



# The First 100 Days

Welcome back to our biweekly member update on the first 100 days of the 119th Congress and Trump-Vance administration.

**Note:** This biweekly message supplements Capitol Connector (CapCon), our weekly federal policy and regulatory newsletter update. If you're not already receiving CapCon, we highly recommend that you [sign up here!](#) Additionally, you can take action when it matters most by [signing up for our Advocacy Alerts](#). It's an easy way to receive timely updates on advocacy opportunities and make your voice heard loud and clear.

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## Shutdown Date Looms

- **Government funding runs out at 11:59 p.m. ET on Friday, March 14:** In efforts to avoid a federal government shutdown, lawmakers are considering options to continue funding the government past the deadline. Currently, a Continuing Resolution (CR) is seen as most likely.
  - **A "full-year" CR** would fund the federal government through Sept. 30, 2025, at levels equal to FY24. This approach is favored by many House Republican legislators, [and also President Trump](#). It remains to be seen if House Speaker Mike

Johnson (R-La.) and others can unite enough Republicans to support it. The Senate is more split on the approach, with a number of both Democratic and Republican appropriators concerned about continuing the previous year's funding for so long into 2025, and some advocating for a shorter-term funding patch called a "stopgap." However, the House has the leverage right now. If the House passes a full-year CR, the Senate will have limited options: either pass it or reject it, which could trigger a shutdown.

- **Of note:** President Trump's public support for a full-year CR carries a lot of weight with House Republicans. The text of the CR is expected to be released this weekend, with lawmakers in both chambers considering the legislation throughout next week.
- **Outlook for mental health and substance use organizations:** In hectic times like these, when much is uncertain, level funding through September would provide short-term stability while giving time for continued advocacy efforts regarding FY26 funding levels.
- **Save the date:** The National Council is holding an informational webinar for members on Thursday, March 13, at 2:00 p.m. ET. We will discuss the potential shutdown and its ramifications, in addition to what's in the proposed CR lawmakers are expected to consider next week. A registration link will be shared separately later this week.

## Reconciliation Process

- **Senate expected to consider House budget resolution week as early as March 24:** Senate Majority Leader John Thune (R-S.D.) [said in an interview](#) that he does not intend to put the House budget on the Senate floor until March 24 at the earliest. As a reminder, the budget resolution that passed the House calls for the Energy and Commerce Committee to cut around \$880 billion in spending over 10 years, large portions of which would have to come from changes to the Medicaid program. The Senate and House need to reconcile their

budget resolutions before any official legislation is introduced that impacts Medicaid.

- **Speaker Johnson comments on Medicaid cuts:** In an interview with CNN last week, Speaker Mike Johnson emphasized that certain proposed cuts to Medicaid — per capita caps and reductions to the federal medical assistance percentage (FMAP) — were off the table. If that sentiment makes it into the eventual reconciliation legislation, it would avoid some of the biggest rumored cuts to the program. [See his full comments here.](#)
  - **It's important to keep reaching out to lawmakers:** We appreciate these remarks, and we're staying focused on continued actions. Public comments like this are encouraging to see — it means efforts to raise awareness around the negative impacts of Medicaid cuts are working — but it's critical that people continue to reach out to their lawmakers. Speaker Johnson has also indicated that he wants the heads of committees, Rep. Brett Guthrie (R-Ky.) in this case, to own the process of determining what gets into legislation.
- **Reconciliation refresher:** [Reconciliation](#) is a process through which Congress can pass legislation with a simple Senate majority instead of its usual 60-vote threshold. The type of legislation that can be included in reconciliation bills is limited in scope and subject to evaluation from the Senate Parliamentarian. The scope includes legislation pertaining to spending, revenue and/or the debt limit. Reconciliation is a common legislative strategy used by both parties to expedite legislation in circumstances where one party controls both chambers and the White House. Currently, the Republican-controlled House and Senate are looking to use this process to pass legislation that would greatly reduce government spending to pay for other priorities (such as border security, energy and tax policies.).

**Together, We Are Making an Impact!**

- **National Council member survey:** We want to share a huge thank you to everyone who took time to share information about the impact of Medicaid to their organizations. Uplifting this information is key to educating federal lawmakers as they consider possible proposals around Medicaid.
- **Write and call Congress around Medicaid:** Another huge thank you to everyone who has written to their representatives and senators urging them to oppose Medicaid cuts! Thanks to your advocacy, we've achieved:
  - **11,000+** letters sent in the past two weeks
  - **100%** of senators reached
  - **100%** of key House committees reached
  - **90%** of total House members reached
- **This is HUGE!** Let's keep the momentum going and get to 12,000 by the weekend.
  - If you haven't had a chance to send a message, [you can do so here](#). Don't forget to add a little personal touch in the open text box by sharing your story about who you are and what impact Medicaid has had on you, your community or your ability to improve access to care.
  - Don't forget to call, too! [Look up your officials' contact info](#), and feel free to lean on our [template call script](#).
  - Want to see some impact from your advocacy? [Check out what lawmakers are saying about hearing from constituents](#).
  - Interested in meeting virtually or in-person with your member of Congress' in-district staff? [Contact the National Council](#) to learn more.
- **Additional Medicaid Resources:**
  - In case you missed it, the National Council shared fact sheets related to each of the major proposed Medicaid cuts:

- [Block grants and per capita caps](#)
- [FMAP and provider taxes](#)
- [Work requirements](#)
- You can also use these resources to inform your messaging when communicating the impacts of potential Medicaid cuts:
  - [Medicaid Cuts Hurt State Economies](#)
  - [5 Key Facts about Medicaid Coverage for Adults With Mental Illness](#)
  - [The Role of Medicaid in Addressing the Opioid Epidemic](#)

## Agency and Regulatory Updates:

- **Makary for FDA:** Dr. Marty Makary, nominee to lead the Food and Drug Administration, will [testify in front of key committees](#) this week.
- **CMS rescinds guidance on Medicaid health-related social needs (HRSN):** On March 4, CMS [issued a bulletin](#) rescinding the previous guidance, “Coverage of Services and Supports to Address Health-Related Social Needs in Medicaid and the Children’s Health Insurance Program.” In the announcement, CMS said it “will consider states’ applications to cover these services and supports on a case-by-case basis to determine whether they satisfy federal requirements for approval under the applicable provisions of the Social Security Act and implementing federal regulations, without reference to the November 2023 and December 2024 [Center Informational Bulletins] or the HRSN Framework.”

## FY26 Appropriations Processes Underway

- **FY26 appropriations request forms open:** FY26 appropriations processes are just beginning, with some lawmakers’ offices beginning to post programmatic appropriations request forms for FY26 appropriations bills. You can check your lawmaker’s website to

submit appropriations requests for federal programs in the upcoming fiscal year.

## Key Dates

- **March 13:** National Council member webinar on possible government shutdown (registration to be sent separately)
- **March 14:** Federal government funding expires at 11:59 p.m.
- **March 17-21:** Senate in recess
- **March 31:** Medicare telehealth flexibilities expire unless Congress passes another extension

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If you have any questions or feedback on the contents of The First 100 Days, [contact our policy team](#).

In the meantime, [sign up](#) for the National Council's advocacy platform today and stay up to date on opportunities to make your voice heard.

We'll see you back here for **the next edition** in our series the **week of March 17**.

Sincerely,  
National Council Policy and Advocacy Team

NATIONAL COUNCIL  
for **Mental Wellbeing**



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