

PPC CAPITOL CONNECTION

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What Matters Now in Washington:

- With government funding set to expire on September 30, the House and Senate are working to advance appropriations bills. [More...](#)
- The National Institute of Child Health and Human Development will hold an extended advisory council meeting on September 13 to discuss its strategic planning process. [More...](#)
- FDA held a meeting in August to identify ways to spur the development of pediatric medical and surgical devices. [More...](#)
- A bill to reauthorize the Children's Hospital Graduate Medical Education program is awaiting President Trump's signature. [More...](#)

AS END OF FISCAL YEAR APPROACHES, CONGRESS WORKS TO KEEP GOVERNMENT FUNDED. On August 23, the Senate [passed a health funding bill](#) for Fiscal Year (FY) 2019, which begins on October 1. The bill, which was passed in conjunction with a bill funding the Department of Defense, provided the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) a \$2.3 billion funding increase over the current fiscal year, including a \$2 billion funding increase for the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and additional funding for investments in pediatric training. The Senate largely sidestepped a number of contentious policy riders that have held up a health funding bill in the House, but did include a provision to provide \$2 million through the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Birth Defects, Developmental Disabilities, Disabilities and Health account to improve surveillance of prenatal and newborn health related to opioid use to reduce risks associated with neonatal abstinence syndrome. The House has yet to take up its version of a health funding bill. However, with just a few weeks remaining before government funding runs dry, the House and Senate will [negotiate](#) final funding levels across federal agencies to forge consensus between the two chambers' divergent funding priorities, with the goal of presenting President Trump with final government funding legislation prior to October 1.

NICHD ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING TO FOCUS ON STRATEGIC PLANNING PROCESS. The National Advisory Child Health and Human Development Council will meet for an extended public meeting on September 13, [featuring afternoon discussion](#) of the process for updating NICHD's strategic plan. NICHD [announced the strategic plan update](#) over the summer, including the convening of a Strategic Planning Working Group to help inform the plan. NICHD invites public feedback as the strategic planning process moves forward. The Council meeting will be webcast live online.

FDA HOLDS PUBLIC MEETING ON PEDIATRIC DEVICES. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) held a two-day public meeting on pediatric medical device development in August. The meeting provided a forum for pediatricians, device manufacturers, and regulators to come together and brainstorm ways to spur the development of medical and surgical devices for children. FDA will now submit a report to Congress with suggestions on how to increase the development of medical devices specifically for pediatric patients.

CONGRESS PASSES BILL TO REAUTHORIZE CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL GRADUATE MEDICAL EDUCATION PROGRAM. Last week, the Senate passed a House-initiated bill extending the Children's Hospital Graduate Medical Education (CHGME) program. The bill, known as the Dr. Benjy Frances Brooks Children's Hospital GME Support Reauthorization Act of 2018 (H.R. 5385), provides for a five-year reauthorization of the Children's Hospital Graduate Medical Education (CHGME) program and increases

the program's annual authorization from \$300 million to \$325 million. CHGME provides graduate medical education (GME) funding to freestanding children's hospitals that do not qualify for GME funding through Medicare. CHGME-eligible children's hospitals train half of all pediatricians and pediatric subspecialists. The bill now awaits President Trump's signature.