



CARE Act Reauthorization Watch

Volume 12, July 31, 2006

The Reauthorization Watch, produced by NASTAD, provides monthly updates on activities related to the reauthorization of the Ryan White Comprehensive AIDS Resources Emergency (CARE) Act. Please see NASTAD's [website](#) for more information.

Congressional Activities

On July 14, the staff of the four principal Members of Congress drafting the bill – Mike Enzi (R-WY), Ted Kennedy (D-MA), Joe Barton (R-TX) and John Dingell (D-MI) – held a meeting for staff with Members on the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP) and the House Energy and Commerce Committee (E&C) to discuss the latest consensus reached on formula changes to [S 2823](#). GAO has been requested to run numbers reflecting the proposed changes. A revised draft of the bill has yet to be released. It is likely that a bill will be marked up in E&C in September upon the return of Congress. Once E&C has completed action on the bill, it will then be sent onto the House and Senate floors for passage. It is understood that the bill being brought to the House and Senate floors will be identical to avoid a conference committee process.

The Senate Subcommittee on Federal Financial Management received [answers](#) to its questions for the Louisiana AIDS Program which were requested as a follow-up to the Subcommittee's April 16, 2006 hearing on "Ensuring Early Diagnosis and Access to Treatment for HIV/AIDS: Can Federal Resources Be More Effectively Targeted?"

The Administration

On July 20th, President Bush, in [addressing](#) the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People's Nation Convention, called on Congress to reauthorize and reform the CARE Act.

Updates

On June 19, Governor Corzine (D-NJ) sent a [letter](#) to the E&C Chairman and Ranking member expressing his concern regarding the impact of S 2823 on New Jersey and requesting that thorough hearings and consideration of the legislation through regular order occur. Corzine also sent a [letter](#) to Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist (R-TN) and House Speaker Dennis Hastert (R-IL) urging a delay in consideration of S 2823 or similar legislation "until the adverse impacts of the proposal on New Jersey and other states are better understood and mitigated."

On July 12, the National Alliance of State and Territorial AIDS Directors (NASTAD) sent a [letter](#) to Secretary Leavitt expressing concern that particular changes to the CARE Act that the Department is supporting weaken the role of the states in administering HIV/AIDS care and treatment programs.

On July 20, the Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists sent a [letter](#) to the four drafters expressing concern regarding the use of HIV and AIDS surveillance data in allocating resources and the development of a duplication penalty.

The July-August edition of [Health Affairs](#) (25(4):1103-12) includes an article authored by Martin, Pollack, and Paltiel entitled “Fact, Fiction, and Fairness: Resource Allocation under the Ryan White CARE Act.” The authors found that urban concentration of AIDS cases is the dominant predictor of state funding while poverty rates or racial/ethnic diversity played a much smaller role.

On July 31, AIDS Healthcare Foundation issued a [press release](#) calling for Congress to “stop playing politics” with the CARE Act and asking that legislation be enacted.

Community Activities

On July 26, the Federal AIDS Policy Partnership’s Reauthorization Work Group issued a revised version of their [fact sheet](#) providing a status update on reauthorization.

Please forward the *Reauthorization Watch* to interested colleagues. To be added or removed from our email distribution list, please email [Ann Lefert](#).

National Alliance of State and Territorial AIDS Directors
444 N. Capitol St, NW, Suite 339 • Washington, DC 20001
Phone: 202.434.8090 • Fax: 202.434.8092 • Website: www.nastad.org