



June 11, 2010

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## **Federal Legislative Update**

In this update:

- FMAP Extension
- Health Reform Implementation: Membership PowerPoint
- House Subcommittee Hearing on Antibiotic Resistance in Children
- Health Reform Op-ed from Indiana Chapter

### **FMAP Extension: Action Still Needed!**

Senate action on the “tax extenders” bill will continue into next week. The package currently includes a federal medical assistance percentage (FMAP) extension, unlike the House version.

The Senate’s FMAP provision would authorize an extension of emergency federal Medicaid funding, which will provide much-needed fiscal relief to states as they work to recover from the impacts of the economic recession. The FMAP provision includes six-months of extra funding that would extend the \$87 billion provided for state Medicaid programs through the stimulus bill, with more than \$24 billion in additional funding running through the end of June 2011.

With the House stripping the provision from its legislation and the delay tactics in the Senate, governors now fear their already cash-strapped states will be further damaged if they lose the FMAP funding, and have stepped up their lobbying efforts to ensure the FMAP provision remains in the package. If the FMAP provision is not included, they warn of thousands of potential layoffs and severe budget pain.

Since 60 votes are needed in the Senate to overcome procedural hurdles, Democratic leaders next week must persuade at least one Republican to vote with Democrats and ensure that all 59 Democratic members will vote to end debate. Such a cloture vote may come as soon as Tuesday. Even if there are further delays, it will be critical for the Senate to get to 60 votes in order for FMAP to ultimately pass.

**ACTION NEEDED: Call your US senators** and urge them to keep the FMAP extension in the tax extenders bill:

- 1) We must work to ensure that states can continue providing millions of children and families with access to high-quality, affordable health care through vital public programs.
- 2) As a pediatrician, I see firsthand how valuable these public programs are to the millions of children and families who depend on them for affordable, high-quality care.
- 3) Without this funding, states will be forced to make severe cuts to Medicaid payments, which will unfairly prevent some of the country’s most vulnerable children from receiving access to essential health care services.

Call the capitol operator at 202-224-3121 to contact your US senators, or visit the “Find Your Senators” box on [senate.gov](http://senate.gov).

### **Health Reform Implementation**

The Department of Federal Affairs has developed a new PowerPoint presentation on the new health reform law, its implementation timeline, and its impact on children and pediatricians.

The PowerPoint presentation can be found on the [AAP Member Center](#), and is meant to serve as an educational resource to AAP members on the Academy's priorities within health reform implementation. All members are also encouraged to use this material when presenting to other groups or audiences on health reform and to personalize the slides to fit specific presentation needs. There are detailed notes included throughout the slide deck for reference. The presentation is meant to complement the previously produced series of health reform implementation one-page fact sheets, which be found on the [Member Center](#) as well as the public AAP health reform [Web page](#).

### **House Subcommittee Hearing on Antibiotic Resistance in Children**

On June 9, John S. Bradley, MD, FAAP, member of the Academy's Committee on Infectious Diseases, testified before the House Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Health at a hearing titled, “Promoting the Development of Antibiotics and Ensuring Judicious Use in Humans.” Dr. Bradley spoke to the impact of antibiotic resistance on children's health, including the role of vaccinations and efforts to promote safer, more effective use of antibiotics. A copy of Dr. Bradley's testimony can be found [here](#).

### **Health Reform Op-ed from Indiana Chapter**

AAP District 5 chair Marilyn Bull and Sarah Stelzner and Dawn Haut from the AAP Indiana Chapter co-authored an [op-ed on health reform](#), which was published today in the Indianapolis Star.

The Department of Federal Affairs encourages all AAP members to submit opinion pieces to their local papers on health reform implementation and other timely AAP topics. For assistance in the editing and submission process, please contact Erin Wallace (202-724-3303, [ewallace@aap.org](mailto:ewallace@aap.org)) or Jamie Poslosky (202-724-3315, [jposlosky@aap.org](mailto:jposlosky@aap.org)).