



# AJA Monthly Report - June 2022

Last Updated: July 08, 2022

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## Washington Update

June was a busy month on the Hill, with Congress rushing to push through as much legislation as possible ahead of the August recess and subsequent midterm election campaign season. The FY23 appropriations cycle is in full swing, with the House a few steps ahead of the Senate in releasing committee text and report language for the budget. In addition, Congress is working to strike a deal on several key priorities, including the Bipartisan Innovation Act and federal privacy legislation.

Much of the bandwidth on the Hill this month was also taken up by responding to current events such as the recent Supreme Court decision on *Roe v. Wade*. In the wake of recent mass shootings, Congress negotiated and passed landmark bipartisan gun safety legislation which also included significant funding for school and community mental health programs. The Administration has been focused on current events as well, with the Fed raising interest rates in an attempt to curb inflation.

## Appropriations

The House's Committee on Appropriations has continued its work on Fiscal Year 2023 funding for the U.S. Department of Justice and the separate health agencies such as the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Agency. The Committee's Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, and Science forwarded its bill to the full committee by voice vote on June 22nd. The next week, on June 28th, the full House Appropriations Committee approved the bill by a vote of 31-24, along partisan lines.

Of note, the Committee's report that accompanies the bill noted that it "continues to support funding that provides virtual transitional substance use and misuse services to individuals who are incarcerated. By building on and leveraging investments in medication assisted treatment and telehealth services, the Committee supports programs that offer internet-based substance use and misuse education, peer coaching and case management. Such programs facilitate a seamless transition from jails to the community and reduce relapse and recidivism."

The bill now awaits consideration before the full House of Representatives, the timing of which is currently unclear. In the Senate, the Senate Appropriations Committee is well behind its House counterpart in the process, having not conducted any markups nor has it released draft text of its bill funding the science agencies.

## Inmate Call Rates and Family Notification Bills

Two specific pieces of legislation that AJA has been closely tracking – Sen. Duckworth's bill related to inmate call rates and Sen. Ossoff's bill related to the next-of-kin notification – have not had any significant update in the past month. Sen. Duckworth's bill still awaits action by the full Senate and Sen. Ossoff's bill has yet to be taken up by Committee and did not receive any new cosponsors in June.

## Gun Safety Legislation

Following mass shootings in Uvalde and Buffalo, a bipartisan group of 10 Republican and 10 Democrat US Senators began negotiations on a comprehensive gun safety and mental health package. The group reached a compromise and this bill was developed, drafted, and passed in June. The legislation includes funding for states to implement red flag laws and other crisis intervention orders, enhances protections for victims of domestic violence, clarifies the definition of federally licensed arms dealers, implements an enhanced review process for individuals aged 18 to 21 looking to purchase a firearm, and addresses arms trafficking with new criminal penalties.

On the mental health front, the legislation funnels several billion dollars into existing school and community-based mental health services and programs. In short, it supports national expansion of community behavioral health center model, improves access to mental health services for children, youth, and families, increases access to mental health services for youth and families in crisis via telehealth, and provides major investments at the Department of Health and Human Services to programs that expand provider training in mental health, support suicide prevention, crisis and trauma intervention and recovery.

## Mental Health Legislation

A package of bills continues working its way through both chambers of Congress to address the federal government's response to the nationwide mental health crisis.

This month, the House's Energy & Commerce Committee approved bipartisan bills to reauthorize more than 30 mental health and substance disorder programs within the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) and the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA). These programs, set to expire this September, support mental health awareness, education, prevention initiatives, care and crisis services, and behavioral health workforce recruitment, retention and training efforts. The House Education and Labor Committee also approved several bills focused specifically on mental health services for college students this month.

In the Senate, legislation that would also reauthorize expiring mental health and substance use disorder programs was introduced and referred to the chamber's Committee on Health, Education, Labor & Pensions. Concurrently, the Senate Finance Committee continues its work on a parallel track to draft and consider a mental health package this summer focused on Medicare, Medicaid, and the Children's Health Insurance Program.

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## Bills by Issue

### American Jail Association (16)

Bill Number	Last Action	Status
HR 120	Referred To The Subcommittee On Crime Terrorism And Homeland Security 2021 03 01	In House
<b>Title</b> SIMARRA Act	<b>Introduction Date:</b> 2021-01-04	
<b>Description</b> Stop Infant Mortality And Recidivism Reduction Act of 2021 or the SIMARRA Act This bill directs the Bureau of Prisons to establish a pilot program for incarcerated women and their children born during incarceration to reside together in a separate prison housing unit. It sets forth inmate eligibility criteria and program participation requirements.		
<b>Primary Sponsors</b> Sheila Jackson Lee		

Bill Number	Last Action	Status
HR 176	Referred To The Subcommittee On Crime Terrorism And Homeland Security 2021 03 04	In House
<b>Title</b> Restricting the Use of Solitary Confinement Act	<b>Bill Summary:</b> Last edited by Jason Ortega at Feb 5, 2021, 7:32 PM This bill restricts the use of solitary confinement for inmates in federal custody, including by requiring hearings and other procedures for an inmate to contest placement in solitary confinement.	
<b>Description</b> Restricting the Use of Solitary Confinement Act This bill imposes restrictions on the use of solitary confinement for inmates in federal custody. Among the restrictions, the bill prohibits placement in solitary confinement for nondisciplinary reasons; it limits the duration of such placement; and it provides an administrative review process for inmates to contest such placement.	<b>Introduction Date:</b> 2021-01-04	
<b>Primary Sponsors</b> Bonnie Watson Coleman		

Bill Number

HR 955

Last Action

Referred To The Subcommittee On Health  
2021 02 09

Status

In House

**Title**

Medicaid Reentry Act of 2021

**Introduction Date:** 2021-02-08

**Description**

Medicaid Reentry Act of 2021 This bill allows Medicaid payment for medical services furnished to an incarcerated individual during the 30-day period preceding the individual's release. The Medicaid and Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) Payment and Access Commission must report on specified information relating to the accessibility and quality of health care for incarcerated individuals, including the impact of the bill's changes.

**Primary Sponsors**

Paul Tonko

Bill Number

HR 994

Last Action

Referred To The Subcommittee On Crime  
Terrorism And Homeland Security 2021 04 23

Status

In House

**Title**

Justice is Not For Sale Act of 2021

**Introduction Date:** 2021-02-11

**Description**

Justice is Not For Sale Act of 2021 This bill prohibits private for-profit entities from operating confinement facilities (e.g., prisons) or providing electronic monitoring of released persons at the federal, state, and local levels. The bill also establishes various requirements related to the standards of detention and availability of services at confinement facilities. The bill provides for the establishment of \* limits on the fees and charges for financial services (e.g., money transfer services), \* caps on the rates charged for communications services, \* detention standards and oversight requirements related to the detention of noncitizens, and \* community-based alternatives to the detention or separation of family units apprehended under immigration authorities.

**Primary Sponsors**

Raul Grijalva

Bill Number

HR 1384

Last Action

Referred To The Subcommittee On Crime  
Terrorism And Homeland Security 2021 04 28

Status

In House

**Title**

Mainstreaming Addiction Treatment Act of 2021

**Introduction Date:** 2021-02-25

**Description**

Mainstreaming Addiction Treatment Act of 2021 This bill removes the requirement that a health care practitioner apply for a separate waiver through the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) to dispense certain narcotic drugs (e.g., buprenorphine) for maintenance or detoxification treatment (i.e., substance use disorder treatment). Further, a community health aide or community health practitioner may dispense certain narcotic drugs for maintenance or detoxification treatment without registering with the DEA if the drug is prescribed by a health care practitioner through telemedicine. It preempts state laws related to licensure for this activity. The bill also directs the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration to conduct a national campaign to educate health care practitioners and encourage them to integrate substance use disorder treatment into their practices.

**Primary Sponsors**

Paul Tonko

Bill Number

HR 1480

Last Action

Received In The Senate And Read Twice And  
Referred To The Committee On Health  
Education Labor And Pensions 2021 05 13

Status

In Senate

**Title**

HERO Act

**Introduction Date:** 2021-03-02

**Description**

Helping Emergency Responders Overcome Act or the HERO Act This bill establishes a series of programs relating to the behavioral health of law enforcement officers, first responders, 9-1-1 operators, and other public safety officers and health care providers. The programs include \* a public safety officer suicide-reporting system at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, \* a grant program for peer-support behavioral health and wellness programs within fire departments and emergency medical services agencies, and \* a grant program for behavioral health and wellness programs for health care providers.

**Primary Sponsors**

Ami Bera

Bill Number

HR 1686

Last Action

Referred To The Subcommittee For Indigenous Peoples Of The United States 2021 05 07

Status

In House

**Title**

Examining Opioid Treatment Infrastructure Act of 2021

**Introduction Date:** 2021-03-09

**Description**

Examining Opioid Treatment Infrastructure Act of 2021 This bill requires the Government Accountability Office to report on the availability of and unmet need for substance use disorder treatment and recovery services, including for specified populations. The report must also address barriers to real-time reporting of drug overdoses at the federal, state, and local levels.

**Primary Sponsors**

Bill Foster

Bill Number

HR 2489

Last Action

Referred To The Subcommittee On Communications And Technology 2021 04 14

Status

In House

**Title**

Martha Wright Prison Phone Justice Act

**Introduction Date:** 2021-04-13

**Description**

Martha Wright Prison Phone Justice Act This bill establishes requirements related to certain charges, practices, classifications, or regulations in connection with confinement facility (i.e., jail or prison) communications services. Specifically, the bill requires the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to establish maximum rates and charges that a provider of prison communications services may charge for such services. The bill provides interim rate caps until the FCC establishes such rates and charges. The bill requires a provider of prison communications services to assess all charges for communications on a per-minute basis for the actual duration of the communication, and it prohibits a provider from charging a per-communication or per-connection charge. A provider also may not charge an ancillary service charge except in certain circumstances. Further, the bill prohibits a provider from assessing a site commission, which is a payment or donation made to certain entities that operate or oversee a confinement facility.

**Primary Sponsors**

Bobby Rush

Bill Number

HR 3172

Last Action

Referred To The House Committee On  
Financial Services 2021 05 13

Status

In House

**Title**

HELPER Act of 2021

**Introduction Date:** 2021-05-13

**Description**

Homes for Every Local Protector, Educator, and Responder Act of 2021 or the HELPER Act of 2021 This bill establishes a program administered by the Department of Housing and Urban Development to provide mortgage assistance to law enforcement officers, elementary and secondary school teachers, firefighters, or other first responders. Specifically, these individuals may be eligible for a one-time mortgage on a primary family residence with no down payment and no monthly mortgage insurance premium.

**Primary Sponsors**

John Rutherford

Bill Number

HR 6296

Last Action

Referred To The House Committee On The  
Judiciary 2021 12 16

Status

In House

**Title**

Family Notification of Death, Injury, or Illness in Custody Act of 2021

**Introduction Date:** 2021-12-16

**Primary Sponsors**

Karen Bass

Bill Number

S 285

Last Action

Read Twice And Referred To The Committee  
On Finance 2021 02 08

Status

In Senate

**Title**

Medicaid Reentry Act of 2021

**Introduction Date:** 2021-02-08

**Description**

Medicaid Reentry Act of 2021 This bill allows Medicaid payment for medical services furnished to an incarcerated individual during the 30-day period preceding the individual's release. The Medicaid and Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) Payment and Access Commission must report on specified information relating to the accessibility and quality of health care for incarcerated individuals, including the impact of the bill's changes.

**Primary Sponsors**

Tammy Baldwin

Bill Number

S 1046

Last Action

Held At The Desk 2021 08 03

Status

In House

**Title**

Residential Substance Use Disorder Treatment Act of 2021

**Introduction Date:** 2021-03-25

**Description**

Residential Substance Use Disorder Treatment Act of 2021 This bill revises and reauthorizes through FY2026 grants for residential substance use disorder treatment programs at state and local correctional and detention facilities. Among the revisions, the bill \* replaces statutory references to substance abuse with substance use disorder, \* specifies that the term residential substance use disorder treatment program includes a medication-assisted treatment program, \* requires the chief medical officer or other staff overseeing a program to complete training on the science of addiction and the latest research and clinical guidance on treating substance use disorders in criminal justice settings, and \* allows people who are awaiting trial or in pretrial detention to participate in the programs.

**Primary Sponsors**

John Cornyn

Bill Number

S 1541

Last Action

Committee On Commerce Science And  
Transportation Ordered To Be Reported With  
An Amendment In The Nature Of A Substitute  
Favorably 2022 03 22

Status

In Senate

**Title**

Martha Wright-Reed Just and Reasonable Communications Act of 2021

**Introduction Date:** 2021-05-10

**Description**

Martha Wright-Reed Just and Reasonable Communications Act of 2021 This bill requires the Federal Communications Commission to ensure that charges for payphone services, including advanced (e.g., audio or video) communications services in correctional institutions, are just and reasonable.

**Primary Sponsors**

Tammy Duckworth

Bill Number

S 1821

Last Action

Read Twice And Referred To The Committee  
On Finance 2021 05 25

Status

In Senate

**Title**

Humane Correctional Health Care Act

Introduction Date: 2021-05-25

**Description**

Humane Correctional Health Care Act This bill allows states to cover inmates of public institutions under Medicaid. The Government Accountability Office must report on specified information relating to the health of inmates and the effects of Medicaid coverage.

**Primary Sponsors**

Cory Booker

Bill Number

S 2592

Last Action

Read Twice And Referred To The Committee  
On The Judiciary 2021 08 03

Status

In Senate

**Title**

Correctional Facility Disaster Preparedness Act of 2021

Introduction Date: 2021-08-03

**Primary Sponsors**

Tammy Duckworth

Bill Number

S 4284

Last Action

Read Twice And Referred To The Committee  
On The Judiciary 2022 05 19

Status

In Senate

**Title**

Family Notification of Death, Injury, or Illness in Custody Act of 2022

Introduction Date: 2022-05-19

**Primary Sponsors**

Jon Ossoff

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