



Workforce Weekly Recap Friday, January 30, 2026

Senate reportedly reaches a deal to split appropriations package into two votes. On January 29, it is reported that the Senate reached a deal (blessed by the White House) to split the Appropriations package votes into two separate votes — one would be a continuing resolution that would fund the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) for 2 weeks while negotiations around guardrails for Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). The other vote would be on the other remaining 5 appropriations bills as one package — including the funding for HHS, HUD, and the health extenders among others. This vote in the Senate could occur as soon as Friday January 30th. The House is not due back until Monday February 2 so there would be a short shutdown, but if the House seems set for passage on Monday, OMB might not trigger shutdown procedures. LeadingAge will continue to monitor progress on FY2026 appropriations.

Reviewing Agency Contingency Plans as Lapse in Appropriations Looms. As the January 30 funding deadline for Fiscal Year 2026 appropriations nears, LeadingAge is monitoring federal agency activities and potential impact on providers by care settings and community types, as well as funding for certain programs impacting aging services, to help members navigate a government shutdown, should one come to pass. [Read here](#) for an overview of agency lapse plans, what providers can expect, by specific care settings and community types, and funding of some programs.

Two Events Highlight Urgency as Haiti’s TPS End Date Nears. LeadingAge and its members participated in two recent events focused on the impending February 3 termination of Temporary Protected Status (TPS) for Haiti, highlighting the consequences for aging services providers and the older adults they serve. Across both events, advocates aimed to underscore how the Trump administration’s policy decision to de-document Haitian TPS holders will exacerbate workforce shortages—jeopardizing access to care, disrupting operations, and threatening the wellbeing of older adults nationwide. On January 20, Rep. Ayanna Pressley (D-MA) and Sen. Ed Markey (D-MA) convened a [congressional field hearing](#) in Mattapan, MA, to examine the humanitarian, economic, and community consequences of ending TPS for Haiti. Testimony from TPS holders, advocates, service providers, and community leaders illustrated the breadth of the issue. Elissa Sherman, president and CEO of LeadingAge Massachusetts, detailed the essential role foreign-born workers play in aging services, while Colin O’Leary of LeadingAge member community Laurel Ridge Rehabilitation & Skilled Care Center described the staffing challenges his organization, part of the [Ascentria Care Alliance](#), is already experiencing and the risks current policies pose to his community’s ability to deliver care. On January 22, Rep. Pressley’s office hosted a Capitol Hill press conference to “sound the alarm” on the upcoming TPS termination and its implications for seniors and the care economy. LeadingAge president and CEO Katie Smith joined Rep. Maxwell Frost (D-FL) and Rep. Yvette Clarke (D-NY) of the House Haiti Caucus, as well as other healthcare and immigration advocates, joined to highlight the indispensable contributions Haitian TPS holders play in aging services and called for swift congressional action on the issue. Rob Liebreich, CEO of LeadingAge member Goodwin Living, along with a resident of Goodwin House Alexandria, reinforced the real-world impact of this policy decision on workforce stability in long-term care. The press conference also served as a launchpad for [Care for Seniors, Care for America](#)—a new awareness-raising campaign from LeadingAge and partner organizations, including the American Business Immigration Coalition (ABIC), spotlighting how immigration policy directly affects the country’s ability to meet the care needs of a rapidly growing older adult population.

CNA Lock-out Bill Reintroduced. Rep. Ron Estes (R-KS) and Rep. Josh Harder (D-CA) reintroduced the [Ensuring Seniors' Access to Quality Care Act](#) (HR 7096) on January 21. This bill would allow nursing homes to continue operating in-house certified nurse aide (CNA) training programs even if they incur fines above a certain amount, provided fines were not issued for reasons related to direct resident care. LeadingAge has supported this bill in the past and will continue working with policymakers to ensure access to quality training programs that boost the long-term care workforce.

Research Institute for Home Care Announces Dissertation Grant Funding for 2026. The Research Institute for Home Care [announced](#) for the third year, a new round of dissertation grant funding. The Institute is seeking to sponsor one or more dissertation research projects to help advance the full spectrum of home care and may seek to improve care delivery at home through quality and innovation as part of our annual Home Care Research Grant. The dissertation grant is a vital part of the Institute's commitment to building an evidence-base for the future of care at home by directly supporting the home care researchers of the future. Funding will be awarded up to \$10,000 maximum per project. Up to three projects will be funded in this cycle. The Institute's dissertation grant exists to further research of home care as it pertains to both the current challenges facing healthcare delivery and critical areas of need in the future. Topics considered will be consistent with the Institute's mission of expanding and improving access to and delivery of health care in the home by informing policy and identifying best practices and patient care models. Projects must have focus in at least one of the following areas: Workforce, Rural Health, Patient Access to Home Care, Virtual Care and Technology Utilization, Disease-specific Innovation. Submissions will be accepted through Friday, May 1st.

Nominate a Growing Leader for the 2026 LeadingAge Leadership Award. As we open nominations for the third annual [LeadingAge Leadership Award](#), our goal is to elevate and celebrate those in our sector who are in the middle of their own leadership journeys—people whose unique attributes make a significant difference in their organizations or local communities. Take the time to nominate a deserving leader. Nominations are due February 27, 2026, and the requirements may take some time to compile—examples of exceptional practices, letters of recommendation or support, or details of influence in their organization/community—so learn more today and prepare your nominations. Additional information is [here](#).