

WASHINGTON REPORT

by **Jamie Poslosky** • *Washington Correspondent*

Child health legislation on medical devices, tobacco approved

Two important pieces of legislation relating to children's health and pediatricians have recently passed into law.

Pediatric medical device development

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) recently announced the awarding of three grants totaling \$2 million to a pediatric device development consortia authorized by the Pediatric Medical Device Safety and Improvement Act of 2007.

The consortia will use the funding to stimulate the development and availability of medical devices for children, which often lag up to a decade behind similar devices intended for use in adults. The Academy helped initiate the legislation that created the grant program and advocated for its passage on Capitol Hill.

Flavored cigarettes banned

The FDA has banned cigarettes with fruit, candy or clove flavors. The ban, authorized by the new Family Smoking Prevention and Tobacco Control Act, is part of a national effort by the FDA to reduce smoking in America.

The Academy applauds the FDA's swift regulation, which will make smoking and tobacco products less appealing and less available to children. We encourage the FDA to expand the ban to all other flavored tobacco products, including smokeless tobacco, that contribute to the deadly toll of tobacco-related disease on children and adolescents.

Health care reform update

The Academy continues to advocate on behalf of children and pediatricians for health reform that includes the following provisions:

- health insurance coverage for *all* children,
- age-appropriate benefits in a medical home, and
- appropriate payment to assure real access to services.

Throughout the legislative process this fall, the AAP Department of



AAP Immediate Past President David T. Tayloe Jr., M.D., FAAP, testified before the House Committee on Small Business on the disproportionate effect of the 2009 H1N1 influenza virus on children and pediatric practices.

Federal Affairs has been meeting with members of Congress, encouraging them to include these provisions in health reform legislation and providing feedback on amendments related to pediatric health.

To find detailed responses to the congressional committees that have drafted legislation and adjudicated amendments so far, log onto the AAP Member Center at www.aap.org/moc, and click on the Health Care Reform icon.

AAP members also have been taking time out of their busy schedules to meet with elected officials on Capitol Hill and at home, submit opinion pieces to local

newspapers and spread the word in their communities about the importance of children's health needs within health care reform.

Here is a snapshot of recent health care reform activities:

House small business committee panel on H1N1

AAP Immediate Past President David T. Tayloe Jr., M.D., FAAP, testified before the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Small Business about the challenges of the 2009 H1N1 influenza virus, with a focus on its disproportionate impact on children and the pediatric practices that serve them. Dr. Tayloe discussed several topics, including business interruption and staff illness concerns, increased caseloads for pediatricians, vaccine administration and the general impact of H1N1 on small businesses.

Children's health reform event

Dr. Tayloe joined Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid; House Speaker Nancy Pelosi; singer and co-founder of the Children's Health Fund (CHF) Paul Simon; CHF President and co-founder Irwin Redlener, M.D., FAAP; CHF Advisory Council Chair Jane Pauley; and National Association of Children's Hospitals and Related Institutions President Larry McAndrews to encourage support of children's unique needs within health reform at an event on the White House lawn.