



AUGUST UPDATE



Reauthorization Passes House on Voice Vote and Moves to Conference

Shortly after midnight on July 26, the House of Representatives passed the Ryan White CARE Act Reauthorization Amendments of 2000, H.R. 4807. The bill passed on a voice vote, so there was no recorded vote.

During the floor debate on the bill, there was a spirited debate between Representative Tom Coburn (R-OK) and Representatives Edolphus Towns (D-NY), Anna Eshoo (D-CA), and Nancy Pelosi (D-CA), on the "hold harmless" issue.

As passed, HR 4807 allows for a maximum total funding loss of 25% for EMAs that need to use the hold harmless provision for each of the five years in the reauthorization. This compares to the hold harmless provision in the Senate bill, which provides for a fixed decline of 2% per year for a maximum total funding loss of 10% in formula funding over the life of the reauthorization. The Senate bill mirrors the CAEAR Coalition's position on this issue.

The bill now moves to a House/Senate Conference Committee to work out the differences between the two bills. The CAEAR Coalition will work throughout the conference process to advocate its position on the hold harmless provision and other priority issues impacting Title I and Title III.

The Senate and House recessed for the political conventions and the August district work period without appointing conferees on the Ryan White CARE Act Amendments of 2000. Nevertheless House Commerce Committee and Senate HELP Committee staff have begun pre-conference discussions to reconcile the differences between the two bills. Conferees are expected to be appointed shortly after Congress reconvenes after Labor Day.

FY 2001 Appropriations

Progress on the Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations bill slowed immediately before the recess though some action has been taken since the Senate and House votes. While a conference agreement between the House and Senate was not voted on, Republican negotiators agreed on a package that includes the following funding levels (in millions) for the Ryan White CARE Act:

PROGRAM	FY 2000 Final	FY 2001 CAEAR Request	Current Agreement On FY 2001
Title I	\$546.6m	\$635m	\$586.6m
Title II: Care Services	\$296.1m	N/A	\$310.1m
Title II: ADAP	\$528m	N/A	\$554.0m
Title III	\$138.4m	\$184m	\$173.9m
Title IV	\$51m	N/A	\$63m
Part F: AETCs	\$26.7m	N/A	\$31.6m
Part F: Dental Reimbursement	\$8m	N/A	\$9m

For Title I, the current agreement is \$40 million over FY2000, but \$48.4 million below CAEAR's request. For Title III, the current agreement is \$35.5 million over FY2000, but \$10.1 million below CAEAR's request.

The bill that includes these funding levels may be voted on when Congress reconvenes or there may be further negotiations where the figures could change. It is also possible that the Labor-HHS-Education appropriations bill may be combined with other spending measures in an omnibus spending bill.

(continued)

Notice of Membership Meeting

The CAEAR Coalition fall business and membership meeting and advocacy days will be held Sunday, September 10-Wednesday, September 13, at the Hotel Washington, 515 15th Street, NW, Washington, DC. The membership meeting will begin on Sunday at 9:00 am. In addition to regular CAEAR Coalition business, members will elect CAEAR Coalition Directors and Officers.

Board Nominations Deadline is Friday, August 11

The member of record for each CAEAR Coalition member received a Board member nomination packet earlier this summer. Nominations for the Board of Directors must be received at the CAEAR Coalition office no later than August 11, 2000.

Please send nominations to:

CAEAR Coalition
1413 K Street, NW
Suite 700
Washington, DC 20005

Telephone calls, faxes and e-mails will NOT be accepted for nominations.

If you have any questions about the nominations process, please contact the Nomination Committee Co-chairs:

Henia Handler

Phone: 617-859-1250
Email: hhandler@fchc.org

John Gressman

Phone: 415-292-0335
Email: jgressma@sfccc.org

Members Must be Current on Dues to Vote in September Board Elections

In order to vote in the board elections, organizations must be CAEAR Coalition members in good standing (e.g. current on all dues.) This is especially important for all organizations that were invoiced in July 2000. Those organizations must pay their dues prior to the elections in order to vote. If you have questions about your membership status, please contact the CAEAR office at info@caear.org or 202-789-3565.

Registration and Hotel Deadlines for September Meeting Approaching

HOTEL RESERVATIONS

Room reservations must be made by Thursday, August 10. To make reservations, call the Hotel Washington and ask for the CAEAR Coalition meeting rates: \$139 single or double occupancy. Tel: 202-638-5900 or 800-424-9540.

MEETING REGISTRATION

The individual registration fee for members is \$30 through August 25 and after that date the fee increases to \$50. The fee for nonmembers attending as the guest of a member is \$50 before August 25 and \$70 after. If you need registration forms, please e-mail info@caear.org.