haven't registered for LeadingAge Update Calls, [you can do so here](#). You can also find previous call recordings [here](#). Note that to access recordings of the calls you need a LeadingAge password. Any staff member of any LeadingAge member organization can set up a password to access previous calls and other "members only" content.

**CNA Training Lockout Bill Introduced in U.S. Senate.** U.S. Senators Mark R. Warner (D-VA) and Tim Scott (R-SC) introduced the *Ensuring Seniors' Access to Quality Care Act* (S. 4381), which would address the "CNA lockout" that's contributing to the long-term care staffing crisis across the country. As many providers know, under current federal law, nursing homes that are surveyed and assessed a civil monetary penalty above a certain level automatically lose their authority to train CNAs for a full two years. This bill would allow nursing homes to reinstate their training programs provided any relevant deficiencies cited in the survey are corrected; the deficiencies did not result in immediate risk to resident safety or arise as a result of resident harm from abuse or neglect; and the nursing home has not received a repeat deficiency related to resident harm in the past two years. It would also provide nursing home operators with access to the National Practitioner Data Bank (NPDB) – a national criminal background check system – to give employers a greater ability to screen potential candidates. See LeadingAge's press release [here](#), Senator Warner's release [here](#) and the bill text [here](#).

**Congress Tackles Funding for Workforce Programs.** House appropriators are scheduled to vote on the Labor-HHS fiscal year 2023 appropriations bill this month. Representative Jan Schakowsky (D-IL), Senior Chief Deputy Whip and Chair of the House Democratic Caucus on Aging and Families, has spearhead a House sign-on letter championing increased funding for programs that support health care professionals who care for older adults. The letter urges increased support for initiatives that would allocate: \$82 million in funding for Title VII Geriatrics Programs, to double the funding for the Geriatrics Workforce Enhancement Program (GWEP) and Geriatrics Academic Career Awards (GACA), which are the only federal programs that aim to develop a health care workforce to meet the needs of older adults; and \$404.8 million in funding for programs administered by the Administration for Community Living (ACL), that would support a \$3 million request for a Demonstration on Direct Care Worker, authorized in Title IV of the Older Americans Act. Additionally, the sign-on letter highlights several ACL programs that impact family caregiver support services, and research efforts of the National Institutes of Health, committed to Alzheimer's disease. Advocates should watch for a LeadingAge action alert the week of June 20 on funding for workforce programs in the Labor-HHS bill. You can also view an article [here](#), which provides access to the letter, co-signed by 29 Members of Congress.

**LeadingAge Meeting with DOL to Address Prevailing Wage Determinations for Foreign Nurses and National Apprenticeships.** On June 13, 2022, LeadingAge staff and representatives from AHCA/NCAL

met with leaders from the Department of Labor’s Employment and Training (ETA) and the Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Affairs (OCIA). We asked DOL to change the time it takes to handle “Schedule A” petitions, which would alleviate pressures in the process of allowing registered nurses to permanently enter the country. LeadingAge members, Paul Spence, United Methodist Healthcare Recruitment and Tina Sandri, Forrest Hills of DC, also participated in the meeting. [Here](#) is an article with more details about this meeting.

**LeadingAge Partners with John A. Hartford Foundation to Further NASEM Report Recommendations.**

The John A. Hartford Foundation has awarded a \$1 million grant to LeadingAge to implement the recommendations included in the the recently released National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine’s (NASEM) report, “[The National Imperative to Improve Nursing Home Quality: Honoring Our Commitment to Residents, Families, and Staff.](#)” The 2-year grant allows LeadingAge to establish a Stakeholder Coalition, tasked with determining the most actionable recommendations in the report, and to devise a strategic plan. The NASEM Report concluded with eight recommendations, which includes “ensuring a well-prepared, empowered, and appropriately compensated workforce.” The LeadingAge Press Release on the grant announcement is available [here](#). LeadingAge is also recruiting an Associate Director, Nursing Home Reform Coalition, to support the grant, and you can also access the job announcement [here](#).

**Senate Judiciary Subcommittee on Immigration Hearing: Strengthening our Workforce and Economy through Higher Education and Immigration.**

On June 14, 2022, the Senate Judiciary Subcommittee on Immigration, Citizenship, and Border Safety, held a hearing titled, “Strengthening our Workforce and Economy Through Higher Education and Immigration.” Members of the subcommittee used the hearing as an opportunity to highlight the contributions of international and undocumented students to the United States and its public universities, which ultimately strengthens U.S. competitiveness in the labor market. Witness’ testimony highlighted how unfortunately, the U.S. is experiencing a steady decline in both domestic and international student enrollment at U.S. universities – with nearly 1.3 million fewer students enrolled in college than just three years ago. The pandemic accounts for some of this decline in international student enrollment, although the negative trend began several years earlier. Hearing witnesses highlighted various recommendations to improve opportunities for strategies to increase international students from specific geographic markets, which included: a streamlined and expedited visa process; increasing pathways for work permits and residency; and, increasing the employment based green cards to meet the needs of students. Congress will continue to review legislation that will allow the U.S. to benefit from foreign-born science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) talent. The administration has also shared a commitment to policies that attract STEM talent and strengthen the economy. You can view the hearing [here](#).

**House Education and Labor Committee Hearing: Examining the Policies and Priorities of the U.S. Department of Labor.**

On June 14, 2022, Martin J. Walsh, Secretary of Labor, testified before the House Education and Labor Committee, on the Biden Administration’s vision and priorities for Department of Labor (DOL) in Fiscal Year (FY) 2023. Secretary Walsh’s testimony acknowledges that many of the workers and families on the frontlines of the COVID-19 pandemic are among the lowest paid, and most marginalized. As Labor Secretary, he is focused on advancing equity, and President Biden’s commitment to advancing racial equity, and support for underserved communities. Secretary Walsh’s written

testimony reiterated, “We must embed equity into how we recruit, hire, and retain all workers, including leave and scheduling policies that support families.” The President’s FY 2023 Budget Request builds on investments and renews DOL’s pledge to help all workers and job seekers in America – particularly those from disadvantaged communities access training and find pathways to high-quality jobs that can support a middle-class life. The Budget request \$303 million to expand Registered Apprenticeship (RA) opportunities, and increasing the access to diversify the industry sectors, including people of color and woman is a priority for the RA program. The Budget request also includes a \$100 million investment for a new “Sectoral Employment through Career Training for Occupational Readiness (SECTOR)” program, that would will support evidence-based training programs focused on growing industries, enabling underserved and underrepresented workers to access good jobs and creating the skilled workforce. You can access Secretary Walsh’s testimony [here](#).

**Get the funding information you need! Navigating the Employee Retention Credit. On June 22 at 2pm ET, the LeadingAge Learning Hub will offer a webinar focused on the nuances of the Employee Retention Credit for aging services providers, including processes and eligibility requirements.** The IRS Employee Retention Credit (ERC) is a COVID-era alternate source funding opportunity that thus far has received scant attention but could have big implications for aging services providers. LeadingAge members who are eligible may be in a position to receive substantial funds. Navigating the IRS claims and funds retention processes are not without risk of audit. Learn everything you need to maximize funds and protect your organization in the case of an audit. More information and registration details are [here](#).

**Apply Now: 2023 Leadership Academy.** The last several years have changed aging services organizations in ways that are still being revealed. What is clear? The need for diverse, empowered leaders within our field has never been greater. LeadingAge’s Leadership Academy helps develop the leadership capacities and core competencies of aging services professionals by tapping into their natural talents and authentic leadership styles. Apply yourself or recommend the opportunity to a colleague. **Application Deadline: August 1.** [Learn more here](#).