

Public Policy Update

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Senate Passes Health Care Reform Legislation

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After weeks of debate, the Senate passed the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (HR 3590) today, its version of health care reform legislation (Senate vote 60-39). You can view the final Senate bill [here](#).

The Senate bill includes a home visitation formula grant program for States (the same version included within the Senate Finance Committee bill) which designates the Health Resources and Services Administration as the administering agency and describes two categories of eligible home visitation models based on research from randomized controlled trials and quasi-experimental studies. States may also use up to 25% of their allocation to fund promising and new approaches that will be rigorously evaluated. The Senate bill requires States to maintain Fiscal Year 2009 funding levels for home visitation and does not require a State match. Unfortunately, the Medicaid Option was not included in the Senate-passed legislation.

Conference Strategy and Next Steps

Conference negotiations will begin between House and Senate staff next week and will continue once Congress resumes in January. Congressional leadership remains confident that Congress will pass the merged final version of the health care reform bill before the President's State of the Union address. NFP continues to work to strengthen bi-partisan, bi-cameral support to ensure that both the grant program and the Medicaid Option are included in the final version of the health care reform bill. Nurse-Family Partnership Policy & Government Affairs staff has worked with independent analysts to develop State Fact Sheets projecting the impact of the Medicaid Option. To view these projections on the Nurse-Family Partnership public policy webpage, please click [here](#).

YOU CAN HELP! Please contact your Members of Congress to ask for their support for the Medicaid Option and home visitation grant program. Click [here](#) to take action to support Nurse-Family Partnership and the home visitation provisions as part of health care reform.

For more information or to view additional materials/documents relating to Nurse-Family Partnership 's public policy agenda, please visit our web site's [public policy](#) section.