

Policy and Advocacy Update #13
September 9, 2011

United States Congress

AACP signs letter to appropriators: The Coalition for Health Funding and the Committee for Education Funding joined forces for another successful joint letter to the Chairs and Ranking Members of the United States House of Representatives and Senate Committee on Appropriations. The letter seeks the support of the respective individuals for FY12 funding levels that “recognize health, education, job training, children’s and social services programs as critical national priorities as you determine the final 302(b) allocations for the FY 2012 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations bills.” AACP was among 532 organizations that signed on to the letter.

Senate releases funding levels: On Wednesday the Senate Committee on Appropriations made public the FY12 funding levels for the 12 appropriations subcommittees, referred to as 302B allocations. The overall funding level of \$1.043 trillion is the level established by the Budget Control Act of 2011. The FY12 funding level of the Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education (LaborH) subcommittee is \$157.1 billion which is \$300 million less than FY11 and \$23 billion than the President’s request. Early this session the House allocated \$1.019 billion for their FY12 302B allocations, but in light of the BCA passage there is the potential that the House LaborH allocation could be higher than the originally proposed \$139 billion. There is a chance that additional funds will be made available to Transportation and the LaborH committees although discussions on Thursday put any increase in jeopardy.

House cancels LaborH mark up: The House Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services and Education (LaborH) had been scheduled to mark up the FY12 bill this Friday. Yesterday the House cancelled that markup. The reason is most likely House Tea Party member telling the House leadership that they would not support any increase to the LaborH accounts and that the funding levels established in the House passed budget resolution (\$1.019 trillion total) should be the ceiling for total spending, not the \$1.043 trillion established by the Budget Control Act. The LaborH bill funds the majority of programs of interest to faculty at colleges and schools of pharmacy including the NIH, CDC and HRSA. It also funds student financial assistance programs administered by the Department of Education.

Administration

Q &A website for program integrity: The United States Department of Education created a web site that includes frequently asked questions related to the program integrity provisions included in the Higher Education Act. The web site includes FAQs for state authorization, credit hour, gainful employment and other program integrity regulations. The web page includes links to additional information that supports a particular issue.

Partner with your IT faculty: The National Institutes of Health published a notice on September 2 regarding grant availability for the creation of smart-phone based applications that improve patient-provider communications to support patient self-management programs. The concept of data

collection and application development is a focus of many groups including NIH and Health 2.0. The NIH opportunity and opportunities put forth by Health 2.0 are excellent for creating partnerships with faculty in information technology. The submission deadline for the NIH grant is September 7, 2014.

AACP staff is very interested in how our faculty members are engaging in this type of partnership opportunity. If you submit an application to this NIH program please let Will Lang or Whitney Zatzkin know!

HP 2020 tools available: The Department of Health and Human Services is making a new resource available to help you assist your community in meeting the Healthy People 2020 (HP 2020) objectives. MAP-IT is a resource to help Mobilize, Assess, Plan, Implement and Track HP 2020 objectives in your community.

Build awareness of your partnerships: As some of you heard from Dr. Greg Holzman at the annual meeting, the Office of State, Tribal, Local and Territorial Support wants to hear from you! The OSTLTS has just put together two new communication vehicles. The first "Have You Heard? Facts From the Field" is the perfect opportunity for faculty at colleges and schools of pharmacy to heighten the awareness of policy makers, public health departments and the general public about the partnerships you develop with state, local and tribal health departments. Information about your partnerships and the benefits to patients and communities would be worthwhile additions to this communication vehicle that is shared via email and on the CDC website.

The second communication vehicle is "Did You Know." This is a weekly feature from the OSTLTS "to inform your prevention activities." This could be very useful information to build your partnerships with state, local and tribal health departments.

HRSA PSPC webinar: Please join the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy (AACCP) and HRSA's Office of Pharmacy Affairs and the Patient Safety and Clinical Pharmacy Services Collaborative (PSPC), in a learning Webinar about the kick off of PSPC 4.0, PSPC's fourth year, on 9/14/11 from 3:30PM – 4:30PM. The PSPC is a national quality improvement effort to improve patient safety and health outcomes focused on reduction of medication adverse events. We look towards the future and identify opportunities to create further alignment and synergy, as additional PSPC teams are rolled out

Webinar access information - September 14, 2011 (3:30-4:30pm EDT)

AUDIO:

Conference telephone #: 888-566-1385

Passcode: 6015194

INTERNET:

On the day of the webinar, please log on at <https://hrsa.connectsolutions.com/pspcinformation/>

To ensure proper functionality on the day of the webinar, please test your connection at https://hrsa.connectsolutions.com/common/help/en/support/meeting_test.htm

To get an overview of the platform we'll be using, please visit:

http://www.adobe.com/go/connectpro_overview