



April 23, 2010

Federal Legislative Update

Pediatrician Donald Berwick nominated to Lead CMS

On Monday, President Obama officially nominated pediatrician Donald Berwick, MD, to lead the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS). Dr. Berwick is currently the president and CEO of the Institute for Healthcare Improvement and a Harvard University professor who is known for raising the profile of quality improvement and its impact on patients. If confirmed, Dr. Berwick would fill a position that has had no permanent occupant since Mark McClellan stepped down from the role in 2006. Dr. Berwick would oversee the implementation of many of the health reform law's provisions, including the expansion of Medicaid.

The Senate Finance Committee will oversee Dr. Berwick's confirmation hearing, which has not yet been announced.

FIT Kids Act Moves Through House of Representatives

On Wednesday, the Fitness Integrated with Teaching Kids Act, or "FIT Kids Act," (HR 1585) passed in the U.S. House of Representatives and now moves on to the Senate. The Academy-endorsed bill would encourage children's physical activity throughout the school day so that children can learn how to live healthy, active lifestyles as part of an effort to reduce childhood obesity in the United States.

The measure would require all schools, districts and states to annually report information on school health and physical education programs to parents and families, including the amount of time students spend in required physical education classes. In addition, the bill would amend existing school programs to integrate physical activity and wellness throughout the school day and fund a study to examine the impact of health and physical activity on student achievement.

Insurance Companies Enact Health Reform Law Provision in Advance of Deadline

On Monday, insurance providers Humana, Kaiser Permanente, UnitedHealthcare and WellPoint announced that they will comply with a provision of the new health reform law that allows young adults to stay on their parents' insurance plans until age 26 before the provision requires them to in September. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius sent a letter to other insurers encouraging them to also enact the provision ahead of the law's mandated deadline of September.

SAMHSA National Children's Mental Health Awareness Day is May 6, 2010

The Academy has joined the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) and other partners to recognize National Children's Mental Health Awareness Day on May 6, 2010.

AAP is participating in a number of upcoming activities, including:

- A Capitol Hill legislative briefing on May 6 from **9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. ET**; and
- An Awareness Day Early Childhood Forum on May 6 from **7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. ET** in Washington, DC. The forum will include notable experts in the field of early childhood mental health, and **T. Berry Brazelton, MD, FAAP, will receive SAMHSA's Special Recognition Award** for his ground-breaking work over the last six decades in pediatrics and child development.

For more information on Mental Health Awareness Day events and activities, visit <http://www.awarinessevent.org>.

Additional Resources from the AAP Department of Federal Affairs

The AAP Department of Federal Affairs Member Center website (<http://federaladvocacy.aap.org>) has new resources on health reform implementation, including links to the first Kaiser Health Tracking Poll since the passage of health reform legislation last month and a new health reform implementation timeline produced by the Commonwealth Fund.