
Moratorium on Medicaid Regulations Signed into Law

The President has signed into law the war supplemental spending bill, which provides a moratorium on six Medicaid regulations, including the rehabilitation services option and the case management/targeted case management regulations. The moratorium is effective through April 1, 2009. On June 26, the Senate passed by a vote of 92-6 the House's version of the domestic amendment to the supplemental, which included the moratorium. Thank you for advocating on this important issue.

Medicare Legislation Stalls in Senate

The Senate was not able to agree to take up H.R. 6331, The Medicare Improvements for Patients and Providers Act, on the Senate floor last week. The bill failed in the Senate by a single vote. Under the unanimous consent agreement in effect, 60 votes were needed.

President Bush announced that CMS will not process Medicare payments to physicians for 10 days to allow Congress more time to pass the legislation. Congress is expected to take up the bill when they return from their July 4 recess.

Senate Action on Housing Legislation Resumes After Congressional Recess

Senate action has stalled on H.R. 3221, the Housing and Economic Recovery Act of 2008,

which would create and fund a national affordable housing trust fund. While the bill has broad bipartisan support, it is currently on hold due to a request by Senator John Ensign (R-NV) to hold a vote on inclusion of an amendment which would add \$8.2 billion in renewable energy tax credits. Senator Ensign's bill, co-sponsored by Senator Maria Cantwell (D-WA), also has broad bipartisan support, but Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid is resisting the addition of non-housing related amendments to H.R. 3221. The Senate is expected to resume action on H.R. 3221 during the week of July 7.

The Housing and Economic Recovery Act is in three sections, and the section which includes the housing trust fund passed on June 25 with a vote of 79-16. Once the full bill passes, it will go back to the House and then on to conference committee to reconcile the differences between the House and Senate bills. The White House has issued a veto threat on the bill, citing opposition to almost \$4 billion in community development block grants which would allow communities to buy foreclosed properties. It is expected that an amendment will be introduced in the Senate which would remove that funding, and House Financial Services Committee Chairman Barney Frank (D-MA) has said that the House would be willing to drop that funding if it meant the bill would be signed by the president.

You can see how your senators voted on June 25 [here](#). Please consider saying "thank you" to senators who voted in support of the trust fund.