



Government Affairs Update

October 3, 2022

This Week in Washington, D.C.

On Thursday, Sept. 29, the Senate passed a short-term spending measure — commonly referred to as a continuing resolution — which extended funding for the federal government until Dec. 16. On Friday, Sept. 30, the House of Representatives took up and passed this legislation, and it was signed into law by the President. As reported previously, funding for the federal government was set to expire at midnight on Sept. 30.

Members of both the Senate and House returned home to begin state and district work periods. The Senate is at home this week and is scheduled to return to Washington, D.C., on Oct. 11 through Oct. 24. Senators are then expected to return to their home states, where they will remain until after the November election. The House's district work period is scheduled to continue beyond the election, and they will return to Washington, D.C., the week of Nov. 14.

The American Association of Nurse Practitioners® (AANP) will continue to provide any updates as they become available.



2023 AANP Health Policy Conference — Seats Are Filling Quickly!

AANP encourages members to register for the 2023 AANP Health Policy Conference, which is scheduled to take place at the Grand Hyatt in Washington, D.C., on Jan. 29-31. Attend this conference to learn more about the critical policy issues impacting you and your patients and to ensure *The Voice of the Nurse Practitioner*® is heard in the halls of Congress. For more information and to register, [visit the conference event page](#).

Participate in the 2022 AANP National Nurse Practitioner (NP) Workforce Survey

Time is running out for you to participate in the 2022 AANP National NP Workforce Survey. It takes just 15-20 minutes to complete the survey and ensure your experience is reflected in the survey findings. Participants will receive free access to a summary of the survey results in early 2023 — and you will be among those entered in a drawing to receive a \$300 Visa gift card. It's easy to participate by using the link provided in your email invitation today.

Amendment to Public Readiness and Emergency Preparedness (PREP) Act

On Oct. 3, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) issued a notice of amendment under the PREP Act. This amendment emphasizes that the PREP Act declaration applies to the monkeypox virus and expands the categories of providers — including NPs — who are authorized to administer vaccines and therapeutics against smallpox (variola virus), monkeypox virus and other orthopoxviruses in a declared emergency. The amendment also extends the duration of the declaration. Further information is available in the [Federal Register](#) and through the [HHS Frequently Asked Questions webpage](#).

HHS Declares Public Health Emergencies for Florida, South Carolina and Puerto Rico

On Sept. 21, HHS Secretary Xavier Becerra declared a [public health emergency \(PHE\) for the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico](#) due to the flooding impact of Hurricane Fiona. The declaration follows President Biden's [disaster declaration](#) and gives the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), health care providers and suppliers greater flexibility in meeting the emergency health needs of CMS beneficiaries. Pursuant to this declaration, CMS announced [resources and flexibilities to assist with the PHE in Puerto Rico](#).

On Sept. 26, Secretary Becerra also declared a [PHE for Florida in response to Hurricane Ian](#). The declaration follows President Biden's [emergency declaration](#) and gives health care providers and suppliers greater flexibility in meeting emergency health needs of CMS beneficiaries. Pursuant to this declaration, CMS announced [resources and flexibilities to assist with the PHE in Florida](#). The Florida Department of Health has established an [emergency information webpage](#) that includes emergency information resources.

On Sept. 30, Secretary Becerra declared a [PHE for the state of South Carolina](#) to address the health impacts of Hurricane Ian. The declaration also follows President Biden's [emergency declaration](#), giving CMS, health care providers and suppliers greater flexibility in meeting emergency health needs of Medicare and Medicaid beneficiaries. Pursuant to this declaration, CMS announced [resources and flexibilities to assist with the PHE in South Carolina](#).

Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) Announces New Awards for Rural Opioid Response

On Sept. 23, HRSA announced investments of more than \$104 million to expand treatment and prevention services for substance use disorder in rural communities nationwide as part of the Rural Communities Opioid Response Program (RCORP), a multi-year initiative aimed at reducing the morbidity and mortality of rural Americans from substance use. More information is available in the [HRSA announcement](#).

Medicaid and Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) Coverage Renewal

CMS created a [website](#) with state-by-state renewal information in preparation for the unwinding of the COVID-19 public health emergency for individuals who need to renew their Medicaid or Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) coverage or apply for another type of health care

coverage. CMS is encouraging clinicians to utilize physicals, vaccinations and other care events to ensure their eligible patients are enrolled in Medicaid or CHIP and are aware of upcoming eligibility renewals. This includes discussing with patients the importance of ensuring that Medicaid and CHIP agencies have accurate contact information on file and ensuring patients are checking their mail regularly for renewal forms and other relevant materials. CMS also released a [resource](#) to inform clinicians about the Medicaid and CHIP renewal process.

AANP Federal Advocacy: Your Voice Makes a Difference!

The [AANP Advocacy Center](#) provides an excellent opportunity for you to educate and inform your elected officials of the high-quality health care delivered by NPs across the country.

With just a few clicks, your voice can make a difference when you urge your Members of Congress to:

- [Increase patient access to high quality, NP- and APRN-provided health care by supporting the ICAN Act.](#)
- [Take Up and Pass H.R. 6087 in the Senate to Improve Federal Employees' Timely Access to Health Care for Workplace Injuries.](#)
- [Authorize the Inclusion of NPs' Patients in Shared Savings Accountable Care Organizations \(ACOs\).](#)
- [Improve Access for Patients Who Need Cardiac and Pulmonary Rehabilitation Services.](#)
- [Improve Medicare Patient Access to Needed Therapeutic Shoes.](#)

AANP's priority is to eliminate all federal barriers to practice for NPs, and the AANP Advocacy Center provides an excellent opportunity to educate and inform your elected officials of the high-quality health care delivered by NPs across the country. Your voice makes a difference! Members of Congress want to hear from you.

Please note, the AANP Government Affairs Update will not be published on Monday, Oct. 10. The publication will resume the following week.

As always, your Federal and State Government Affairs teams are available to answer any questions. Please feel free to contact us at governmentaffairs@aanp.org or statepolicy@aanp.org.

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The Voice of the Nurse Practitioner®

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