

June 24, 2016

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### NEXT WEEK IN WASHINGTON...

- \* The House of Representatives has adjourned until Tuesday, July 11.
- \* On Tuesday June 28, the Senate Finance Committee has scheduled a hearing to examine the CMS proposed Medicare Part B drug revisions.
- \* Also on June 28, the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee will hold a hearing on small business health care costs and options.

## 1. AAFP RESPONDS TO MACRA PROPOSED RULE

On June 24 the AAFP sent the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) a detailed [letter](#) in response to the proposed rule titled, “Medicare Program; Merit-Based Incentive Payment System (MIPS) and Alternative Payment Model (APM) Incentive Under the Physician Fee Schedule, and Criteria for Physician-Focused Payment Models.” In addition the AAFP created an [executive summary](#) of this response, posted an [article](#) on *AAFP News*, and issued a [press release](#).

## 2. VETO THREAT LOOMS OVER PARTISAN ZIKA CONGRESSIONAL AGREEMENT

The House voted 239 to 171 early Thursday morning to approve an appropriations measure (HR 2577) which would provide \$1.1 billion to address the Zika virus. The deal between House and Senate Republicans proposes to use unobligated funds for the Ebola response and unspent *Affordable Care Act* funding intended for territories to set up health care exchanges. The bill provides \$95 million in Social Services Block Grants for areas with active Zika transmission, like Puerto Rico, but specifies that the funds must be used for public health departments, hospitals and Medicaid managed care clinics and not for family planning clinics that focus on contraception. The White House has indicated that President Barack Obama would veto the bill primarily because the funding falls too short of the \$1.9 billion needed by public health officials. Senate Democrats have criticized the deal, but Republican Leader Sen. Mitch McConnell (R-KY) could bring the deal to the Senate for a vote as early as next week.