



Reorganization, Rescission, & Budget Resolutions:
A Federal Policy Update on
Behavioral Health

May 12, 2025

11:00am PT / 12:00pm MT / 1:00pm CT / 2:00pm ET

Welcome! We will get started momentarily.

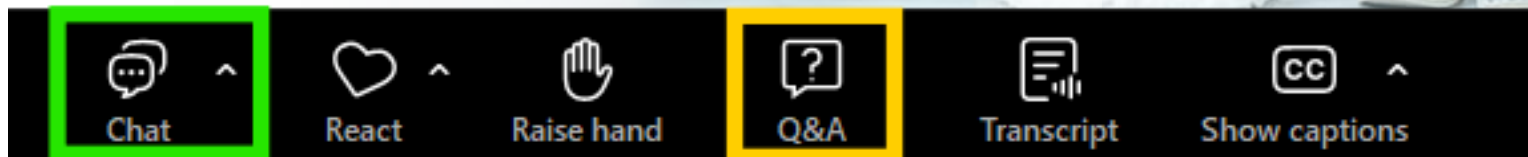
Please let us know who you are and where you are from in the chat box
(click the chat icon at the bottom of your screen).

Welcome



Housekeeping

- We want to hear from you! Share your **questions, comments** and **“ah-ha’s”** via the **chat box**.
- You can also utilize the Q&A feature at the bottom of your screen; there will be time for a brief Q&A at the end of the event.
- A **recording and slides** will be available within 48 hours - We’ll email you.



Speaker



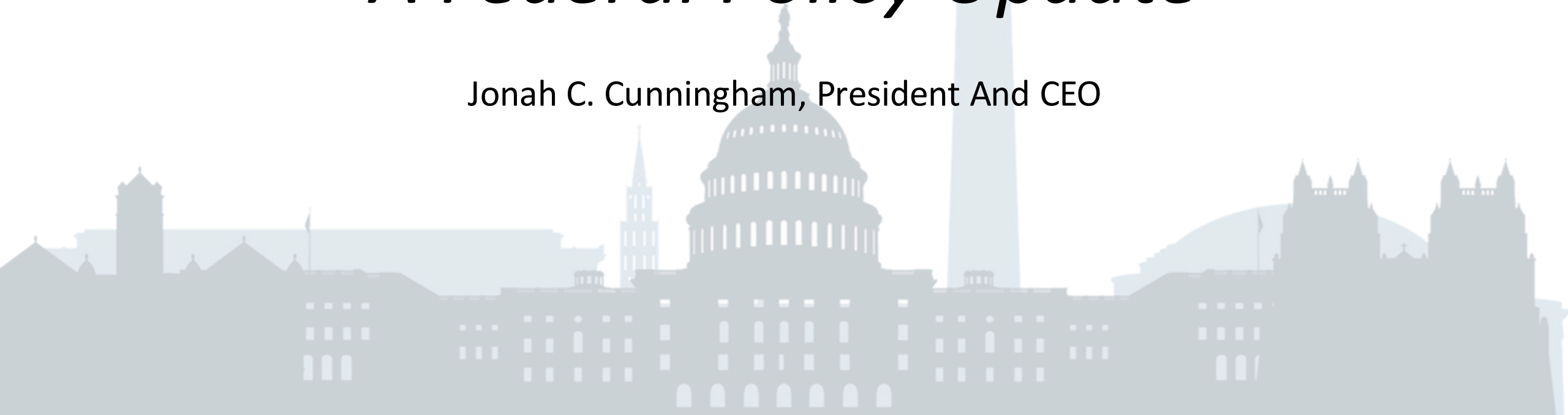
Jonah Cunningham
President and CEO
National Association of
County Behavioral Health
and Developmental
Disability Directors
(NACBHDD)





Rescissions, Rancor, and Budget Reconciliation: A Federal Policy Update

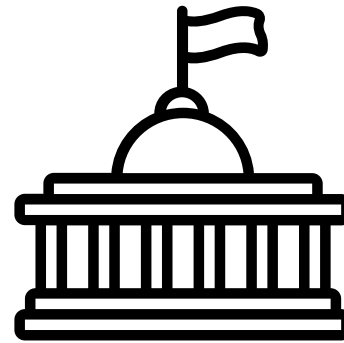
Jonah C. Cunningham, President And CEO





About NACBHDD

- Founded in 1989
- Represents Local Authorities
- Dual Focus on I/DD and Behavioral Health
- Affiliate of NACo





About NARMH

- Established 1977
- Improving Access, Availability, & Acceptability
- Affiliate of NACBHDD



NARMH
National Association for
Rural Mental Health



Ground Rule & Goals





Ground Rules

- We are Non-Partisan
- Situation is Evolving
- Any Jokes Are Not Intended to Lessen Impact of Policy



Goals for Presentation

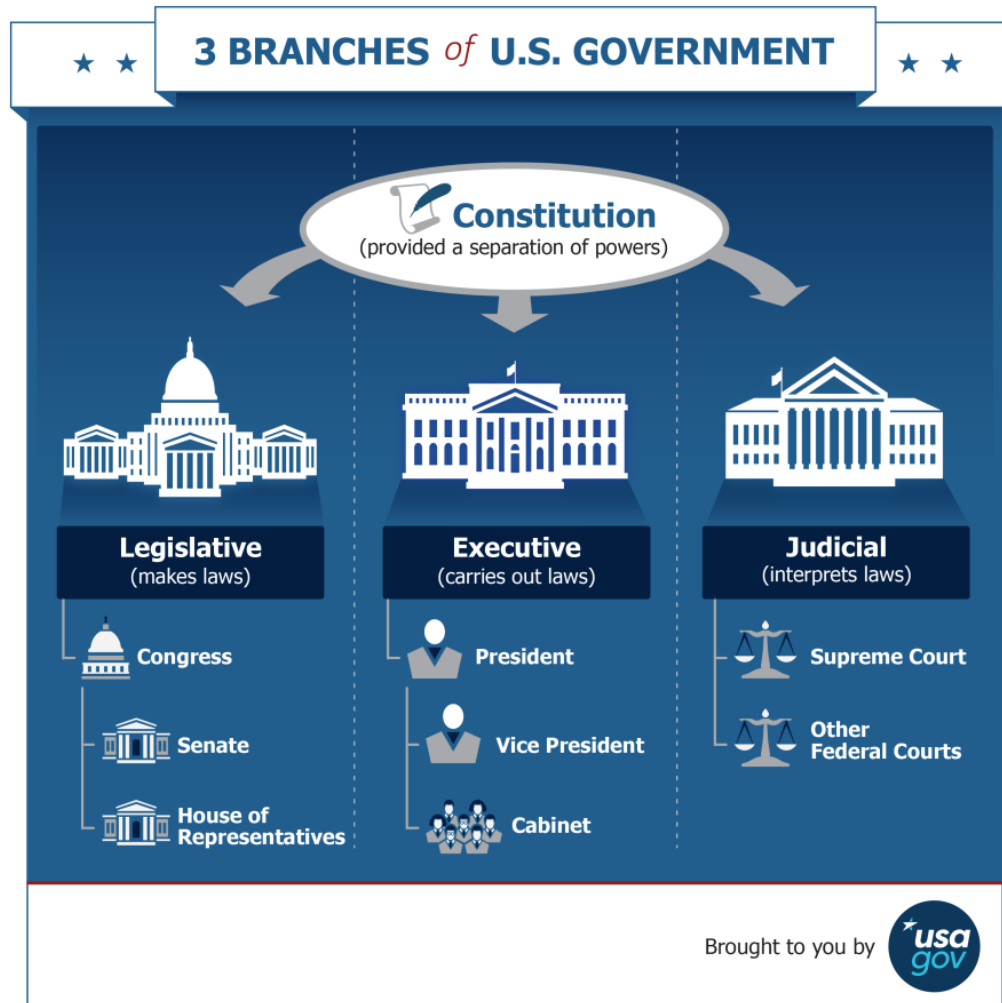
- Share Context for Policy Developments
- Provide Updates
- Give Tools for Education & Outreach



Federal Government Background



What Are the Rules?



- **U.S. Constitution**

- Article I (Legislative)
- Article II (Executive)
- Article III (Judicial)
- Article IV (Relationships Btw States)
- Article V (Amending Constitution)
- Article VI (Debts, Fed Supremacy, Oaths of Office)
- Article VII (Ratification)
- Amendments (Bill of Rights)



Legislative Branch

- Two Chamber (House & Senate)
- Power of the Purse
- Confirmation of Presidential Appointments (Senate)
- “Necessary & Proper”

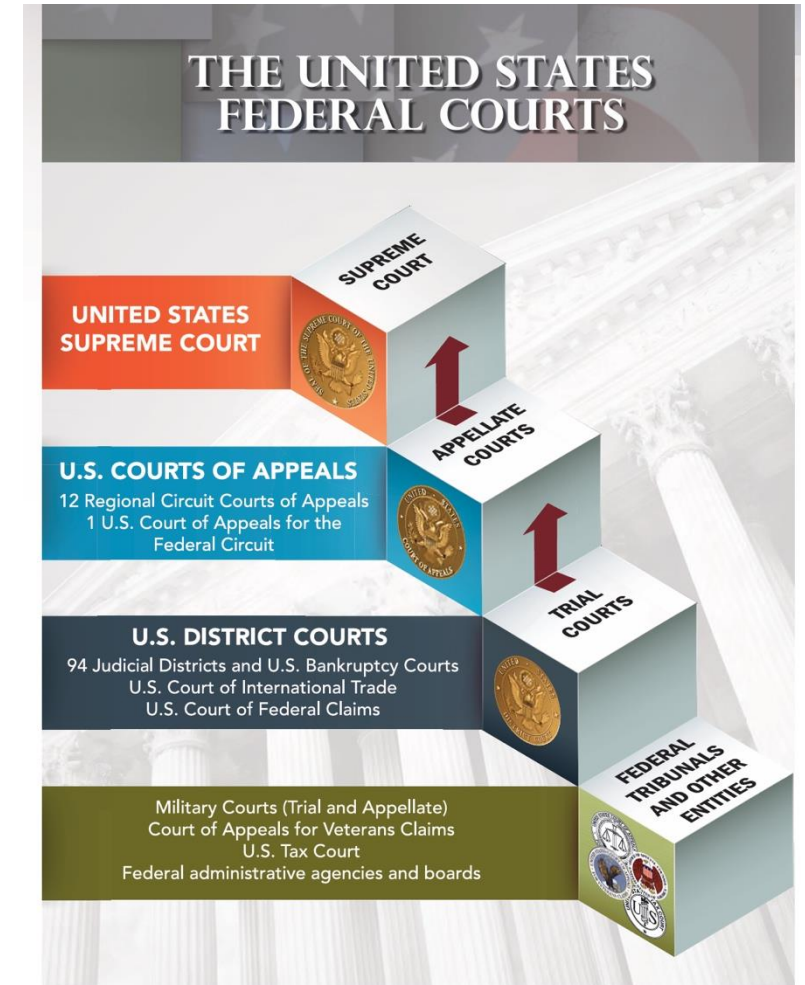


Executive Branch

- President & Cabinet
- Powers Include
 - Executive Orders
 - Veto Legislation
 - Pardons
 - Impoundment of Funds***

Judicial Branch

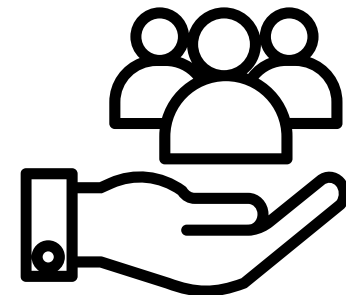
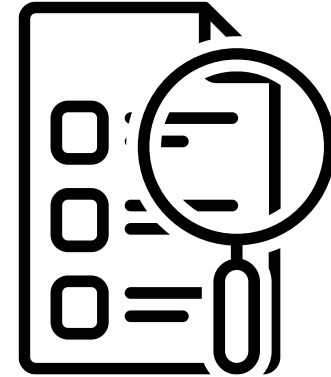
- Article II Establishes SCOTUS & Authorizes Congress to Establish Court System
- Can Only Interpret Laws Through Resolution of Legal Disputes, Not Correct a Problem on Its Own Initiative





Role of Federal Government in Health

- Research
- Funding
- Technical Assistance
- Regulation & Oversight
- Surveillance
- Provision Of Services





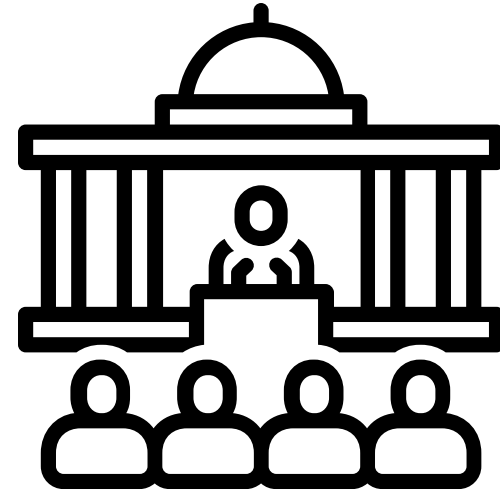
Legislative Branch Updates





Fiscal Fights

- Small Majorities in Each Chamber
- Annual Appropriations & Previous Year
- Debt Limit
- Budget Reconciliation





Annual Appropriations

- Pass 12 Bills to Fund Government
- End of Fiscal Year September 30th
- Can Be Combined or Extended
 - Omnibus/Continuing Resolution
- No Funding=Gov Shutdown



Debt Limit

- More Expenditures Than Revenue ->Issue Bonds
- Congressional Oversight of Amount of Bonds Issued
- \$ Spent w/out Bonds Covering Difference ->DEFAULT



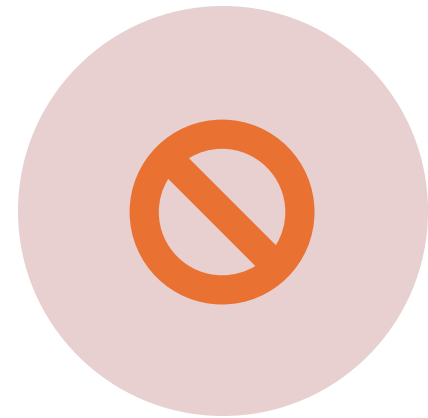
Budget Reconciliation



OPTIONAL PROCESS



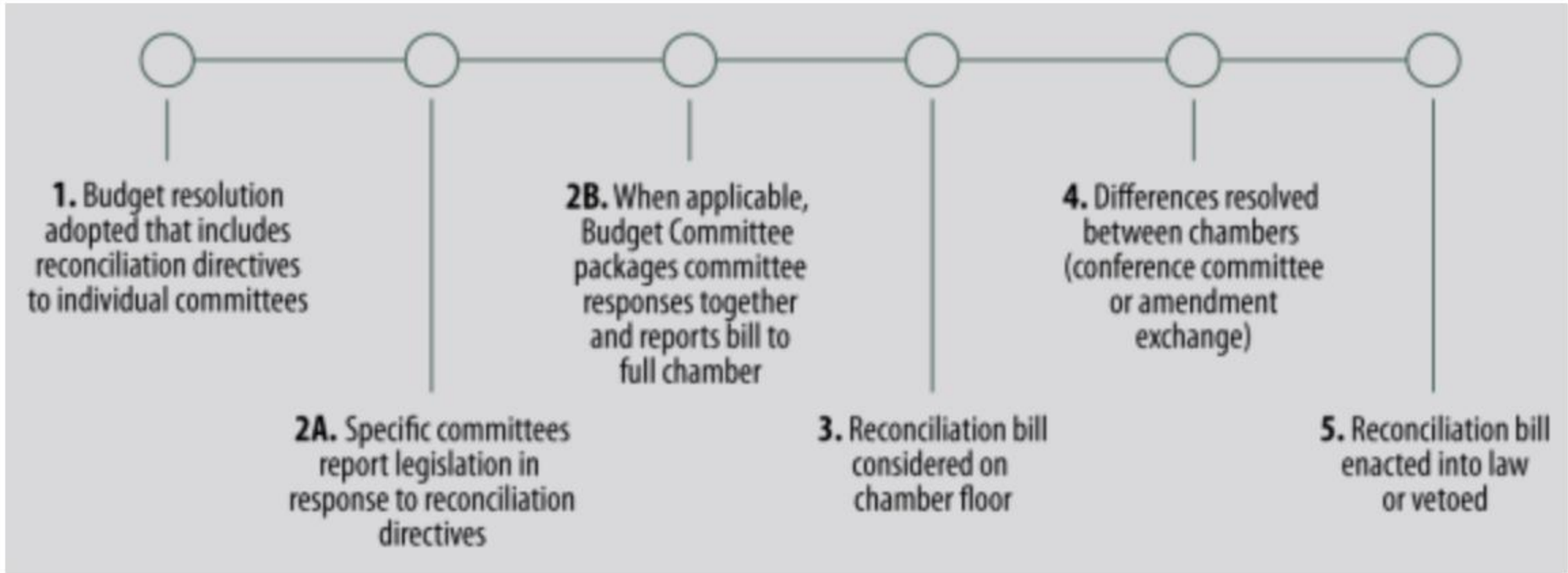
CAN ONLY FOCUS ON FISCAL
MATTERS (BYRD BATH)



NOT SUBJECT TO FILIBUSTER

Reconciliation Process

Figure 1. Major Stages of the Reconciliation Process



Source: Congressional Research Service.



Reconciliation Details

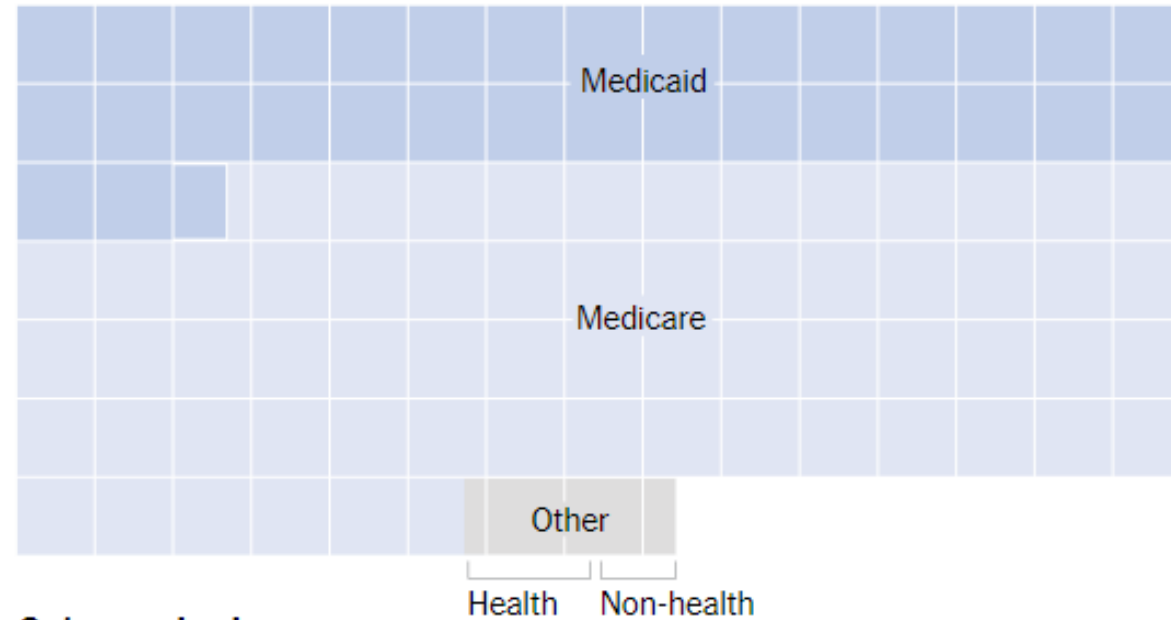
- Outlines Desired Revenue, Spending, Debt, and Deficit Levels
- Instructs Committees to Increase or Decrease Deficits
 - House E&C To fine \$880 Billion in Savings



Possible Effects on Medicaid

Spending overseen by the House Committee on Energy and Commerce

\$25 trillion



Cuts required

\$880 billion



Graphic [from NY Times](#)



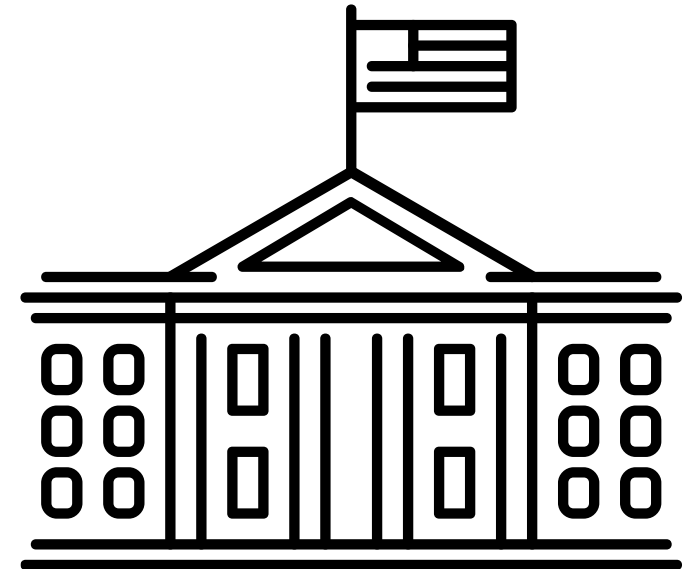
Executive Branch Update





Executive Updates

- New(ish) Administration
- Fabled First 100 Days
- Focus on Fiscal Matters & Foreign Affairs





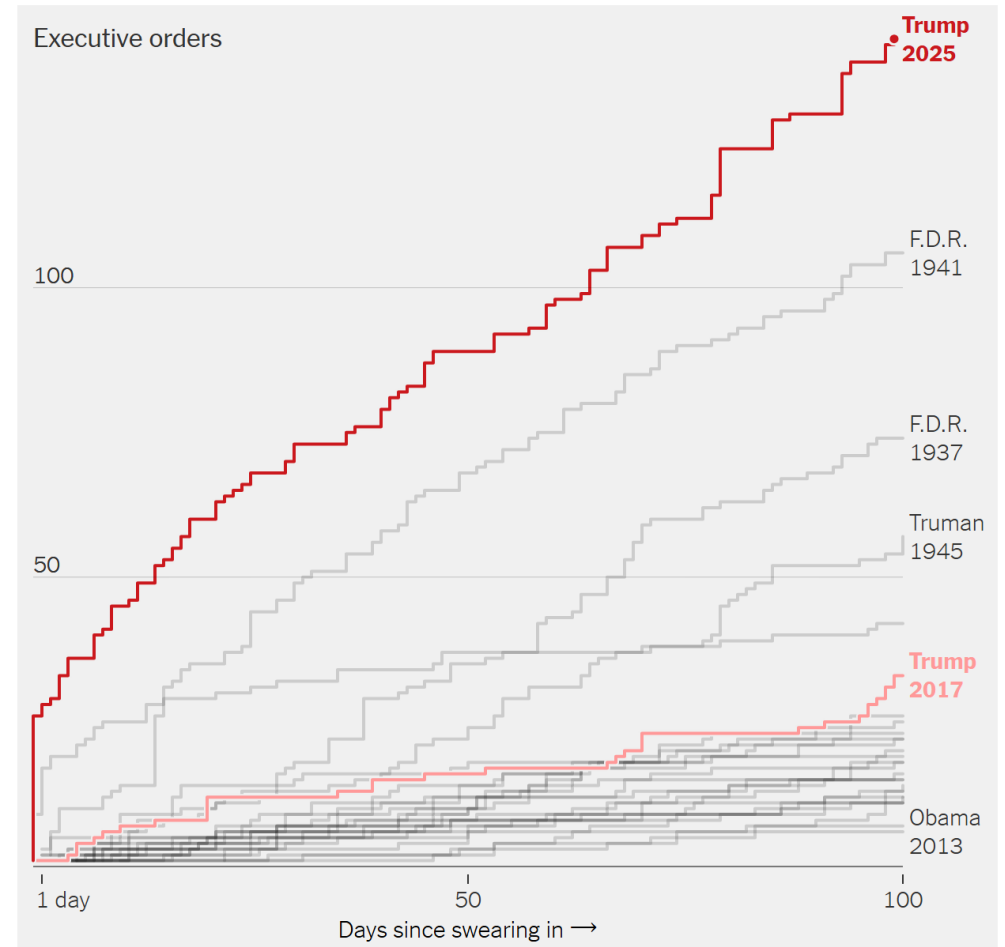
Major Actions

- Rescission of \$/DOGE
- Executive Orders
- Appointment of Officials
- Proposed Reorganization of HHS/RIFs



Executive Orders

- Power Derived from Article II & Powers Given by Congress
- 26 Eos Signed on 1st Day (record)



Source: [Federal Register](#)



Judicial Branch Update





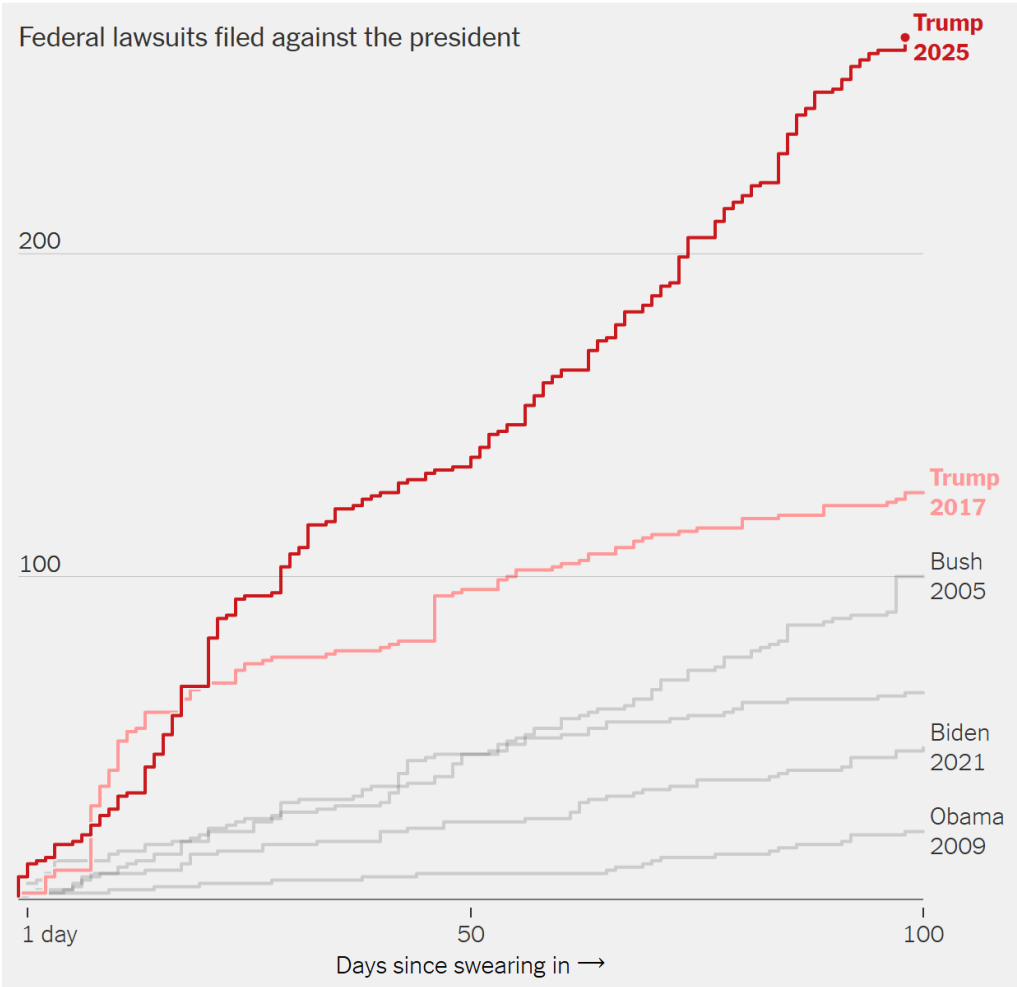
Major Actions

- Issuance of Injunctions
 - Rescissions of COVID Funds
 - Federal Firings
 - Executive Orders





Lawsuit Challenges



Source: PACER - Includes cases in which the sitting president was named as a defendant. Excludes criminal cases and cases filed in appellate courts.



Education & Outreach Resources





Resources for Federal Policy

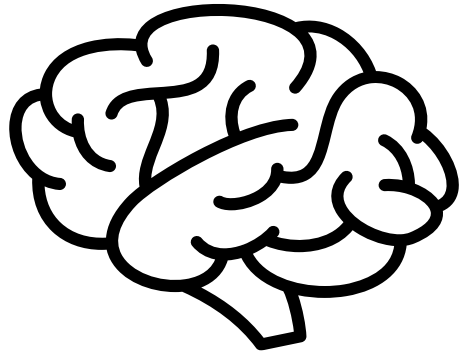
- [Congress.Gov](#)
- [Regulations.Gov](#)
- [Crsreports.Congress.Gov](#)



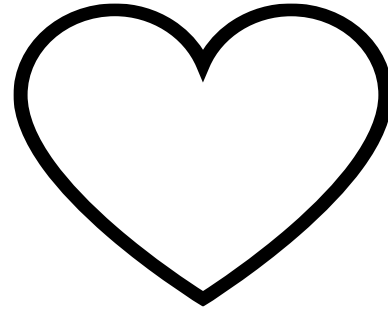
**Congressional
Research Service**

Informing the legislative debate since 1914.

Framework for Outreach



Head



Heart



Feet



NACBHDD Education Toolkit

An aid for those seeking to connect with policymakers on the state and federal level with the goal of education and engagement.

BEFORE

BEGIN WITH THE END IN MIND

Start the process with the question "what is the goal of the meeting?" It could be as broad as simply informing them of the work of your organization and trying to build a relationship. Or it could focus on a specific issue or action. Either way start by thinking of the outcome you would like from this meeting.

DO YOUR RESEARCH

Who will you be meeting with? What is their role in policy development? What information would be most helpful during this meeting? By starting with these questions and some quick research you can prepare for a productive meeting.

IDENTIFY RESOURCES & WORK TO HIGHLIGHT

Your work serving the community is multifaceted and it may be difficult to pick specific projects or activities to highlight. When in doubt start with the basics: what you do, who your organization serves, and why it is important to the community.

DURING

REACH THE HEAD, HEART, & FEET

There are two general approaches to sharing information, logical (head) and emotional (heart). Logical appeals include studies, statistics, and background information. Emotional appeals include storytelling, appeals to values, and individual experiences. Both are valid. Whatever approach you choose, do not forget to have the meeting lead somewhere (feet). In other words, think what the next steps could be and present your information to lead them there.

ENGAGE IN A DIALOGUE

It might be tempting to use all the time in the meeting to share the work of your organization, but a better alternative is to ask questions and learn more about their priorities as well. As you learn more about their priorities you can better calibrate what information and resources may be most helpful.

IDENTIFY THE "WIN-WIN"

It is important to ground ourselves in the fact that all intergovernmental partners are serving their communities. They might have different approaches and responsibilities, but the end goal is the same. What is one small way that you can help them serve their community?

AFTER

FOLLOW UP WITH MATERIALS & RESOURCES

An underappreciated aspect of policymaker education is following up with materials that are referenced in the meeting. Try to send follow-up materials within a week of meeting.

CHECK-IN PERIODICALLY

Relationships take time and effort. If you have a newsletter or communications list, adding them to the distribution list is an easy way to maintain the line of communication.

IDENTIFY AREAS OF COLLABORATION

As your relationship grows with the policymaker there may be ways to work together. Examples include joint events, briefings, and information sharing.



Scan the QR code to view and download the NACBHDD Education Toolkit



THANK YOU

- jcunningham@nacbhd.org
- NACBHDD.org



Let's Talk....

