

March 21, 2007

To: SGA Committee and Expert Listserve
From: Kris Calvin, AAP-CA CEO/ED
Re: Director's Update

FYI, no response needed
OK to post or share

* This week the State Democratic Legislators have traveled to Washington DC to advocate for California's needs there. As a result, little will be accomplished in Sacramento. That includes efforts to move forward on health care reform for our state.

* Recently, the federal Health and Human Services Agency confirmed that the \$5 billion dollars in federal money estimated to be forthcoming for the Governor's health care proposal is available "under current law." Some interpret this choice of language as an indication that changes might be forthcoming that could reduce that amount. However, for the present, count this as a win for the Governor's team, who asserted those funds are available now, and have received that confirmation.

* AAP-CA continues to reach out to policy leaders involved in the various health care reform proposals, as well as to work on a myriad of bills in areas of interest to pediatricians, including access, immunizations, obesity prevention and healthy lifestyles, and the viability of pediatric practices. As letters of comment are sent to the authors of these bills, copies will be distributed to you through this listserv. Once AAP-CA has gone on record publicly with a position on a bill, feel free to advocate on behalf of AAP-CA for that stated position directly with your legislator. You may also work through your chapter on grass root campaigns for any bills where an AAP-CA letter has been sent.

*If you have questions, please contact your Chapter SGA representative.

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* Watch for weekly Director's updates as the legislative session heats up...