

From: [Amy Gotwals](#)
To: [Petersen, Emily](#)
Subject: USAgings Legislative Update: Government Shutdown Averted, Senate Passes Long-Term Continuing Resolution
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FOR MEMBERS ONLY

MARCH 15, 2025

**Government Shutdown Averted, Senate
Passes Long-Term Continuing Resolution**

Snapshot: On Friday, the Senate passed a six-month continuing resolution (CR) that funds the government until the end of September. The CR level funds OAA programs. The bill also included extended funding for MIPPA programs for AAAs to continue outreach efforts to enroll low-income Medicare beneficiaries in cost-saving Medicare programs.

Despite opposition from most Democratic Senators, the Senate yesterday passed a continuing resolution (CR) funding the government for six months until the end of the fiscal year, September 30. The final CR, which passed the House Tuesday along party lines, is not a “clean” CR where every spending item remains frozen at the prior year’s level. The bill increases some programs and cuts others and leaves out the directive language that further spells out congressional intent for a portion of the spending.

Democrats wanted to pass a shorter CR so that Congress could have time to finalize a proper spending bill that they feel would better protect congressional intent from the Trump Administration’s self-professed desire to impound or otherwise alter appropriated funding. Senate Republicans needed eight Democratic votes to advance the CR to a vote.

However, some Senate Democrats weren’t willing to shut down the federal government over their concerns, and on Thursday, Senate Minority Leader Charles Schumer (D-NY) announced he would vote to advance the funding measure, citing concerns about how President Trump and his advisor Elon Musk might use a shutdown to further their efforts to dramatically downsize the federal government.

A group of 10 Democrats, including Leader Schumer, ultimately voted to advance the Republican CR, avoiding a government shutdown while upsetting many within their party, including the House Democrats, all but one of whom voted against the same measure earlier in the week. The procedural vote to move the bill passed 62-38 (one Republican voted no), and then the actual CR passed by a vote of 54-46.

Implications for the Aging Network

Under this final FY 2025 CR, Older Americans Act (OAA) and other aging programs remain level-funded at FY 2024 levels. Funding for State Health Insurance Assistance Programs (SHIPs) was specifically called out in the measure and is, again, level funded. Of course, amidst the rising cost of doing business, level funding amounts to a cut by erosion of buying power.

In good news, language was added to the CR to extend funding for MIPPA programs for AAAs, SHIPs and ADRCs to continue outreach to enroll low-income Medicare beneficiaries in cost-saving Medicare programs until the end of FY 2025, which is September 30. A longer extension of the MIPPA program was, like OAA reauthorization, dropped from a year-end spending package in December.

What's Next?

There's no rest for the weary, advocates! We will need to begin advocacy on FY 2026 funding almost immediately, so take a breath but know that we will soon need you to take action on...

- Preventing huge cuts to Medicaid HCBS and SNAP proposed by Republicans in Congress as part of their FY 2026 budget resolution;
- FY 2026 appropriations for discretionary programs like OAA, elder justice, LIHEAP and more; and
- When the time is right, to push for last year's OAA bill to advance. USAging is working closely with committee leaders to re-introduce that bill.

This Legislative Update is a USAging membership benefit. For more information about these and other federal aging policy issues, please contact USAging's policy team: Amy Gotwals, Olivia Umoren and Seth Ickes at policy@usaging.org, 202.872.0888.