



## Action Alert! – Appropriations and SCHIP

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### Greetings NASHIA Members:

The current fiscal year (2007) is ending September 30 and Congress has yet to complete any of the 12 spending bills for federal agencies and programs for Fiscal Year (FY) 2008. On Tuesday, the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor-HHS-Education approved a Continuing Resolution (CR) that would keep federal programs funded at the start of the federal fiscal year, October 1, including funding for the Federal TBI Act Programs, U.S. troops in Iraq, air traffic controllers and the SCHIP. The CR is expected to fund the government through Nov. 16 at FY 2007 levels. The Senate will probably vote on the CR today, Friday. Republicans plan to offer an amendment that would automatically keep government programs funded into a new fiscal year if appropriations work is not completed on time. Those working in Congress are predicting that members may be in session until sometime in December and that most of the appropriations bills will be wrapped up in an omnibus package.

Meanwhile, the reauthorization legislation for the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP), which was due to expire September 30, passed this week. However, the President threatens to veto the bill. (Further information and actions to be taken are provided in this Alert.)

### FY 2008 Appropriations for TBI Programs

NASHIA has signed on to the Coalition for American Trauma Care letter urging House and Senate Appropriation Committees to provide the highest possible funding for programs that support trauma care, trauma care research, EMSC, injury prevention and TBI grant funding (HRSA) when appropriators meet to resolve differences in the House and Senate versions of the FY 2008 Labor-HHS-Education appropriation bills.

The Coalition urges members to support the higher Senate number of \$10.091 million for the HRSA Federal TBI Program that assists individuals with TBI to reintegrate into communities (State and P&A Grant Programs). The House has recommended funding at the FY 2007 level which is \$8.910 million. (The President's budget includes no funding for this program.) In addition, the Coalition urges support for the higher Senate bill number of \$143,534,000 for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) National Center for Injury Prevention and Control (NCIPC). Within the total, the Coalition supports the higher Senate increase for TBI activities, which is \$1 million over FY 2007 versus the House increase of \$529,000. (The House bill provides \$140,146,000 for the NCIPC). The NCIPC supports a range of injury prevention activities and through evaluation has proven their effectiveness in many areas. The CDC TBI activities include surveillance, data collection and reporting, prevention and public education.

**ACTION:** Please contact your house/senate representative and urge him/her to support the Senate Appropriations Committee's recommendations of \$10.091 million for the Federal HRSA TBI Program (State and P&A Grant Programs) and the \$1 million increase for CDC TBI program activities for FY 2008. Talking points are posted on the NASHIA website, <http://www.nashia.org>, as well as instructions on how to contact your representative and senator.

**SCHIP**

Last night, the US Senate approved the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) reauthorization bill by a vote of 67 to 29. The bill expands SCHIP's annual budget of \$5 billion to \$12 billion for the next five years to expand coverage to 4 million children who are uninsured in the US. The agreement also includes a 6-month moratorium on proposed Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) regulations on Medicaid's rehabilitation option and school based services for Medicaid eligible children with disabilities. A moratorium was a high priority of the disability community. The bill now goes to the President who has promised to veto the bill.

The House of Representatives passed the bill by a bipartisan vote of 265-159 on Tuesday, which is about 12 votes short to override the promised veto. The vote in the Senate is more than enough to override a veto. (A vote of 2/3rds in both houses is required by the US Constitution to override a President's veto.)

**Action:** Contact your representative and urge him/her to vote **for** the State Children's Health Insurance Program bill (override) should the President veto the bill.

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*This **Action Alert** was prepared for NASHIA members by Susan L. Vaughn, Director of Public Policy, on behalf of the NASHIA Public Policy Committee, chaired by Debra Kamen. To see NASHIA's Public Policy Platform click on <http://www.nashia.org>.*

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**NASHIA is assisting State government in promoting partnerships and building systems to meet the needs of individuals with traumatic brain injury and their families.**