



PEDIATRIC POLICY COUNCIL

ACADEMIC
PEDIATRIC
ASSOCIATION

AMERICAN
PEDIATRIC
SOCIETY

ASSOCIATION OF MEDICAL
SCHOOL PEDIATRIC
DEPARTMENT CHAIRS

SOCIETY FOR
PEDIATRIC
RESEARCH

Advancing child health through public policy

Washington Update

May 22, 2014

IN THIS UPDATE:

PPC Groups Tell Congress to Keep Science in the WIC Program

House Appropriations Committee Announces Labor-HHS Allocations

House Committee Announces 21st Century Cures Initiative

PAS 2014 Conference Recap

AAP's 2014 Legislative Conference in Washington, DC

PPC Groups Tell Congress to Keep Science in the WIC Program

On May 19, the PPC groups signed on to a statement supporting preservation of the use of scientific standards to determine the structure of food packages provided through the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC), and encouraged their members to call their legislators concerning the measure. The statement was released as the House and Senate considered FY 2015 agriculture appropriations bills, and opposes efforts to use the appropriations process to change or weaken federal child nutrition programs, including WIC, the National School Lunch Program and the School Breakfast Program. The statement was sent largely in response from lobbying by the potato industry to mandate the inclusion of white potatoes in the WIC packages. Despite this and other efforts by child health advocates, the full Senate Appropriations Committee passed the FY 2015 agriculture appropriations bill by voice vote on May 22 with an amendment that included white potatoes in the WIC package.

Celebrating its 40th anniversary, WIC provides monthly food packages to low-income and nutritionally vulnerable pregnant and breastfeeding mothers and children up to age five. Created based on scientific recommendations from the Institute of Medicine (IOM), the food packages are designed to provide participants with foods that are often missing from the diets of children and mothers. The WIC statement may be found [here](#).

House Appropriations Committee Announces Labor-HHS Allocations

On May 8, the House Appropriations Committee approved FY 2015 allocations for each of the House appropriations subcommittees. The Labor-HHS-Education subcommittee, which handles appropriations for the National Institutes of Health (NIH), the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and other health agencies, received \$155.7 billion for FY 2015, \$1.1 billion less than the subcommittee's FY 2014 allocation. The Senate Labor-HHS-Education allocation, released May 19, would provide \$156.8 billion, although the amount is still potentially in flux due to a \$4 billion funding gap that must be split evenly across all 12 subcommittee spending bills. Rep. Hal Rogers (R-Ky.) and Sen. Barbara Mikulski (D-Md.), chairs of the House and Senate Appropriations Committees, have announced their intention to approve spending bills for all 12 appropriations subcommittees by next fall.

House Committee Announces 21st Century Cures Initiative

On April 30, Rep. Fred Upton (R-Mich.), chair of the House Energy and Commerce Committee, and Energy and Commerce Committee member Rep. Diana DeGette (D-Colo.) announced the launch of the 21st Century Cures Initiative. The bipartisan initiative will bring together leaders from the National Institutes of Health (NIH), the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), and other agencies, along with leaders from the private sector and academia to participate in a series of roundtable discussions to accelerate the development of medical breakthroughs and disease treatments. The first of these roundtables occurred on May 6 and involved testimony from leaders at the FDA and the NIH, including NIH Director Francis Collins, on the future of overall funding for biomedical research. The latest roundtable occurred on May 20 and involved testimony regarding the report on drug innovation released by the President's Council of Advisors on Science and Technology. More information on the 21st Century Cures Initiative may be found [here](#).

PAS 2014 Conference Recap

The Pediatric Policy Council sponsored two public policy sessions at the 2014 Pediatric Academic Societies (PAS) meeting in Vancouver. The sessions were organized in large part by Rick Bucciarelli, MD, Scott Denne, MD, and Dave Clark, MD.

During the PPC Plenary Session on May 3, panelists discussed implementation of the Affordable Care Act and its effects on child health. Mark Del Monte from the AAP Washington, DC office gave an overview of the Affordable Care Act and progress made thus far in implementing programs on the federal side. Anne Edwards, MD, Chair of the AAP Committee on State Government Affairs gave an overview of the various state approaches to ACA implementation, including full implementation, refusal of the Medicaid

expansion, state versus federally run insurance exchanges, and essential health benefits. Finally, PPC Chair Dr. Rick Bucciarelli discussed the future of health reform and its implementation over the next several years. Further discussion addressed the future of the Medicaid payment increase and the reauthorization of the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP).

During the PPC Legislative Breakfast on May 5, panelists provided their viewpoints on the future of non-governmental funding for pediatric research from both the pharmaceutical industry and non-profit sector perspectives. Panelists reviewed the current funding situation for child health research, with Shale Wong, MD of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation providing input on private foundation funding and Ron Portman, MD and Charles Thompson, MD of Bristol-Myers Squibb and Pfizer giving an overview of research funding from the industry perspective.

AAP's 2014 Legislative Conference in Washington, DC

The AAP's 2014 Legislative Conference is taking place in Washington, DC June 15-17. During the conference, pediatricians will go to Capitol Hill and urge Congress to support programs and policies that reduce toxic stress and foster resilience.

At the conference, participants will:

- Attend skills-building workshops in negotiation, social media and crafting effective messages
- Hear firsthand from distinguished guest speakers, such as members of Congress, White House officials and federal agency leaders, including Mary Wakefield, PhD, RN, Administrator, Health Resources and Services Administration, and state legislators such as pediatrician and Nevada State Delegate Andrew Eisen, MD, FAAP
- Go to Capitol Hill to urge Congress to invest in early childhood programs that reduce toxic stress and promote resilience
- Learn about federal policy priorities impacting children and pediatricians

This three-day, interactive advocacy training will allow pediatricians to learn about the current federal landscape impacting children and pediatricians, network with other advocates, and hear firsthand from leading experts about child health priorities.

Visit www.aap.org/legcon to download the [conference brochure](#), learn more about the conference and to sign up today.