

Share this:   

Mobilizer

Health Care for the Homeless Action Bulletin

November 5, 2014 | Volume XIX No. 7

The Last Days of the 113th Congress

Health and Housing Issues during the Lame Duck Session



The results from yesterday's Midterm Elections are in and the political world is busily assessing their impact. But we are not quite done with the 113th Congress. Critical issues are yet to be addressed. The Lame Duck Session that starts November 12th is the time to ensure health and housing programs are maintained and strengthened. **Act now to let your members of Congress know your priorities for the last days of the 113th Congress!**

Issues in the Lame Duck Session



Despite yesterday's election, we are not quite done with the 113th Congress. Critical issues are yet to be addressed in the Lame Duck Session that starts November 12th. Act now to urge your members of Congress to protect and strengthen health and housing programs!

- Call your members of Congress using the Capitol Switchboard: 1(877) 210-5351.
- Urge them to support any legislation or amendments that would address the Primary Care Funding Cliff and prevent a reduction in funding for Health Centers, the National Health Service

There are two important issues for the HCH community during the Lame Duck:

The Primary Care Funding Cliff and FY15 Appropriations.

The Primary Care Funding Cliff: The Health Center program faces a 70% reduction in funding on September 30, 2015. The National Health Service Corps and the Teaching Health Center program each face elimination of their funding. Finding a way to prevent these drastic cuts will be particularly difficult with the strict limitations on total funding passed into law by the Budget Control Act. There may be opportunities to address this issue during the Lame Duck Session.

- **Call your members of Congress using the Capitol Switchboard: 1(877) 210-5351. Urge them to support any legislation or amendments that would address the Primary Care Funding Cliff and prevent a reduction in funding for Health Centers, the National Health Service Corps, or Teaching Health Centers.**
- Use these [talking points](#) during your call.
- Use the [Primary Care Cliff Funding Estimator](#) to determine the impact of the cliff on your HCH project. Use this information during your call.
- Check to see if your [House Representative](#) or [Senate members](#) signed the primary cliff letter and hold them accountable, or thank them!

FY15 Appropriations: Funding for the federal government is predicted to run out on December 12. It is rather certain that Congress will extend funding into the New Year, but the vehicle they use will have significant consequences, on housing programs in particular. Housing programs need an increase each year just to keep up with rising rental costs. If Congress chooses to pass another Continuing Resolution (CR), it will result in flat funding for all programs and reductions in affordable housing due to increases in rents. If Congress drafts an omnibus appropriations bill, it will give them the opportunity to adjust funding levels and at least maintain the current availability of affordable housing.

- **Call your members of Congress using the Capitol Switchboard: 1(877) 210-5351. Urge them to speak to their colleagues in leadership and on the Appropriations Committee. Ask them to support an omnibus appropriations bill rather than a CR, emphasizing its importance for affordable housing programs.**

With your help, we can bring this Congress to a close on a high note. Act now to support health and housing funding!

Looking Ahead

The Lame Duck Session is tremendously important, but Mobilizer readers must also prepare for the year ahead. Remember to:

- Send a letter of introduction to your (re)elected officials. Use these templates to craft a letter to your [members of Congress](#), [state officials in Medicaid expansion states](#), and [state officials in non-expansion states](#).

Corps or Teaching Health Centers.

- Use these [talking points](#) during your call.
- Use the [Primary Care Cliff Funding Estimator](#) to determine the impact of the cliff on your HCH project. Use this information during your call.
- Check to see if your [House Representative](#) or [Senate members](#) signed the primary cliff letter and hold them accountable, or thank them!
- Also call your members of Congress and urge them to support an omnibus appropriations bill rather than a CR, emphasizing its importance for affordable housing programs.



- We hope to resolve the Primary Care Funding Cliff during the Lame Duck, but it is possible this effort will need to continue in the next year. In that event, get involved in the [Access is the Answer](#) campaign to build local support for the Health Center program.
- Changes in state governments may improve the possibility of Medicaid expansion next year, if only by putting this election behind us. Get involved in this effort by contacting [Dan Rabbitt](#) and checking out our [State Medicaid Expansion Advocacy page](#).

Dan Rabbitt, Health Policy Organizer
National Health Care for the Homeless Council
drabbitt@nhchc.org | (443) 703-1337 | www.nhchc.org



PO Box 60427 | Nashville, TN 37206 US

