



## **Weekly Update: April 10, 2017**

### **Coalition Action**

Thanks for all the feedback you provided in the Coalition survey last week. We will be in touch soon with follow-ups from our most recent Coalition meeting and to set a date for the next meeting.

### **Federal Updates**

Congress left town on Friday for the spring two-week recess period. They will return on April 21.

### **Budget and Appropriations**

The current Continuing Resolution (CR) agreement, through which the federal government is funded, expires on April 28. The House is only scheduled to be in session for four more days in April and the Senate five more days, which doesn't leave House and Senate leadership much time to pass FY17 spending bills. Currently, it looks as though leaders will combine the remaining spending bills into one large bill, known as an omnibus spending bill, and have it ready to move after members return from a two-week recess on April 25. If Members of Congress cannot come to an agreement on detailed funding decisions, they may opt to extend the CR through September, which would keep funding levels flat.

Therefore, it is still a very good time to submit FY17 appropriations requests, especially if you haven't - but even if you have - done so already. Please let us know if you need template language or contact information for relevant House and Senate Appropriations staff.

### **Action on Child and Family Policy Legislation in the House Committee on Education and the Workforce**

The House Committee on Education and the Workforce voted to approve the [Improving Support for Missing and Exploited Children Act](#) (H.R. 1808), which aims to strengthen

the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC)'s recovery and prevention efforts. The bill was sponsored by Reps. Brett Guthrie (R-KY) and Joe Courtney (D-CT). The committee also approved a bill to reauthorize the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act (JJDP), the [Juvenile Justice Reform Act of 2017](#) (H.R. 1809), sponsored by Rep. Jason Lewis (R-MN) and Bobby Scott (D-VA). Finally, the committee held a hearing on the [Working Families Flexibility Act](#) (H.R. 1180), introduced by Martha Roby (R-AL), an alternative to more traditional paid family leave proposals that would allow private-sector employers to offer workers the choice of paid time off or cash wages for overtime hours.

## **Health Care**

Last week there were more negotiations on repealing and replacing the Affordable Care Act, but ultimately no action was taken, as Republican leaders were unable to forge a compromise between the conservative Freedom Caucus and the moderate Republican so-called "Tuesday group." The outlook for action in the House remains uncertain and some in Leadership and the White House want to continue to strike a health care. In the Senate, some Senators seem to be focusing on smaller proposals where bipartisan agreement is more feasible.

There are two major legislative opportunities this spring for reforms to be passed: first, in legislative to extend FDA's user fees, and second, extending CHIP funding. The Georgetown Center on Children and Families last week published a [helpful blog post](#) on the importance of extending CHIP and recommendations for a reauthorization bill.

## **April 11: Senate Briefing on Home Visiting**

Senators Charles Grassley and Robert Menendez, in partnership with the Home Visiting Coalition, are hosting a bipartisan Senate briefing on the Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV) program on Tuesday, April 11 at 12pm in SVC 203-02. The panel of experts will explore: research on how voluntary, evidence-based home visiting works to improve outcomes for children and families; how MIECHV's structure allows states to tailor the program to meet their needs, particularly the needs of rural communities; the impact of voluntary, evidence-based home visiting on communities; and first-hand experience with how voluntary evidence-based home visiting strengthens families. Lunch will be provided. Register [here](#) by COB Monday, April 10 (TODAY).

## **April is National Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Month**

President Trump officially [proclaimed](#) April National Child Abuse Prevention Month. The Children's Bureau and the National Child Abuse and Neglect Technical Assistance and Strategic Dissemination Center (CANTASD) have released [information and resources](#) for National Prevention Month. Prevention Month is a time to acknowledge the importance of families and communities working together to prevent child abuse and neglect, and to promote the social and emotional well-being of children and families. CANTASD is hosting a series of 30-minute webinars to support nationwide Prevention

Month activities and beyond. The webinars will be held from 2:00-2:30pm ET on the following dates:

[April 11](#): Hear from the National Network of Family Support Networks about efforts to deepen quality family support practice.

[April 19](#): Explore funding and partnership opportunities in prevention with the National Alliance for Children's Trust and Prevention Funds.

### **Member Updates**

*Don't forget to send us information about upcoming events, recently-released reports, and anything else you'd like to share with the rest of the Coalition.*

### **April 13: Home Visiting Briefing Featuring HFA Caregiver as Panelist**

On Thursday, April 13, the National Prevention Science Coalition will host a Congressional briefing on the scientific evidence for home visiting programs, including those funded through HRSA's Maternal Infant and Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV) program. Speakers will also examine the cost-effectiveness of home visiting programs and future directions for research in this area. The panel will feature father who is part of the Healthy Families America program. The briefing will be held from 10:30 to 12:00pm in 122 Cannon House Office Building. RSVP [here](#).

### **ZERO TO THREE Think Babies Campaign**

ZERO TO THREE's [Think Babies](#) campaign aims to make the potential of every baby our national priority. As part of Think Babies, ZTT is coordinating the following efforts:

- **Think Babies Petition:** ZTT launched a [petition](#) to Tell Congress to Support Baby Brain Development. They are at nearly 25,000 signatures and would appreciate your help spreading the word about the petition to your networks.
- **May 2:** On May 2, ZTT will host "[Strolling Thunder](#)" on Capitol Hill. During the event, they will bring babies and parents from all 50 states to meet their members of Congress to bring national attention to what babies and their families need to thrive. Watch this brief video to learn more.

### **AAP Releases Policy Statement on Kinship Care**

The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) recently released a new policy statement on kinship care, the [Needs of Kinship Care Families and Pediatric Practice](#), which cites growing evidence that children who can't live with their biological parents fare better

when living with extended family rather than nonrelated foster parents. Despite better outcomes, kinship caregivers face significant challenges, especially those where the child is informally placed in their care, including lacking the authority to give legal consent for needed primary care, immunizations, and other non-emergency health services. Furthermore, kin caregivers tend to be significantly older, experience more economic stress and have chronic health conditions or disabilities because of their age, which can be compounded by the increased, often unexpected demands of providing care. This policy statement is intended to raise awareness that extra supports are needed to help ensure the well-being of both the child and the caregiver, and recommends guidelines that pediatricians should adopt.

### **May 10: Fifth National GrandRally: Building a Community of Hope**

Generations United and Coalition member Casey Family Programs invite you to join grandparent and relative caregivers from across the country to celebrate their critical role in providing safe, loving and permanent families for children and educate Congress about policy changes needed to effectively support them while building and strengthening a community of hope. Cosponsors of the GrandRally are Generations United, AARP, Casey Family Programs, the Children's Defense Fund, FosterClub, GrandFamilies of America, and the National Kinship Alliance for Children. Registration is now open. Click [here](#) for a full schedule of events.

### **January 31-February 2, 2018: Annual Home Visiting Summit**

The Ounce of Prevention Fund will host the Seventh National Home Visiting Summit in Washington, DC, January 31-February 2, 2018. More information will be released in the future. For information or questions, visit [here](#).

### **Other Updates**

#### **California Evidence-Based Clearinghouse Adds Kinship Care**

The [California Evidence-Based Clearinghouse for Child Welfare](#) has added kinship support programs as a new topic area. The clearinghouse identifies and disseminates information regarding evidence-based child welfare programs and rates the level of scientific rigor of research on each programs. Twelve kinship care programs have been added so far.

### **April 12: Supporting Girls to Heal and Thrive: A Cross-Systems Approach**

The National Crittenton Foundation invites you to participate in a conversation exploring the intersections between the multiple systems supporting marginalized girls and young women, and how improved collaboration at all levels can improve the lives of marginalized girls, young women and their families. Panelists will include representatives from the child welfare, juvenile justice, runaway and homeless, and trafficking fields, as well as young women who have experienced multiple system involvement. The briefing will be held on Wednesday, April 12 from 10:00 to 11:30 in SVC 209-08. Click [here](#) to register.

### **April 13: Children's Rights Webinar on 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Fostering the Future Campaign**

May 1 is the first day of Children's Rights' month-long Fostering the Future campaign, and they want to launch it with a bang. The theme of this year's campaign is #FosterMyEducation. Through blog posts, videos, and more, the campaign will describe both the barriers to accessing education, and the support systems that make attaining it possible. As part of this campaign, Children's Rights is proud to support H.R. 1757, the Trauma-Informed Care for Children and Families Act of 2017, which was introduced by Senators Durbin and Heitkamp on March 28. On Thursday, April 13, Children's Rights will host a conference call briefing about the campaign. The conference call will feature Angelique Day of Congressman Danny Davis's office. RSVP to [kristent@firstfocus.org](mailto:kristent@firstfocus.org). The dial-in number is 1-408-638-0968, and the passcode is 344-626-6870.

### **April 19: CLASP Webinar on Supporting Young Children in Immigrant Families: What Early Childhood Stakeholders Need to Know About the New Immigration Orders**

The Center for Law and Social Policy is hosting a webinar April 19 from 2-3pm EST to discuss recent executive orders and their implications for young children in immigrant families. The webinar will provide an overview of current early childhood policies and eligibility rules as well as recent immigration enforcement policy changes that directly impact children living in mixed-status immigrant families. Speakers will also share strategies and new resources to help child care and early education providers support children and families at risk of immigration enforcement, including how to keep their programs safe from enforcement actions and help families cope and prepare for possible deportation. Click [here](#) for more information and to register.

### **April 20: NWLC Briefing on Threats to Medicaid and the Impact on Women**

On Thursday, April 20, the National Women's Law Center, along with the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities and the Center for American Progress will host a briefing,

“Threats to Health, Nutrition, and Other Basic Living Standards: The Impact on Women.” Panelists will discuss recently-proposed structural changes and threats to safety net programs such as SNAP and Medicaid and how they would impact women and families. The briefing will be held at 9:00am in SVC 201-00. RSVP by April 19 [here](#).

### **April 26: Parenting Matters: Supporting Parents of Children Ages 0-8**

The National Academies of Science, Engineering and Medicine recently released a [report](#) informing a national framework for strengthening the capacity of parents of young children birth to age 8 intended to provide a road map for parenting and family support policies, practices, and research in the United States. On April 26 at 12pm ET, the authors of the report will host a [webinar](#) to discuss the report’s conclusions and recommendations.

### **April 26: ABA Center on Children and the Law Preconference on Immigration and Child Welfare**

The ABA Center on Children and the Law invites you to join a half-day Pre-conference on April 26 in Tysons Corner, VA, titled “The Intersection Between Immigration and Child Welfare Law.” Experts in the field will discuss legal issues that overlap in immigration and child welfare cases and identify strategies for working together across the two fields to better serve clients. Click [here](#) for more information.

### **Coalition on Human Needs Circulating Sign-On for “People’s Budget”**

CHN is circulating a sign-on letter to Congress that declares the Budget should “reject any move to take away funding from the policies and programs that are improving the lives of millions of vulnerable individuals and families. Click [here](#) for more information.

### **News Items of Note**

[Stress of child abuse impacts the physical growth and maturation of adolescents](#)

*Science Daily*, March 28, 2017

[Another shocking statistic about the opioid epidemic](#)

*Vox*, March 31, 2017

[Newspaper puts powerful lens on 'killer grip' of opioid epidemic](#)

*Boston Herald*, March 31, 2017

[How policymakers prioritize evidence-based programs through law](#)

*Pew Charitable Trusts*, April 3, 2017

[Childhood sex abuse could accelerate puberty in girls, study finds](#)

*CBS News*, April 5, 2017

[Child abuse drug culture overwhelm Idaho's foster system](#)

*Fox 5 News*, April 3, 2017

[States seek Medicaid dollars for addiction treatment beds](#)

*Pew Charitable Trusts*, April 5, 2017

[Help prevent child abuse by supporting family resilience](#)

*Davis Enterprise*, April 5, 2017