

Public Policy/Legislation Update, 12 August 2025

From the NYS Catholic Conference:

Bill A136, Medical Aid in Dying Bill – Passed in both the Assembly and Senate. Make your voice heard at <https://bit.ly/veto-pas> or go to nyscatholic.org and then “Action Center.” The Catholic Conference is urging Governor Hochul to **veto** this legislation.

The NYS Budget supported **school nutrition** by providing \$136 million, bringing the total allocation for School Nutrition Programs to \$386 million. This ensures that all children in participating schools receive free meals, with at least 30% of the food sourced from New York farmers and growers.

The Budget also provides a **one-time Birth Allowance a/k/a BABY Benefit of \$1,800 for public assistance recipients, and additional support for mothers includes funding for diapers and postpartum boxes. This applies to new parents if they reside in NYS and welcome a child during the 2025-2026 fiscal year.**

Housing efforts in the Budget include doubling the Low-Income Housing Credit, \$50 million for supportive housing in NYC, and a new \$50 million Housing Access Voucher Pilot for those at risk of homelessness.

NY Legislation to watch:

Mom Compensation Act – Proposed legislation aims to provide financial support to stay-at-home moms with an annual compensation of \$75,000, tax-free.

Federal Legislation:

The Reconciliation Bill was signed into law by President Trump on July 4. To clarify some of the **Social Security provisions**:

Individuals aged 65+ can claim a \$6,000 deduction if their income is \$75,000 or less.

Married couples (65+) filing jointly may claim up to \$12,000, if their combined income doesn't exceed \$150,000.

The deduction phases out for incomes above these limits, disappearing entirely at \$175,000 for individuals and \$250,000 for couples.

Eligible filers can take the bonus deduction whether itemizing or not.

This bonus over-65 deduction is set to expire after 2028.

Federal Child Tax Credit Update - Increased from \$2,000 to \$2,200 per qualifying child on 2025 tax return. The maximum refundable portion is worth \$1,700 in 2025. This pertains to each child under age 17 at the end of 2025 and who meets **specific criteria**, including having a valid Social Security Number issued before the tax return due date. The credit is reduced by \$50 for every \$1,000 over the limit: Adjusted Gross Income of \$200,000 for single parents; \$400,000 for married couples. Parents must have a valid Social Security Number, a new requirement for 2025.

From Catholic Charities USA:

The Reducing Homelessness Through Program Reform Act: This bill would:

- Increase flexibility and reduce red tape in HUD's Continuum of Care and Emergency Solutions Grants programs;

- Improve coordination between housing and health care providers;

- Modernize outdated systems that slow down housing placements; and

- Support small, rural, and Tribal communities with limited resources.

Contact your US Senators and ask them to co-sponsor this legislation - catholiccharitiesusa.org/advocacy

The ROAD to Housing Act of 2025 - The Senate Banking Committee approved this legislation and is sending it to the full Senate for consideration. CCUSA supports this Act which addresses issues including expanding and preserving housing supply, improving housing affordability and access, lowering the cost of housing programs, and improving housing programs' oversight and integrity.

From AARP:

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has approved the first-ever blood test for Alzheimer's. The test, Lumipulse, can detect abnormal clumps of protein, amyloid plaques, in the brain. These plaques disrupt brain cell function and are a hallmark of Alzheimer's. Approval by the FDA opens the door for insurance coverage and more widespread use of the blood test.

In May, the President signed an **executive order directing the federal government to tell pharmaceutical manufacturers to meet price targets on their products that match what other countries pay**. The order directs the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to give “most-favored-nation” price targets to pharmaceutical manufacturers and monitor their efforts to meet them. AARP sees this as a useful step to help older Americans with expensive medications.

The Social Security Program turns 90 on August 14, 2025. To make sure our elected officials in Washington put politics aside and focus on protecting and strengthening Social Security, AARP needs our help. Go to: [AARP.org/ProtectSocialSecurity](https://www.aarp.org/ProtectSocialSecurity)

Federal Legislation Introduced:

Medicare Mental Health Inpatient Equity Act – A bipartisan bill that would improve care for seniors by permanently repealing Medicare’s 190-day lifetime limit for inpatient psychiatric care.

Medicaid Bump Act – A bipartisan bill that would increase the federal reimbursement rate for mental and behavioral health care services under Medicaid.

Community Mental Wellness and Resilience Act – A bipartisan bill empowering communities through a new federal grant program to craft their own locally specific responses to the mental health problems caused by natural disasters.

USCCB/Justice for Immigrants (JFI):

In July, an expansive, bipartisan immigration reform bill, newest version of the Dignity Act, was introduced in the House of Representatives.

FYI:

The US Fish and Wildlife Service’s Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program provides free technical and financial assistance to landowners, managers, tribes, corporations, schools, and nonprofits interested in improving wildlife habitat on their land.

Thank you for your advocacy.

Marie Copeland, Chair

