

May 20, 2016

IN THIS REPORT...

1. Both Chambers Act on Zika Funding, But Plans Differ Sharply
2. Senate Bill Supports FDA Regulation of Cigars and E-Cigarettes
3. Congress Agrees on How to Reform Toxic Substance Regulatory Structure
4. Direct Primary Care Provision May Be Added to Tax Measure
5. CMS Reform of Part B Drug Payments Called into Question
6. FamMedPAC Makes Promotional Video Available
7. State Legislation of Interest
8. Federal Regulatory Briefs

NEXT WEEK IN WASHINGTON...

- * On Tuesday, May 24, the House Ways and Means Committee will consider a hospital reform bill.
- * Also on Tuesday, the House Energy and Commerce Committee's Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee will hold a hearing on combatting improper Medicare and Medicaid payments and ineligible providers.
- * On Wednesday, May 25, the House Science, Space and Technology Committee has scheduled a hearing on the science of Zika.
- * Also on Wednesday, the House Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Health will hold a hearing to examine cybersecurity responsibilities at HHS.

1. CONGRESS ACTS ON ZIKA FUNDING

The Senate on Thursday, May 19, by a vote of 89 to 8, approved spending legislation for the Departments of Transportation and Housing and Urban Development (HR 2577), which included a \$1.1 billion plan to combat the Zika virus. This contrasts with House's stand-alone *Zika Response Appropriations Act* (HR 5423) that would reallocate current public health spending to devote only \$622 million to fighting the virus. The House passed its bill on Wednesday, May 18 by a largely partisan 241 to 184.

Three months ago, President Obama requested \$1.9 billion to combat Zika, accelerate vaccine research, and help countries fight the virus. The AAFP and a coalition of medical and public health groups sent a [letter](#) on May 18 urging Congress to support the President's request and opposing offsetting cuts to other health priorities. The White House has signaled that the President would accept the Senate compromise measure but has issued a [veto threat](#) on the House bill.

Adding urgency to the request, on Friday, May 20, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reported in the [Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report](#) that Zika has infected at least 157 pregnant women in the U.S. states and 122 pregnant women in U.S. territories.