

January 25, 2013

## IN THIS REPORT...

1. Bills on Children's GME and Pediatric Research at NIH Advance in the House
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### NEXT WEEK IN WASHINGTON...

\* On Tuesday, January 29, the Health Subcommittee of the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee will hold a hearing on preparing primary care for the increase in patients when the expanded insurance coverage provisions of the Affordable Care Act are fully implemented next year.

\* On Wednesday, January 30, the Senate Judiciary Committee will hold a hearing on gun violence.

## 1. HOUSE PANEL APPROVES TWO PEDIATRIC HEALTH BILLS

On Tuesday, January 22, the House Energy and Commerce Committee, by unanimous consent, approved two bills related to issues of children's health. The *Children's Hospital GME Support Reauthorization Act* (HR 297) extends the graduate medical education program for children's hospitals. The other legislation, the *National Pediatric Research Network Act* (HR 225), directs the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to establish a national pediatric research network that would focus especially on tracking rare childhood diseases and conditions. NIH would provide grants to nonprofit consortia for purposes like training researchers or addressing unmet pediatric research priorities.

## 2. SENATE COMMITTEE EXAMINES MENTAL HEALTH CARE IN THE U.S.

On Thursday, January 24, the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP) Committee held a hearing to review how mental health care services could be improved. While the hearing was not directly related to the school shooting in Newtown, Connecticut, last month, most of the Senators at the hearing referred to it as relevant to the purposes of the hearing. Generally, the hearing dealt with funding for mental health care, the stigma that is still associated with accessing mental health care services, the ability of patients to find physicians and other providers who can offer adequate mental health services, and the delay in the issuance of federal rules that assure parity in health care delivery of mental health care services.

### 3. REGULATORY BRIEFS

- On January 17, HHS [released](#) the final omnibus rule which implements changes to the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA). The AAFP issued a media quote stating, “The final rule that was released yesterday by HHS strengthens patient privacy and security protections that were established under HIPAA. This rule is presumed to increase workability and flexibility, decrease burden, and better standardize the requirements of the rule for covered entities such as health care providers, health plans or health care clearinghouses.
- On January 22, the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force released a final recommendation regarding screening for intimate partner violence. Read more about it in an AAFP News Now [article](#).