

August 6, 2010

### **Federal Legislative Update**

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Before departing for a month-long August recess, the U.S. Senate passed two important child health measures this week: A measure providing an extension of federal Medicaid funding to states and a comprehensive child nutrition bill now await action by the House.

### **FMAP Passes in the Senate – House to Vote Early Next Week**

On Wednesday, the Senate voted 61-38 to end debate an aviation reauthorization bill (HR 1586) that includes an extension of federal medical assistance percentage (FMAP) funding to state Medicaid programs through June 2011. Two Republican senators from Maine, Susan Collins and Olympia Snowe, joined all 59 members of the Senate Democratic caucus in support of the motion. The revised package is fully paid for and would reduce future deficits by \$1.37 billion over the next decade.

On Thursday, the Senate voted to pass the bill, which provides a total of \$26.1 billion in state aid—\$10 billion for education programs and \$16.1 billion for extended FMAP.

Following the Senate's passage of HR 1586, Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) called the House of Representatives back into session next week to vote on the measure. The House adjourned for August recess last Friday and was not scheduled to return until Sept. 14. The Senate began its recess late yesterday evening and will reconvene on Sept. 13.

Should the House approve the bill next week, it would go to President Obama for signature. The Academy released a [press statement](#) in support of the Senate's vote and urges the House to follow suit and pass the measure next week. Visit [federaladvocacy.aap.org](http://federaladvocacy.aap.org) to take action on the FMAP provision.

## Child Nutrition Legislation Passes in the Senate

Following a week that featured prominent calls for action by [First Lady Michelle Obama](#) and [Sen. Richard Lugar \(R-Ind.\)](#), as well as increased advocacy from the AAP and other child health groups, the Senate passed the *Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act* (S 3307) on Thursday before departing for August recess.

The bill makes significant progress toward ending childhood hunger and obesity by expanding access to federal child nutrition programs and improving the nutritional value they provide. The AAP released a [press statement](#) in support of the Senate's passage of the bill, and encourages the House to follow the Senate's action by taking up legislation to reauthorize these vital programs when Congress reconvenes in September.

Please visit [federaladvocacy.aap.org](http://federaladvocacy.aap.org) for additional advocacy opportunities on this bill.

## Health Reform Implementation: Update on Regulations

This week, the AAP submitted comments to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services on the following regulations to provisions within the Affordable Care Act:

- **Age 26.** In partnership with the Society for Adolescent Health and Medicine (SAHM), the Academy submitted [comments](#) on the regulation allowing many young adults to remain on their parents' health insurance up to age 26.
- **Grandfathered health plans.** The Academy also filed [comments](#) on a regulation setting forth rules for "grandfathered" health plans, or plans that were already in existence when the Affordable Care Act was signed into law last March (as long as those plans have not made any significant changes in coverage like spiking premiums or slashing benefits). Grandfathered plans are not required to provide some of the new law's consumer protections, including the ability to designate a pediatrician, receive preventive services with no co-pay and waive limits on annual benefits for plans offered in the individual insurance market.