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Federal Legislative Update

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FMAP Extension and SGR Fix Legislation

Majority Leader Steny Hoyer (D-Md.) announced this week that a tax “extenders” package (HR 4213), which would revive and extend tax credits and social safety net programs through 2010, will come to a floor vote in the U.S. House of Representatives next week. The package has yet to be finalized, but will include an extension of increased federal medical assistance percentages (FMAP) and a short-term fix to the sustainable growth rate formula (SGR).

Under the bill, enhanced FMAP would be available to states through June 30, 2011, at a cost of \$24 billion over 10 years. The AAP released a Key Contact on Monday encouraging members to call their U.S. representatives to support the FMAP extension in HR 4213.

The SGR provision included in the legislation would allow for possible increases in Medicare payment rates by 1% to 2% through 2013, before a 37% cut to payments in 2015. A 21% cut to physicians' Medicare payments is scheduled to take effect June 1 unless legislation is enacted sooner.

Health Reform Implementation — *Bright Futures*

This week, the Academy sent a detailed letter to U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Kathleen Sebelius with recommendations on how to effectively implement a provision of the *Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act* (P.L. 111-148) that requires all private and public health insurance plans to cover *Bright Futures* preventive services with no cost-sharing. The AAP advised HHS to address clinical, payment, and administrative/informatics issues associated with pediatric preventive health care in its implementation of this provision. The letter is attached to this e-mail and can be found on the Department of Federal Affairs Member Center Web page: <http://FederalAdvocacy.aap.org>.

Confirmation Hearing for Donald Berwick, MD, FAAP

Yesterday, the Senate Finance Committee's chairman Max Baucus (D-Mont.) expressed hopes to have a confirmation hearing on the nomination of Donald Berwick, MD, FAAP, to become administrator of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services before the Fourth of July recess, but offered no guarantee on the timing. Last Friday, the Academy released a press statement on Dr. Berwick's nomination: www.aap.org/pressroom.

New Commitments to Reduce Childhood Obesity

On Monday, a coalition of 16 food manufacturers vowed to cut 1.5 trillion calories from their products by 2015 as part of first lady Michelle Obama's *Let's Move!* initiative to end childhood obesity, of which the AAP is a partner. The Healthy Weight Commitment Foundation—comprising firms such as Coca-Cola, Kraft Foods and Hershey—said it will cut calories by offering more low-calorie alternatives, altering existing product recipes and reducing single-serving portion sizes. Visit the Academy's Web site on the partnership with *Let's Move!* for updated information on childhood obesity prevention: <http://www.aap.org/obesity/whitehouse/index.html>.