



November 13, 2009

FEDERAL HEALTH REFORM UPDATE

House

In a rare Saturday session last weekend, the United States House of Representatives voted and passed its latest health reform bill, the *Affordable Health Care for America Act* (HR 3962), 220 to 215. While it is far from perfect, AAP does support several of the children's health provisions within the bill. To see the Academy's statement on HR 3962's passage, visit [AAP.org's health care reform Web page](http://AAP.org's_health_care_reform_Web_page).

The House also voted 240-194 to pass an amendment introduced by Rep. Bart Stupak (D-Mich.) that would ban the House's proposed public health insurance plan option from covering abortion services. In addition, the amendment would not allow people who receive federal government subsidies to purchase private plans that cover abortion services. This amendment has raised alarm among many pro-choice advocacy groups as well as pro-choice members of Congress from both chambers, and a Senate floor debate over abortion coverage is expected when they vote on their version of a health reform bill.

This week, House Majority Leader Steny Hoyer (D-Md.) revised his chamber's schedule to follow suit with Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid's (D-Nev.) recent motion allowing the Senate to start debating health reform legislation next week. Rep. Hoyer's new schedule keeps the House in session for the weeks of Nov. 16, Nov. 30 and Dec. 14. Votes may also be scheduled for Dec. 21 and Dec. 22, the week of Christmas, depending on Senate action.

Senate

All eyes are on the Senate as Leadership continues to gather support of 60 senators, which is necessary in order to proceed to vote on their health reform bill. The Senate is waiting on a Congressional Budget Office (CBO) cost analysis, or "score," of its bill, which was not released this week as Democratic leaders had hoped. Leadership anticipates CBO scores will be finished next week, which could perhaps delay the vote on the Senate's motion to proceed until after the Thanksgiving recess.

ADDITIONAL ONLINE RESOURCES

The Department of Federal Affairs recently added a comprehensive analysis of children's health provisions within the House's health reform bill, HR 3962. Log into the Member Center at <http://www.aap.org/moc/> and click on the Health Care Reform icon—the HR 3962 analysis document is highlighted as "new" in the "Learn More!" section. We will continue to keep this page updated with resources and information on health reform.

Become a fan of the **Department of Federal Affairs' new Facebook page** by going to:
<http://www.facebook.com/pages/American-Academy-of-Pediatrics-Department-of-Federal-Affairs/197242991030>.

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The Department of Federal Affairs is here to support you, and we are more than willing to answer any questions you may have. Please contact Jamie Poslosky (jposlosky@aap.org) or Bob Hall (rhall@aap.org) if you have any questions.