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LSA Washington

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Senate Likely to Pass Housing Trust Fund Legislation

After significant delays over the past several weeks, the Senate is expected to pass H.R. 3221, the Housing and Economic Recovery Act, which would create and fund a national affordable housing trust fund. The legislation is expected to pass the Senate Thursday afternoon. The legislation will now move back to the House, where differences between the House and Senate versions of the bill will be worked out. Support for the Housing Trust Fund is broad in both the House and the Senate, and it is not expected to be a point of contention as the legislation moves forward.

The bill was voted on in three sections; the first section contained the language which would create and fund the affordable housing trust fund. You can find how your Senator voted on this section [here](#). Please consider calling your Senators who voted in support of the bill to thank them for supporting the National Housing Trust Fund. For more information on the trust fund, please visit the National Housing Trust Fund Campaign website at www.nhtf.org.

Senate Passes Medicare Bill by a Veto-Proof Majority

On July 9 the Senate passed H.R. 6331, the Medicare Improvements for Patients and Providers Act by a vote of 355-59. All of the

Democrats voted in favor of H.R. 6331, with Senator Kennedy (D-MA) returning to the Senate for the first time since being diagnosed with cancer, to cast the 60th vote. Nine Republican Senators, who opposed the bill two weeks ago, voted in favor of the bill, including Senators Alexander (TN), Chambliss (GA), Corker (TN), Cornyn (TX), Hutchison (TX), Isakson (GA), Martinez (FL), Specter (PA) and Warner (VA). If you are from one of these nine states, please call your Senator to thank him for his support of this important bill. Advocates are welcome to use the National Council on Aging's toll-free number to contact Congress: 1-866-622-2184.

H.R. 6331 is likely to be vetoed by the President soon. If the bill is vetoed, advocacy will be needed to encourage the House and especially the Senate to override the veto. Thanks to the many advocates who have spoken out on this important issue.

LSA July 17 Public Policy Call to Focus on Remainder of 110th Congress

Please join LSA public policy staff at 2:00 pm Eastern on July 17 for a conference call on what to expect from the remainder of the 110th Congress. LSA public policy staff will highlight what has been accomplished so far, what to expect with federal funding, and what Congress is likely to consider in the remaining days of this Congress. To RSVP, please email advocacy@lutheranservices.org.