



HMHB Resource Watch

HEALTHY MOTHERS, HEALTHY BABIES
Coalition of Georgia

Improving the health status of Georgia's families.

Legislative Update

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October 31, 2007

Capitol Hill Watch | Senate Majority Leader Reid Requests Delay in Senate Vote; President Bush Says He Will Not Sign SCHIP Legislation That Includes Cigarette Tax Increase

Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-Nev.) on Tuesday said he is willing to delay a vote on revised legislation ([HR 3963](#)) that would reauthorize and expand SCHIP to compromise further with House Republicans, with the hopes of obtaining a veto-proof majority in the House. [The Hill](#) reports (Raju/Kaplan, *The Hill*, 10/31). The legislation -- which is similar to the bill [vetoed](#) by President Bush earlier this month -- would expand SCHIP to cover 10 million children and increase spending on the program to \$35 billion over five years, funded with a 61-cent-per-pack increase in the federal cigarette tax. The bill would limit coverage to children in families with annual incomes below 300% of the federal poverty level. The House last week failed to pass the revised bill with a veto-proof majority ([Kaiser Daily Health Policy Report](#), 10/30).

Reid said that Sen. Orrin Hatch (R-Utah) and Senate Finance Committee Chair Max Baucus (D-Mont.) asked him to delay the vote on the bill so that they could draft an amendment that might draw more House support. Hatch and Baucus, along with Senate Finance Committee ranking member Chuck Grassley (R-Iowa) and Sen. John Rockefeller (D-W.Va.), met Tuesday with House Minority Leader John Boehner (R-Ohio) and Minority Whip Roy Blunt (R-Mo.) to discuss possible concessions.

The meeting, which "paired the bill's authors and strongest supporters with the two men who had, until now, been its strongest opponents," did not result in a compromise on changes to the bill, but the lawmakers agreed to meet again, according to *CQ Today*. The additional discussions "will inevitably take more time," which is why Reid requested the delay, *CQ Today* reports.

Reid requested consent to alter the Senate's schedule so that the chamber would first discuss a farm policy overhaul bill, which is expected to take more than a week to finish (Wayne, *CQ Today*, 10/30). However, Senate Minority Whip Trent Lott (R-Miss.) objected to Reid's request to delay a vote on the bill, noting that Reid had not discussed the delay with him or Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.) (*CQ Today*, 10/30). Lott said Republicans want to retain their right to filibuster the bill (Wayne, *CQ Today*, 10/30).

Lott said, "We ought to continue trying to find a solution," adding, "Unfortunately, there has been no real consultation with the leadership on this side of the aisle by those conducting these nego-

tiations, or with the White House" (*CQ Today*, 10/30). An aide said that Republican leaders are willing to delay the vote until Thursday, but no further. If Reid uses his right as majority leader to delay the vote further, Lott said Senate Republicans might delay the vote into Thanksgiving week (Johnson, *CongressDaily*, 10/31). If Reid and McConnell can agree to changes in the chamber's schedule, the cloture vote scheduled for 6:30 p.m. Wednesday will be delayed (*CQ Today*, 10/30).

Meeting Details

Baucus and Grassley are considering an amendment that would lower the maximum income eligibility level for the program below 300% of the poverty level, according to a source, *CongressDaily* reports. However, it is "unclear whether the changes would persuade House Republicans who have twice voted against the bill," according to *CongressDaily*. Grassley said, "You never know. You just try." If an amendment is added to the Senate bill, the House will need to re-vote on the measure before it can be sent to the White House (Johnson/Bourge, *CongressDaily*, 10/30).

Rep. Diana DeGette (D-Colo.) said she expects that House Democratic leaders will request that Baucus and Grassley produce a list of names of House Republicans pledging to support an amended bill (Wayne, *CQ Today*, 10/30). Meanwhile, meetings between House Majority Leader Steny Hoyer (D-Md.) and Democratic Caucus Chair Rahm Emanuel (D-Ill.), and Reps. Judy Biggert (R-Ill.), Jeff Fortenberry (R-Neb.), Ginny Brown-Waite (R-Fla.) and Joe Knollenberg (R-Mich.) are expected to continue talks started on Monday (*The Hill*, 10/31).

No New Taxes

Bush on Tuesday told Republicans in a closed-door meeting that he will not support the SCHIP bill if it includes a cigarette tax increase, according to officials who attended the meeting, the *AP/Houston Chronicle* reports. The decision "virtually ensures a renewed veto struggle with" Congress, according to the *AP/Chronicle*. According to the officials, who spoke on the condition of anonymity, Bush said he wanted budget director Jim Nussle to identify spending cuts that could pay for an expansion of the program. Bush said that if he signed the SCHIP measure, it would be difficult for him to draw the line on other spending measures that rely on tax increases for funding, officials said. However, "in an ominous sign for the White House," Boehner and Blunt on Tuesday said that they might support an SCHIP bill that Bush vetoes (*AP/Houston Chronicle*, 10/31). Boehner said that it is "always a possibility" that he might support a vetoed bill, while Blunt said he would "have to see the bill" before deciding (*AP/San Diego Union-Tribune*, 10/31). Boehner and Blunt's comments "were the clearest sign yet that even Bush's most loyal House allies are eager for an end to the impasse," according to the *AP/Chronicle*

Inside this issue:

Legislative Updates	1
News from National	2
News from National	3
Other News	4

(*AP/Houston Chronicle*, 10/31).

Funding Shortfalls

Twenty-one states will experience SCHIP funding shortfalls in the current fiscal year, and at least nine will experience shortfalls in March 2008, if Congress continues to fund the program at its current level of \$5 billion for the fiscal year that began on Oct. 1, according to a study by the Congressional Research Service, the *New York Times* reports. States expect to spend \$7.6 billion in the current fiscal year, and the program requires an additional \$1.6 billion in funding to prevent the shortfalls, according to the study.

The nine states that will run out of funding in March are Alaska, Georgia, Illinois, Iowa, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Jersey and Rhode Island. The bill passed by the House last week would have provided states with \$9 billion in the current fiscal year -- 80% more than current allotments -- and allotments would have more than doubled in 14 states, including Georgia, Illinois, Iowa, Maine, Massachusetts, Mississippi and North Carolina, the study found.

Lesley Cummings, executive director of the agency that runs [Healthy Families](#), California's SCHIP, said, "The stalemate in Washington is having a real impact on children here," adding, "Given continued uncertainty, we will have to start dropping children from the program -- 64,000 a month, starting in January -- to save money. This is getting less and less hypothetical" (Pear, *New York Times*, 10/31).

Source: http://www.kaisernetwork.org/daily_reports/rep_index.cfm?DR_ID=48553

News From National Healthy Mothers, Healthy Babies- October 1, 2007

MATERNAL-INFANT HEALTH NEWS

1) NOVEMBER 4-10: NATIONAL INFERTILITY AWARENESS WEEK

November 4-10 is the 2007 National Infertility Awareness Week, sponsored by Resolve: The National Infertility Association and supported by the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG). Each year during this observance, Resolve regions and affiliates across the country host educational and information events for women and couples suffering from infertility. To find a local Resolve-sponsored support group or event, go to <http://www.resolve.org/site/PageServer?pagename=Calendar>. For support materials related to infertility, go to the Resolve homepage: <http://www.resolve.org>.

2) STUDY EXAMINES VBAC AFTER TWINS

New findings published in the journal *Obstetrics and Gynecology* examine vaginal birth after cesarean (VBAC) for women who have previously delivered twins. The study suggests that women who have undergone c-section delivery with two or more infants can usually give birth naturally in future "singleton" births. It compared the outcome of single-infant pregnancies among 944 women who had one prior c-section for a multi-infant pregnancy to the pregnancy outcome of 28,329 women who had experienced one prior c-section for a single-infant pregnancy. Newborns of mothers who previously had a multiple-pregnancy c-section had high trial of labor success rates and low complication rates. For the abstract, go to <http://www.greenjournal.org/cgi/content/abstract/110/4/814>.

3) MARCH OF DIMES ANNOUNCES COMPENDIUM ON PRETERM BIRTH

The March of Dimes has released a new online curriculum providing free continuing education credits for health professionals. Focused on how to detect patients at risk for early delivery and assess behaviors that trigger premature birth, the compendium can be used for self-study or group presentations and features downloadable slide sets for presentations. Included are evidence-based perinatal and neonatal medical references and recommended readings, as well as print and online resources for both professionals and consumers. The Association of Reproductive Health Professionals (ARHP) provides free CMEs and contact hours, which professional organizations may recognize for elective credit. The Compendium was developed in partnership with the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG) and the Association of Women's Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses (AWHONN). To learn more, visit http://www.marchofdimes.com/prematurity/21329_20738.asp.

CHILD, ADOLESCENT, FAMILY & COMMUNITY HEALTH NEWS

4) CDC LAUNCHES REDESIGNED SPANISH-LANGUAGE SITE

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has launched its Spanish-language website, CDC en Español, at <http://www.cdc.gov/spanish>. Health and safety information is now grouped in broad, easy-to-browse topic areas, and there is better access to data and statistics, recent news, tools and new publications. A new Google-based search engine provides better search results, and an interactive feature at the top of the homepage highlights current issues. According to CDC, "The updated website is another important step in [our] longstanding efforts to provide accurate, up-to-date information in Spanish on health issues of special interest to Hispanic communities, including information on a wide range of health promotion and disease prevention topics like asthma, cancer, HIV/AIDS, immunizations, children's health, diabetes and occupational hazards." To take a virtual tour of the new site's features, go to <http://www.cdc.gov/spanish/especialesCDC/tour.html>. To send an e-card sharing the news of the new site, go to <http://www2a.cdc.gov/ecards/spanish>.

5) NIH SEEKS "PARTNERS IN RESEARCH"

The Public Trust Initiative (PTI) of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) has launched a new "Partners in Research" program. It is designed to support studies of innovative programs improving public understanding of healthcare research and to promote collaboration between scientists and community-based organizations. Partners in Research will engage a diverse group of scientists, patient advocacy groups, community leaders and members of the public, developing partnerships between scientific or research institutions and community organizations. According to Dr. Yvonne Maddox, Deputy Director of the National Institute of Child Health & Human Development and co-chair of the PTI, "The public has participated in NIH-supported studies at medical centers around the country for many years, and their participation has led to major medical advances that benefit all people. And now through this Public Trust Initiative, community organizations will become full partners with researchers, participating in research that will address the health needs of their communities. These organizations will also play a

key role in communicating health-related findings back to their communities." The NIH Partners in Research RFA is available at: <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/rfa-files/RFA-OD-07-001.html>.

ADVOCATES IN ACTION

6) NOVEMBER 2: DEADLINE FOR LAMAZE GRANT APPLICANTS

Lamaze International has announced November 2 at 5 p.m. (EST) as the deadline to apply for its Birth Network Mini-Grants and Community-Based Outreach Grants. The Birth Network Mini-Grant "encourages the development or expansion of community-based networks that bring the public and birth professionals together." This year the Lamaze Institute will give priority funding to projects that work toward improving public reporting and transparency in maternity care. The Community-Based Outreach Grants support Lamaze Certified Childbirth Educators and Lamaze Approved Providers who currently provide or would like to expand their Lamaze education services to underserved or vulnerable populations. Applicants must complete the online application. For more information, go to <http://www.lamaze.org/Default.aspx?tabid=118> or send email to info@lamaze.org.

NONPROFIT MANAGEMENT

7) PANEL ON THE NONPROFIT SECTOR RELEASES ETHICS GUIDE

The Panel on the Nonprofit Sector, a group of foundation and nonprofit officials convened at the behest of Congress to improve accountability and ethical practice, has released its guide to ethical conduct, accountability and transparency for nonprofits and foundations. "Principles for Good Governance and Ethical Practice: A Guide for Charities and Foundations" covers legal compliance and public disclosure, effective governance, strong financial oversight and responsible fundraising. It's designed as a practical tool for nonprofits to examine their operations and pinpoint areas for improvement. To learn more and to sign on to the Principles, go to <http://www.nonprofitpanel.org>.

Sources:

<http://www.resolve.org>
<http://www.greenjournal.org>
<http://www.marchofdimes.com>
<http://www.cdc.gov/spanish>
<http://grants.nih.gov>
<http://www.lamaze.org>
<http://www.nonprofitpanel.org>

News From National Healthy Mothers, Healthy Babies— October 22, 2007

MATERNAL-INFANT HEALTH NEWS

1) PERINATAL DEPRESSION BILL PASSES HOUSE OF REPS

Last week the full US House of Representatives passed HR 20, the Melanie Blocker Stokes Depression Research and Care Act, with support from a coalition of elected officials, nonprofit organizations and grassroots community activists. The bill now goes to the US Senate for approval. Introduced in the House by Congressman Bobby Rush [D-IL] and strongly backed by organizations including the American Psychological Association (APA), Postpartum Support International (PSI) and the Suicide Prevention Action Network, the bill was first introduced in 2001 after the tragic death of Chicago mother Melanie Blocker Stokes. "After six long years, today marks an important step in the protracted journey for Congress to recognize postpartum depression as a national priority," said Rep. Rush on the House floor before the vote. "By passing HR 20, Congress, and our nation, will finally put significant money and attention into research, screening, treatment, and education for mothers suffering and

surviving this serious, debilitating, and often life-threatening disease." For more on the bill's passage from PSI and Rep. Rush's office, go to <http://www.postpartum.net/legislativeupdates.html>.

2) STUDY: OBESITY ASSOCIATED WITH DOUBLE RISK OF STILLBIRTH

A new study published in the American Journal of Obstetrics and Gynecology finds that pregnant women who are significantly overweight or obese have more than double the risk of a stillbirth, compared with women of normal weight. A research team from the Centers for Diseases Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Institute for Clinical Research and Health Policy Studies conducted a meta-analysis of data from nine studies published between 1993 and 2005. Although the reason for the association has not been established, the researchers say several explanations are possible. Among them: Obesity increases the risk of gestational diabetes and hypertensive disorders, which are risk factors for stillbirth. Obese women may also be less able to perceive decreased fetal movements, and therefore be less likely to get prompt medical treatment. And obese women may have more extended periods of snoring and oxygen desaturation during sleep, leading to reduced blood flow to the fetus. The research team suggests that "Given the numerous other benefits of weight reduction, obese women should be encouraged to undertake a weight reduction program before attempting pregnancy." For ACOG's guidelines on obesity during pregnancy, go to http://www.acog.org/from_home/publications/press_releases/nr08-31-05-2.cfm.

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3) FAILING GRADES ON WOMEN'S HEALTH REPORT CARD

A report card on the state of US women's health released last week by the National Women's Law Center and the Oregon Health and Science University shows failing grades. The report card, "Making the Grade on Women's Health: A National and State-by-State Report Card," measured women's health in all 50 states and Washington, DC, using 27 benchmarks from the HHS Healthy People 2010 campaign. None of the states received a fully "satisfactory" grade in women's health, and 11 states and D.C. received "unsatisfactory" grades. Only three of the benchmarks are currently being met: women receiving regular dental care, women over 40 receiving mammograms and women over 50 receiving colorectal cancer screening. The report finds that several benchmarks – including women receiving prenatal care, infant mortality and the percentage of uninsured women – varies significantly by race. While 87.5 percent of white women receive prenatal care, only 70.8 percent of American Indians, 75.9 percent of blacks and 77.5 percent of Hispanic women do. To view the report card, go to <http://hrc.nwlc.org>.

CHILD, ADOLESCENT, FAMILY & COMMUNITY HEALTH NEWS

4) REPORT: SAFETY OF CHILDREN & TEENS DURING PANDEMIC FLU

Earlier this month, the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) and Trust for America's Health (TFAH) issued a report which finds that children and teens between birth and age 19 account for nearly 46 percent of all H5N1 "bird flu" deaths. The report, "Pandemic Influenza: Warning, Children at Risk," also identifies gaps in US preparedness for treating and caring for children during a possible pandemic flu outbreak. Four key areas of concern raised in the report include: child-appropriate doses of vaccine and medications; management and treatment of children who become ill; including children in strategies to slow the spread of influenza in communities; and caring for and supervising the health of children if schools and childcare facilities are closed for extended periods of time. The AAP and TFAH recommend specific actions to ensure the health and welfare of the nation's children are protected in the event of a flu pandemic. For more about the report, go to <http://healthyamericans.org/reports/fluchildren>. To download the report as a PDF, go to <http://healthyamericans.org/reports/fluchildren/KidsPandemicFlu.pdf>.

ADVOCATES IN ACTION

5) CALIFORNIA PASSES LANDMARK TOXIC TOYS BILL

Last week California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger signed into law AB 1108, the state's Toxic Toys Bill, making it the first state in the nation to ban the use of chemicals called phthalates (pronounced "tha-lates") from children's products. Phthalates are added to plastic to make it soft and flexible, and have been used in soft plastic toys and other baby products, such as teething rings, bath books and rubber ducks. Because phthalates are not chemically bonded to the plastic, they may be easily released, leaching out of the products and into children's bodies – for example, when a baby sucks on a teething ring or toy. Phthalates have been shown to interfere with natural functioning of the hormone system, and have been linked to reproductive problems, early onset of puberty, liver and thyroid damage and testicular cancer. Data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) suggest that levels of phthalates found in humans are currently higher than the levels known to cause adverse health effects, and that phthalate levels are highest in children. California follows the European Union and 14 other nations that have already banned the use of phthalates in children's products. For more about the bill from co-sponsor Environment California, go to <http://www.environmentcalifornia.org>.

lates (pronounced "tha-lates") from children's products. Phthalates are added to plastic to make it soft and flexible, and have been used in soft plastic toys and other baby products, such as teething rings, bath books and rubber ducks. Because phthalates are not chemically bonded to the plastic, they may be easily released, leaching out of the products and into children's bodies – for example, when a baby sucks on a teething ring or toy. Phthalates have been shown to interfere with natural functioning of the hormone system, and have been linked to reproductive problems, early onset of puberty, liver and thyroid damage and testicular cancer. Data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) suggest that levels of phthalates found in humans are currently higher than the levels known to cause adverse health effects, and that phthalate levels are highest in children. California follows the European Union and 14 other nations that have already banned the use of phthalates in children's products. For more about the bill from co-sponsor Environment California, go to <http://www.environmentcalifornia.org>.

NONPROFIT MANAGEMENT

6) NEW TAX REQUIREMENT FOR SMALL NONPROFITS

If you are a small tax-exempt nonprofit organization with less than \$25,000 in gross receipts, you should have received a letter from the IRS about its new e-Postcard, which you are now required to submit under the Pension Protection Act of 2006 (PPA). The first e-Postcards are due in calendar year 2008, so now is the time to understand the new requirements and prepare! Check out an informative overview by Joanne Fritz, nonprofits blogger at About.com: <http://nonprofit.about.com/b/a/196568.htm?nl=1>.

Sources:

<http://www.postpartum.net>
<http://www.acog.org>
<http://hrc.nwlc.org>
<http://healthyamericans.org>
<http://www.environmentcalifornia.org>
<http://www.irs.gov>

Other Public Health News

November is.....

1 - 30
American Diabetes Month
American Diabetes Association
www.diabetes.org

1 - 30
Lung Cancer Awareness Month
Lung Cancer Alliance
www.lungcanceralliance.org

1 - 30
National Adoption Month
National Council for Adoption
www.adoptioncouncil.org

1 - 30
Prematurity Awareness Month
March of Dimes Birth Defects Foundation
www.marchofdimes.com

13
Prematurity Awareness Day
March of Dimes Birth Defects Foundation
www.marchofdimes.com

15
Great American Smokeout
American Cancer Society
www.cancer.org

26 - December 2
National Influenza Vaccination Week
National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases
www.cdc.gov/flu

Public Health Conferences and Events

November 3-7
Title: American Public Health Association 2007 Annual Meeting
Location: Washington, D.C.
See: <http://www.apha.org/meetings/>

November 7-10, 2007
Title: Children and Adults with Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder
Location: Crystal City, VA
See: <http://www.chadd.org>

November 7-10, 2007
Title: National Association for the Education of Young Children
Location: Chicago, IL
See: www.naeyc.org/conferences/

Wednesday, November 14, 2007
Title: 17th Annual Georgia Women's Assembly
Women's Math: Knowledge + Numbers = Power
See: http://www.ciclt.net/wpg/main.asp?RoutineCk=Display&Client=wpg&PT=edit_pages&Page=wpg_events

November 15-17, 2007
Title: World Congress on Disabilities
Location: Washington, DC.
See: www.wcdexpo.com/conference.cfm

November 15-17, 2007
Title: National WIC Association Technology Conference
Location: Atlanta, GA
See: www.nwica.org

November 27- 29, 2007
Title: 2007 National Prevention & Health Promotion Summit
Location: Washington DC
See: www.cdc.gov/cochp/conference/index.htm

December 12-14, 2007
Title: Thirteenth Annual Maternal and Child Health Epidemiology Conference
Location: Crowne Plaza Hotel Atlanta-Ravinia (Perimeter Center)
Atlanta, Georgia
See: <http://www.cdc.gov/reproductivehealth/MCHEpi/2007/AboutConference.htm>



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Coalition of Georgia

*Improving the health status
of Georgia's families.*

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