



Wider Opportunities for Women

Elder Economic Security Initiative™

November 26, 2008

Greetings,

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EESI Blog

Stop by our blog:

<http://wow-eesi.blogspot.com/>

Take a look, post a comment, or respond to our weekly poll!

Happy Thanksgiving!

We are thankful for you and the hard work you do for the EESI project and wish you a very happy holiday week.

Our office will be closed on Thursday, November 27, and Friday November 28.

We hope you will find this week's information helpful and please feel free to pass it along!

- EESI Team



On The Hill

The New Congress will convene on January 6 and begin working on an **economic stimulus package**. Detroit **automakers will present a financial plan** to Congress the week of December 8. GAO asked to identify ways healthcare agencies, hospitals can cut costs in preparation for **healthcare reform legislation**.

Democratic leaders in Congress will break with tradition and begin work as soon as the 111th Congress arrives in Washington on January 6, 2009. (Normally, a new Congress convenes on or shortly after January 3rd and then leaves until the presidential inauguration on January 20th). Members will remain in Washington to prepare an economic stimulus plan that they hope to have for President-elect Obama to sign shortly after he is sworn in to office. Congress will coordinate with the incoming Obama team on the outline and details on the plan, which is expected to focus on infrastructure spending, aid to the states and creating jobs. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D, CA) said that Appropriations Committee Chairman David Obey (D, WI) "is already working to draft legislation that will help create new jobs by investing in a cleaner energy future, build a high-tech infrastructure that brings the power of renewable energy and broadband to communities across America, rebuild our bridges and

modernize our schools.” Ms. Pelosi also said that Ways and Means Committee Chairman Charlie Rangel (D, NY) is “working with the new administration on a tax cut proposal that will make the tax code more fair to the middle class.”

Detroit’s automakers are expected to deliver a plan for long-term viability next week as Congress tentatively plans to return to Washington the week of December 8th to vote on an emergency loan to the automakers.

Senators Kent Conrad (D, ND) and Sheldon Whitehouse (D, RI) have asked the Government Accountability Office (GAO) to identify ways states, hospitals and other countries are bringing healthcare costs down and assess how those efforts can be implemented nationwide. The senators want the information from GAO in preparation for congressional undertaking of a major healthcare overhaul initiative expected next year.



In The Administration/Transition

The President-Elect focuses on improving the economy through an **economy recovery bill**.

President-elect Barack Obama said Tuesday that spending restraint and a federal budget overhaul are necessary in the long term, even as he called for a significant economy recovery bill at the start of his term. “If we are going to make the investments we need, we also have to be willing to shed the spending we don’t need,” Mr. Obama said on Tuesday. At the news conference, Obama reiterated his pledge to go through the federal budget line by line looking for inefficiency, waste and duplication.



Resources

The Center on Budget and Policy Priorities released a new report on the association between the **weakened economy and poverty**. The Kaiser Family Foundation puts out a report on **Vermont's Long-Term Services Waiver** and releases a fact sheet about **Medicaid**. The Spotlight on Poverty spotlights Rep. McDermott and his reasoning for the **Measuring American Poverty Act**. The Urban Institute releases a report on how much **baby boomers** are saving for retirement.

- Center on Budget and Policy Priorities: [NEW Report --Recession could cause Large Increases in Poverty and Push Millions into Deep Poverty](#)

- Kaiser Family Foundation: [Vermont's Choices for Care Medicaid Long-Term Services Waiver: Progress and Challenges As the Program Concluded its Third Year](#)
- Kaiser Family Foundation: [Medicaid and the Uninsured Fact Sheet](#)
- Spotlight on Poverty: [Rep. Jim McDermott on the Measuring American Poverty Act](#)
- Urban Institute: [Are Baby boomers Saving Enough for Retirement?](#)



In The News

The Milwaukee Journal Sentinel reports on the **high increase of Medicare**. San Antonio Express-News tells of the **hardships of the elderly poor** during the economic downturn and the Las Vegas Review Journal reports on the projected **loss of \$20 billion for Medicaid** funding in Nevada.

- Milwaukee Journal Sentinel: [Medicare Drug Plan Costs Soar](#)
- San Antonio Express-News: [Hard Time Hardest on Elderly Poor](#)
- Las Vegas Review Journal: [Added Medicaid Cuts Raise Concern](#)

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