



MONDAY ALERT

New York State Alliance *for* Retired Americans

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September 22, 2025

NYSARA Participates in NY Age Strong Conference

Over 50 leaders gathered in Albany this week for the Age Strong NYS Consensus Workshop, a two-day convening of advocates, service providers, policymakers, and community leaders. NYSARA President **Barry Kaufmann** represented NYSARA with representation from LiveOn NY, AARP Lifespan of Greater Rochester, Statewide Senior Action Council, Medicare Rights Center, 1199 SEIU, Center for Elder Law & Justice, India Home Inc., NY Legal Assistance Group, Center for an Urban Future, JASA, Encore Community Services, InterFaith Works of CNY, Center for Elder Law and Justice, Riverstone Senior Life and many other Senior Advocacy and Service Groups.

The conference kicked off by highlighting the Elder Economic Security Index heard a panel on the current landscape in NY, had a small group session on the Master Plan for Aging (MPA) as a vehicle and then a small group on what is beyond the MPA. and concluded day one with a full group discussion on alignment of priorities. On day two started with a panel on building and capturing momentum, had a small group discussion on overcoming barriers and finally came together as a full group to identify advocacy approaches and commitment levels of the participants (organizations).

Participants dug deep into the issues, lifted up gaps and opportunities in the Master Plan for Aging, and built momentum toward a bold, united

advocacy agenda. In the coming weeks, you will hear more about specific ways to get involved and how to make older New Yorkers a priority!

NYS Comptroller DiNapoli: Recently Enacted Federal Tax Provisions Disproportionately Benefit Those New Yorkers With Higher Incomes

September 15, 2025

A new [report](#) by State Comptroller Thomas P. DiNapoli analyzed the federal tax provisions enacted under Public Law No: 119-21 at the beginning of July and how they may impact New Yorkers. While the bill made permanent many tax changes included in the 2017 Tax Cuts and Jobs Act (TCJA), it includes new tax breaks for seniors and the working class that are largely temporary, according to DiNapoli's report. These minimal tax benefits, along with the significant cuts in safety net spending included in the legislation, will put a larger burden on New Yorkers trying to make ends meet.

"Many of the tax benefits in the federal legislation passed in Washington this summer will continue to go to those with higher incomes," DiNapoli said. "This was a lost opportunity to improve the tax code; instead, the new federal law adds complexity and creates inequities. Low-and middle-income New Yorkers will see few long-term benefits while bearing most of the burden of the bill's significant spending cuts to vital programs."

Summary

The TCJA included provisions, such as a higher standard deduction and increased child tax credit, that alleviated the federal tax burden for many New Yorkers. The new federal law permanently extended and enhanced many of these provisions.

The Joint Committee on Taxation (JCT) estimates that under the new law, over one-third of the net tax reductions in calendar year 2027 will be for those with incomes over \$500,000, more than 10 percentage points higher than under the TCJA. The JCT also estimates that the enacted changes will reduce federal revenues by more than \$5.1 trillion over the next ten years, which may adversely impact the distribution of vital federal funds to states and localities.

The newly enacted provisions reportedly aimed at helping working class Americans are temporary and limited in scope. New deductions for seniors, tip income, overtime pay, and interest on new car loans are in effect only for tax years 2025 to 2028, and limited to taxpayers with Social Security numbers.

These deductions target a small portion of the population or treat taxpayers with similar wages or even in the same business unequally. For example, approximately 6% of the jobs in New York are in occupations, such as wait staff, bartenders, personal care workers, delivery drivers and hotel staff, that regularly and customarily receive tips. As a result, parking lot and coat room attendants, who will benefit from the deduction for tipped income, could potentially have their federal tax burden eliminated while childcare workers and home health aides who generally do not receive tips will not.

In 2031, when these temporary provisions expire, JCT estimates those with incomes of less than \$30,000 will see their federal tax liability increase.

SALT Deduction Lifted Temporarily

The new federal law permanently limits the itemized deduction for state and local taxes (SALT) paid to \$10,000. For tax year 2025, the limit is increased to \$40,000 for taxpayers with incomes up to \$500,000; the limit and income threshold are further increased by 1%

annually in tax years 2026 to 2029. In 2030, the limit reverts to \$10,000 for all filers.

In tax year 2023, more than 1.5 million New York residents itemized deductions and included deductions for state and local taxes paid under the State personal income tax; 76% reported tax payments in excess of the \$10,000 federal cap. Of these taxpayers, nearly all with incomes under \$100,000 will be able to fully deduct their SALT payments under the temporary, higher limit, and over 87% of those with incomes between \$100,000 and \$500,000 will as well. However, for over 445,000 of these filers, the higher federal standard deduction will likely provide a larger tax benefit.

Child Tax Credit Changes

Taxpayers with children will also see limited relief from the increase in the child tax credit to \$2,200 per child starting in tax year 2025. The credit will also be indexed to inflation after 2025. There is also a refundable portion of the tax credit, which was reduced under the new law and will no longer be indexed to inflation, reducing the benefit for lower income taxpayers. In tax year 2022, nearly 2.1 million New York taxpayers claimed \$6.1 billion in federal child tax credits, \$1.8 billion of which was refundable.

For taxpayers who pay for childcare, the nonrefundable credit as a share of these expenses was increased for those with incomes less than \$105,000. However, the maximum amount of expenses eligible for the credit remains unchanged at \$3,000 for one child and \$6,000 for two or more, failing to address the rising cost of childcare for most families. The average cost of childcare for one child in New York in 2023 was nearly five times the \$3,000 cap allowed for the credit. In tax year 2023, nearly 310,000 resident New York taxpayers claimed the federal child and dependent care credit, just 3.3% of total filers, the largest number of claimants were those with incomes over \$105,000.

Elder Financial Exploitation

Generally falls into two categories: Theft and Scams

Theft

Theft occurs when someone steals an older adult's assets, funds or income. The perpetrator is usually a known and trusted person, such as a family member, caregiver, friend, financial professional or business associate. Examples of theft include forging checks, changing names on bank accounts, or using credit cards without explicit permission

Scams

Scams involve the transfer of money from an older person to a stranger or imposter for a promised benefit that is never received. The perpetrators of scams are primarily strangers, often located in a different state or country than their victims. Examples of scams include tech support scams, grandparents or personal-need scams, and government imposter scams.

Elder financial exploitation can also come in other forms including:

- Coercing or deceiving an older adult into signing a contract, will or document
- The improper use of conservatorship, guardianship or power of attorney

Steps to Protect Yourself

- Plan to protect your assets and ensure your wishes are followed
- Shred anything that has your personal information on it, including receipts, bank statements, mail and even unused credit card offers before throwing them away.
- Lock up important financial and sensitive information when others are in your home

- Do NOT allow others to have access to your financial information
- Verify those you plan to hire by checking references and credentials
- Regularly review your credit report
- NEVER share personal information with anyone over the phone unless YOU initiated the call and know the communication to be legitimate. This information includes your Social Security number, bank account number or other sensitive information.
- Do NOT rush to make a financial decision. Consider a second opinion and request additional information in writing
- Consult with a professional you trust, such as your financial advisor or attorney before signing something you don't understand.
- Trust your gut: if something doesn't feel right it probably is not.

Republicans, Democrats Release Separate Plans to Keep Government Open

With just 11 days to pass legislation to keep the government open, Congressional Republicans and Democrats are far from reaching an agreement. Republicans had enough votes to [pass a](#) government funding bill in the House of Representatives without Democratic votes this morning but, in the Senate, they need [seven](#) votes from Democrats.

Hill Republicans and Democrats released separate funding bill proposals, called continuing resolutions, on Wednesday.

Republicans claim their continuing resolution is a “clean” bill to fully fund the government. Democrats, however, are emphasizing that any proposed deal needs to address impending health care cuts, including to Medicaid and Affordable Care Act premium subsidies.

“The House Republicans-only spending bill fails to meet the needs of the American people and does nothing to stop the looming healthcare crisis,”

Senate Minority Leader **Chuck Schumer** (NY) and House Minority Leader **Hakeem Jeffries** (NY) [said](#) in a joint statement.

The GOP's continuing resolution would fund the government through November 21, but would not extend Affordable Care Act subsidies that are set to expire in December. If the subsidies expire, monthly insurance premiums could [skyrocket](#) by as much as 75 percent for 24 million Americans [who buy](#) their health insurance plans on marketplace exchanges.

The Democratic proposal would fund the government through October 31 while extending ACA subsidies and curtailing President **Donald Trump's** ability to rescind money already approved by Congress. It would also revoke Medicaid cuts and other health care cuts included in the Republican tax and budget law passed in July.

"A government shutdown is never good, but letting Affordable Care Act subsidies expire in December would also be devastating," said **Robert Roach, Jr.**, President of the Alliance. "Americans shouldn't have to choose between funding the government and losing access to health coverage. It's time for Republicans to work with Democrats to avert this crisis."

Trump Administration Backs Off Its Promise to "Not Touch Social Security," Considers Raising the Retirement Age

During an appearance on *Fox News*, Social Security Administration Commissioner **Frank Bisignano** [said](#) that the Trump administration is considering raising the retirement age beyond 67 years of age.

"I think everything's being considered, will be considered," said Commissioner **Bisignano** when asked about whether the Administration would consider raising the retirement age in its efforts to address Social Security's impending financial shortfall.



This year's Trustees Report [showed that](#) the Social Security Trust Fund will be able to pay full benefits until 2033, but will only be able to pay 77 percent of benefits to all current and future retirees if Congress doesn't take action. Raising the retirement age would result in further benefit cuts and force Americans to work longer for less, taking thousands of dollars from middle class retirees that they earned over a lifetime of hard work.

"This Administration cannot be trusted with Americans' hard-earned retirement security. Its policies have already drained at least a year of solvency from the trust fund, making the situation worse, not better," said **Richard Fiesta**, Executive Director of the Alliance, in a statement. "The real solution is fair and straightforward: require the wealthiest Americans to pay their fair share into Social Security. That will strengthen the program for today's retirees and future generations without cutting a single dollar of our earned benefits."

Medicare Telehealth Services Set to Expire on September 30

Congress [only has until the end of September](#) to renew expanded Medicare telehealth services. Before the COVID pandemic, only certain patients with specific diagnoses and conditions were eligible to receive telehealth medical care. But lawmakers made telehealth available to all beneficiaries during the pandemic and [broadened](#) the types of practitioners who can provide those services.

If expanded telehealth services are not extended, [they will](#) become much less accessible for Medicare beneficiaries, especially those who are homebound or living in rural areas. Beneficiaries would lose at-home and audio-only telehealth options, and non-physician practitioners like occupational therapists will no longer be able to provide telehealth care.

A recent survey [shows that](#) the majority of providers are worried that vulnerable patients will lose telehealth access altogether, with more than 60 percent citing it as a top concern.

"Congress must act now to ensure that seniors don't have to worry about their health care being disrupted or discontinued," said **Joseph Peters, Jr.**, Secretary-Treasurer of the Alliance. "We urge them to make expanded Medicare telehealth access permanent in order to avoid this problem in the future."

KFF Health News: Team Trump's Answer to Ballooning Obamacare Premiums: Less Generous Coverage **By Julie Appleby**

Trump administration officials, looking at the possible impact of large insurance premium increases for millions of next year's Obamacare customers, want more people to consider plans with less generous benefits and high deductibles.

The agency that oversees the ACA announced early this month that it would expand eligibility for “catastrophic” plans sold in Affordable Care Act online marketplaces. The plans require people to spend more than \$10,000 a year on deductibles before the policies pay most medical costs but carry lower monthly premiums than other Obamacare policies.

The move reflects growing concern among Republicans about political backlash if Congress doesn’t extend larger tax credits put in place during the covid-19 public health emergency to help consumers pay their premiums. The extra subsidies are set to expire at the end of the year, resulting in an average 75% increase in the amount people pay for coverage, according to KFF, a health information nonprofit that includes KFF Health News.

A small, bipartisan group of House lawmakers introduced legislation to extend the enhanced covid-era subsidies for one more year, which would keep them in place through midterm congressional elections in fall 2026.