

Policy and Advocacy Update #16

October 30, 2009

Healthcare reform bills advance: The House of Representatives prepares to unveil legislation on Thursday that is a product of the merged bills produced by the House Committees on Education and Workforce, Energy and Commerce, and Ways and Means. Consideration of this legislation could take place by the full House as early as the middle of next week.

The Senate, through the Office of the Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-NV) sent legislation based on the merging of the Senate Committees on Health, Education, Labor, and Pension, and Finance, to the Congressional Budget Office to be scored. Final passage in either chamber not to be expected for a least a couple of weeks after initial opening statements due to the expected number of amendments that will be filed.

AACP has prepared a letter asking for congressional passage of healthcare reform legislation because of the provisions included in both House and Senate proposals that provide opportunities for improving the quality of care American's have access to through the evidence created by academic pharmacy and the profession of pharmacy. The letter will be sent to all members of Congress and will be posted to the AACP advocacy website.

Both chambers will post their merged legislation to the Thomas website supported by the Library of Congress. This webpage can be accessed at: <http://thomas.loc.gov>

CR will keep government operating: The House is prepared to attach a continuing resolution (CR) to the Interior and Environment Appropriations legislation on Thursday. The CR will keep the federal government operating at FY09 funding levels through December 18, 2009.

Healthy People 2020 seeks public comments: The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) has released an initial draft of proposed objectives for Healthy People 2020. Public comment will open on Friday October 30, 2009. AACP members are encouraged to read the proposed objectives and forward their comments to both HHS and AACP (wlang@aacp.org)

AACP will review the proposed guidelines and comment on those that academic pharmacy has the capacity to influence.

The proposed objectives are available on the Healthy People website:
<http://www.healthypeople.gov/hp2020/Objectives/TopicAreas.aspx>

Department of Education revises accreditation rules: On Tuesday October 27, 2009 the U.S. Department of Education published the final rules for implementation of

provisions included in the Higher Education Reconciliation Act of 2005 and the Higher Education Opportunity Act. These rules are effective as of July 1, 2010. These final rules were established through the negotiated rule making process during a series of meetings between department and higher education institutions representatives earlier this year. The Higher Education Act requires the department to engage in negotiated rulemaking when amending any rules implementing Title IV of the Act.

The final rules include issues associated with distance education, transfer of credits, and accreditation. The accreditation rules pertain to: due process; teach out plans; accreditation team member training; monitoring of institutions enrollment growth;

The rules may be read in their entirety by following this Federal Register link:
<http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2009/E9-25186.htm>

Please respond!: The item below is reprinted from the AACCP E-Alert published on July 9, 2009. The research which is dependent on a high response rate to this survey request. The results will be valuable to the academy as well as to strengthening our relationship with the Food and Drug Administration. PLEASE make sure your institution is responding to the survey.

Urgent Request from AACCP!

We know that you receive MANY requests (too many?!) to complete surveys. We strongly request that you take the time to complete the SCIENCE OF SAFETY survey that has been sent to curriculum chairs and others (as appropriate) at your institution. This FDA-supported survey is essential for continued relationship development between the FDA and academic pharmacy. If you think you should have received a survey and have NOT, please contact Donna West at the University of Mississippi dswest@olemiss.edu. Thank you!

One more important action request:

Deans have received the following message twice during this week. We still need you to take action, as a demonstration of your support for American Pharmacy Educators Week, and seek cosponsorship of the resolution by the member of the House of Representatives that represents the district in which your institution is located. Please ACT TODAY!

On Thursday October 22, Representative Jim McGovern (D-MA) introduced a resolution for American Pharmacy Educator Week, House Resolution 857. The text of the resolution is available here: http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getdoc.cgi?dbname=111_cong_bills&docid=f:hr857ih.txt.pdf

We need each of you to contact the office of the member of the United States House of Representatives that represents the district in which your college or school of pharmacy is located and ask him or her to co-sponsor this resolution.

A suggested approach: If you do not know your member, follow this link and enter the zip code for your institution: <http://capwiz.com/taacp/dbq/officials/>

Contact the office and ask to speak with the legislative director or the Chief of Staff. Introduce yourself and position at your institution.

- Tell the individual that you are calling to request that the Congressman or Congresswoman sign on to the resolution in support of American Pharmacy Educator Week.
- Ask them if they WILL co-sponsor the resolution.

The contact person in Mr. McGovern's office for additional information is Lisa Salerno lisa.salerno@mail.house.gov.

Title: Expressing support for designation of the week of October 25, 2009, through October 31, 2009, as American Pharmacy Educator Week.

Sponsor: Rep McGovern, James P. [D-MA-3] (introduced 10/22/2009)

Cosponsors: (none)

House Resolution 857

Committees: House Oversight and Government Reform

Latest Major Action: 10/22/2009 Referred to House committee. Status: Referred to the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

Final step:

Please send a letter/note to Congressman McGovern thanking him for his support of academic pharmacy (he was the primary sponsor of past pharmacy education/workforce bills).

Congressman Jim McGovern
United States House of Representatives
438 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515