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## MAJOR EVENTS LAST WEEK

### House of Representatives

**Jackie Speier (D-CA)** was elected to California's 12th District seat in the House of Representatives held by the late **Tom Lantos (D)**. Speier was sworn in on April 10.

### Medicaid

**The House Energy and Commerce Committee's Health Subcommittee, chaired by Rep. Frank Pallone (D-NJ), by voice vote unanimously passed an amended version of legislation to impose a one-year moratorium on 7 Medicaid regulations.** The amended version of the [Protecting the Medicaid Safety Net Act of 2008 \(H.R. 5613\)](#), which was negotiated by full Committee chairman Rep. John Dingell (D-MI) and full Committee Ranking Member Joe Barton (R-TX), modifies some of the language of the one-year moratoria, but does not change their impact. Additionally, the amendment directs \$25 million to continue federal Medicaid efforts to fight fraud and abuse. The amendment pays for the bill by increasing states' ability to verify beneficiaries' assets and borrowing from the Physician Assistance Quality Initiative (PAQI) program.  
<http://www.thomas.gov/cgi-bin/bdquery/z?d110:h.r.05613:/>

**Dennis Smith, Director of the Center for Medicaid and State Operations at the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) resigned.** Herb Kuhn, CMS' Deputy Administrator was named to replace Mr. Smith in an acting capacity. As CMS' Deputy Administrator, Mr. Kuhn has focused on Medicare issues.

### Housing

**Representatives Christopher Murphy (D-CT) and Judy Biggert (R-IL) introduced the Frank Melville Supportive Housing Investment Act of 2008 (H.R. 5772), legislation to reform the Section 811 Supportive Housing Program for Persons with Disabilities.** In addition to removing many of the bureaucratic barriers in the Section 811 program, the bill includes a demonstration program to increase the production of new affordable and accessible units by leveraging other sources of funding capital, such as low income housing tax credits. The late Frank Melville was the first chair of the Melville Charitable Trust. Since

1993, the Trust has been a leader in promoting and advancing the creation of permanent supportive housing throughout the country.

<http://www.thomas.gov/cgi-bin/bdquery/z?d110:h.r.05772:/>

## Prevention

The House of Representatives passed the [Newborn Screening Saves Lives Act of 2007 \(H.R. 3825\)](#) under suspension of the rules. This bill authorizes funding to help states expand and improve their screening programs, provide educational materials to families and improve follow-up care and treatment of newborns who screen positive.

<http://www.thomas.gov/cgi-bin/bdquery/z?d110:h.r.03825:/>

The House also passed, under suspension of the rules, the reauthorization of the [Traumatic Brain Injury Act \(H.R. 1418\)](#) which authorizes research and public health activities related to trauma and traumatic brain injury.

<http://www.thomas.gov/cgi-bin/bdquery/z?d110:h.r.01418:/>

## MAJOR EVENTS AHEAD

### Health Care

On Tuesday, the House Ways and Means Committee's Subcommittee on Health, chaired by Rep. Fortney ("Pete") Stark (D-CA), will hold a hearing on "Instability of Health Coverage."

### Medicaid

On Wednesday, the full House Energy and Commerce Committee chaired by Rep. John Dingell (D-MI), is scheduled to mark up the [Protecting the Medicaid Safety Net Act of 2008 \(H.R. 5613\)](#).

<http://www.thomas.gov/cgi-bin/bdquery/z?d110:h.r.05613:/>

### Employment

On Tuesday, the House Workforce, Postal Service, and the District of Columbia Subcommittee, chaired by Rep. Danny Davis (D-IL) of the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee, will mark up [H.R. 3799, the Federal Employees Paid Parental Leave Act](#). H.R. 3799 would provide 8 weeks of paid leave for the birth, adoption, or placement of a child.

<http://www.thomas.gov/cgi-bin/bdquery/z?d110:h.r.03799:/>

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Presidential Candidates Forum

**Mark your calendars and “Feel the Power of the Disability Vote.”** On July 26, 2008, the Americans with Disabilities Act’s 18th anniversary, various national, state and local disability organizations and other allied groups will host a Presidential Candidate Forum in Columbus, Ohio. This event entitled, *“Feel the Power of the Disability Vote,”* will be an opportunity for the disability community’s voice to be heard and have their questions answered. More details to follow.

### Nominations for Public Interest awards

**OMB Watch, a nonprofit research and advocacy organization dedicated to increasing government accountability and transparency, is seeking nominations for extraordinary people in two awards categories.** The Rising Star Award is for those people 40 and younger who will help lead the public interest community during the next 25 years and The Public Interest Hall of Fame is for anyone of any age. Nominees are being sought who have been effective advocates for any of the following: reducing poverty and inequality ; addressing climate change and other environmental crises; providing better health care and education; ending discrimination, unfair labor practices, and attacks on civil liberties; and increasing government accountability. The final deadline is April 23. Awards will be presented on September 17 at OMB Watch's 25th Anniversary celebration event in Washington, DC. Travel expenses for winners will be provided. The DPC’s Paul Marchand is a board member of OMB Watch. For additional information, see: <http://www.ombwatch.org/article/articleview/4149>

### U.S. Department of Education’s Revised Website

**ED Pubs (Education Publications) web site has undergone an extensive redesign.** New features include: News, Featured Items, Hot Topics, Find Publications, Students/Parents /Teachers/Administrators, and a link to Spanish language materials. Visit the site at: <http://edpubs.ed.gov/>