

# 2018 Policy Updates for AUCD Aging SIG

## For the Lame Duck:

The **Money Follows the Person (MFP)** Rebalancing Demonstration Grants help states rebalance their Medicaid long-term care systems. Over 75,151 people with chronic conditions and disabilities have transitioned from institutions back into the community through MFP programs as of December 2016. There are currently 43 states and the District of Columbia participating in the demonstration. MFP expired September 30, 2016, and states are running out of funding. The EMPOWER Care Act has been introduced to reauthorize the Money Follows the Person Demonstration Program (House [H. R. 5306](#); Senate [S. 2227](#))

### Action Step

- Share with your congressional delegation how the Money Follows the Person Program (MFP) helps people with disabilities and older adults move from institutions and nursing homes back to their homes and communities. MFP expired in 2016, and states need Congress to act to keep the program going.

The **Farm Bill** is a comprehensive agricultural and food policy bill that includes the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (**SNAP**, formerly known as food stamps). House and Senate negotiators hope to vote on a final Farm Bill in the first week after the election.

### Action Step

- Ask members of Congress to ensure that the 2018 Farm Bill meets the needs of people with disabilities and all low-income Americans.

## In 116<sup>th</sup> Congress:

The **Disability Integration Act (DIA)** is civil rights legislation to address the fundamental issue that people who need Long Term Services and Supports (LTSS) are often forced into institutions. The act has growing bipartisan, bicameral support.

### Action Step

- Learn about the bill as introduced in the 115<sup>th</sup> Congress; give input on aging specific considerations for the version for the 116<sup>th</sup>
- Work with advocates to ensuring aging issues are represented in the coalition advocating for DIA

**Long-Term Care Services and Supports** legislation are efforts to establish a public benefit, designed for everyone regardless of income or where they live, to provide long-term care services and supports. Previous efforts include the Community Living Assistance Services and Supports Act (CLASS Act)

### Action Step:

- Review Congressman Pallone's discussion draft, [Medicare Long-Term Care Services and Supports Act](#) and [CLASS](#). Educate members of Congress on needs for LTSS.

### Additional Pending "Hot Congressional Topics:"

- Guardianship Reform
- Prescription Medication Cost (particularly for Medicaid recipients)

This document was prepared by the Association of University Centers on Disabilities.

For more information, visit [www.aucd.org](http://www.aucd.org),

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