



March 5, 2010

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## **Federal Legislative Update**

### **Health Reform**

On Tuesday, President Obama sent a [letter](#) to Congressional leadership thanking them for their participation in last week's health reform summit and renewing his commitment to passing health reform legislation that incorporates ideas from both Democrats and Republicans who attended.

While neither the current Senate health reform bill nor the President's proposal includes Medicaid payment reform, the President outlined four Republican provisions in his letter that he is open to possibly including in final health reform legislation. Medicaid payment reform was listed as the third provision, which could be added to a legislative package of additional reforms to the Senate bill. AAP staff are working with the White House and Congressional leadership to make this provision as substantive as possible.

On Wednesday, President Barack Obama unveiled his revised health reform proposal at the White House to an audience of physicians and other health care providers, with **AAP Past President Renee Jenkins, MD, FAAP**, onstage by his side and **AAP President Judith S. Palfrey, MD, FAAP**, in the front row of the audience. During his address, President Obama emphasized the urgency of passing health reform in the coming weeks. For **photos from the event** and links to the [video coverage](#), visit the AAP Department of Federal Affairs' [Facebook page](#).

The AAP has signed on to partner with Doctors for America and other health groups for a **March on Health Reform on Monday, March 22, 2010**, to encourage Congress to pass health reform now. If you live in the Washington, DC metropolitan area or are interested in traveling to the event, visit [healthmarch.org](http://healthmarch.org) to RSVP and e-mail [kids1st@aap.org](mailto:kids1st@aap.org) with any questions. Additional event details will follow in the coming days.

### **Childhood Obesity**

On Thursday, **Sandra G. Hassink, MD, FAAP, Chair of the AAP Obesity Leadership Workgroup**, testified before the U.S. Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor & Pensions on the clinical aspects to preventing and treating childhood obesity and the AAP's current resources and commitment. Click [here](#) to read her testimony.

On Tuesday, **AAP Associate Executive Director Jonathan D. Klein, MD, MPH, FAAP, Director of the AAP Julius B. Richmond Center of Excellence**, presented on childhood

obesity prevention as a social movement at a *Health Affairs* briefing to launch the March issue of the publication. In this issue, Dr. Klein co-wrote a paper with William H. Dietz, MD, PhD, FAAP, Director of the Division of Nutrition, Physical Activity and Obesity at the Centers for Disease Control, titled, "[Childhood Obesity: The New Tobacco.](#)"