

---

## Inside this Issue:

- ❑ House & Senate Pass Budget Bills; Negotiations on Congressional Budget Resolution to Continue After Recess
- ❑ Advocating for Prevention Throughout the Appropriations Process
- ❑ Senate Sets Aside TANF Reauthorization Bill
- ❑ Time Still Left to Register for PCA America's National Conference
- ❑ Useful Resources for Advocates

---

## ***House & Senate Pass Budget Bills; Negotiations on Congressional Budget Resolution to Continue After Recess***

Work on the FY 2005 federal budget continued throughout March and early April as the House and Senate passed separate budget bills. Conference negotiations intended to culminate in a single Congressional budget resolution are on hold for now until the chambers reconvene April 19th following spring recess. This means Congress will no doubt miss its April 15<sup>th</sup> deadline for adopting its budget resolution, which is not atypical. If agreement on a compromise budget is not reached by May 15<sup>th</sup>, however, the House can begin work the annual appropriations bills without the blueprint provided by a formal resolution.

*GLOSSARY: Budget Resolution*

*In February, the President submits an annual budget request to Congress; however, Congress is not bound by the President's recommendations. Congress responds to the President's request by enacting a concurrent resolution that sets budget totals. Specific programs or accounts are not mentioned. Instead, spending totals are divided by category – such as health, agriculture, or transportation – into functional allocations which then guide the development of 13 annual appropriations bills.*

The budget resolution -- which does not have statutory effect since it is not signed into law -- sets broad spending limits for Congressional appropriators who will later oversee development of 13 appropriations bills. It in effect represents the Congressional response to the President's budget request submitted in February (see February edition of *Prevention Advocate* for details on the President's budget plan). Unlike the President's budget document, however, the Congressional budget resolution does not recommend spending amounts for individual programs, such as those under the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA) or Promoting Safe and Stable Families (PSSF). Instead, the resolution provides broad allocation amounts for large categories of programs known as "functions". These functional allocations then guide Congressional appropriators as they determine funding amounts for individual federal programs.

As you may recall from the last edition of *Prevention Advocate*, the President's budget for the most part clamps down on domestic discretionary spending, but proposes significant increases

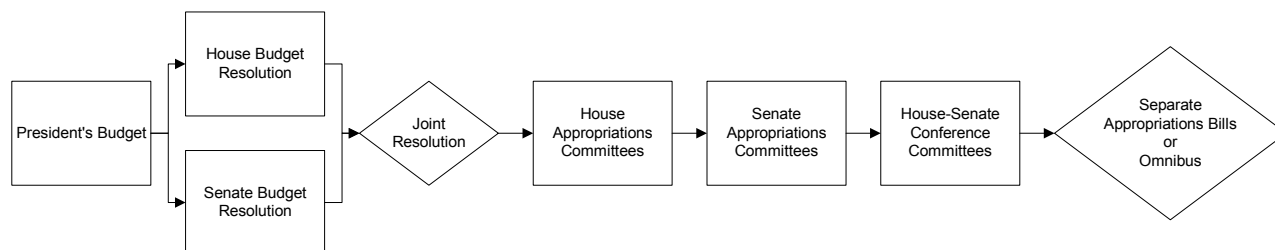


for both state and community-based CAPTA grants and the PSSF program. While House and Senate versions of the budget resolution do not set definitive funding amounts for these and other programs, both bills provide discretionary allocations that are even more austere than spending levels requested by the President.

Upon reconvening after spring recess, House and Senate budget negotiators will have their work cut out for them in a final push to come to agreement on a budget resolution. Conference negotiations will focus on provisions in the resolution known as “pay-as-you-go” rules (aka PAYGO). The purpose of the PAYGO process is to ensure that spending and revenue legislation do not add to the federal deficit. The Senate budget bill (S Con Res 95) includes PAYGO language that would require 60 votes to pass tax cuts or additional mandatory spending unless such measures are offset with revenue increases or spending cuts elsewhere in the budget. The House included PAYGO language in its bill only for increased spending; it opposes PAYGO provisions applying to tax cuts, as does the Bush Administration, which is set on making its 2001 and 2003 tax cuts permanent this year. Completion of a final Congressional budget resolution will require the two chambers to compromise on PAYGO language, no easy feat given the competing partisan interests at stake.

The results of negotiations on the Congressional budget resolution will be reported on in the next edition of *Prevention Advocate*. Regardless of whether Congress is able to adopt a concurrent resolution for FY 2005, in a matter of weeks House and Senate subcommittees will begin consideration of federal appropriations bills. Guided by the functional allocations put forth in the budget resolution, it is the appropriations subcommittees that have ultimate say over funding amounts for domestic discretionary programs such as CAPTA and Promoting Safe and Stable Families.

### Federal Budget Process



## ***Advocating for Prevention Throughout the Appropriations Process***

As previously reported, in February the President proposed significant increases to programs under CAPTA and Promoting Safe and Stable Families as part of his budget request to Congress. Both programs are important sources of federal funding for child abuse and neglect prevention services; as such, appropriations for these programs top PCA America’s federal policy agenda for this session.

Under CAPTA, the President’s budget requests that state grants for child protective services be increased from \$22 million in FY 2004 to \$42 million in FY 2005. The Title II program, for community-based child abuse prevention grants, would grow from \$33 million in FY 2004 to \$66 million in 2005. No increases are proposed for CAPTA discretionary grants – funded at \$35



million for the current year -- which are distributed through competitive grants to research and demonstration programs. Eight million dollars directed toward Congressional earmarks in FY 2004 would be eliminated under the President's request.

The President's budget proposal thus provides an excellent opportunity for advocates to highlight CAPTA state and community-based programs, which have not seen budget increases in some time. With good reason, the aforementioned increases have generated some excitement among prevention advocates. Yet work on the 2005 spending bills will not be completed until fall at the earliest. In the interim, lawmakers have several months to consider the President's request and make changes to certain discretionary spending as they see fit. The FY 2005 budget is expected to be particularly tight this year. As explained on the previous page, Congress is currently at work on a budget resolution that sets domestic discretionary spending allocations below what was proposed by the President. Therefore, increases to CAPTA and Promoting Safe and Stable Families are by no means guaranteed. Advocacy on behalf of these programs throughout the appropriations process is crucial, and in fact has already begun.

**Senate Sign On Letter in Support of CAPTA Increases:** A letter initiated by Senators Dodd (D-CT) and Alexander (R-TN) in support of the President's request to increase funding for CAPTA title I (basic state grants) and title II (community-based prevention grants) was circulated to Senate colleagues in late March. After garnering the signatures of a bipartisan group of 19 Senators, the letter was sent to Senators Spector (R-PA) and Harkin (D-IA), who are the chair and ranking member, respectively, of the Senate appropriations subcommittee that has jurisdiction over spending levels for health and human services programs.

The following excerpt from the letter speaks to the importance of preventing abuse and neglect before it occurs:

*Billions of dollars are spent every year on foster care – too often the only option for families in crisis. While we should be protecting children who have been the most seriously injured, we can do a much better job at protecting children before the damage is so bad that we have no other choice than to remove them from their homes. Increasing funding for CAPTA's basic state grants and community-based prevention grants will help modest yet constructive manner to begin to address the current imbalance.*

Many thanks to Senators Dodd and Alexander, and to the following Senators who signed on to their letter:

Edward Kennedy (D-MA)	Carl Levin (D-MI)
Mike DeWine (R-OH)	Patrick Leahy (D-VT)
Patty Murray (D-WA)	Joseph Lieberman (D-CT)
Susan Collins (R-ME)	Frank Lautenberg (D-NJ)
Jay Rockefeller (D-WV)	Daniel Akaka ((D-HI)
Olympia Snowe (R-ME)	Russell Feingold (D-WI)
Maria Cantwell (D-WA)	Tim Johnson (D-SD)
Blanche Lincoln (D-AR)	Herb Kohl (D-WI)
John Kerry (D-MA)	Jeff Bingaman (D-NM)
Mary Landrieu (D-LA)	

If your Senator(s) signed onto the Dodd-Alexander letter, please be sure to thank him/her!



Stay tuned to *Prevention Advocate* for alerts on how you can advocate for increases to CAPTA and Promoting Safe and Stable Families funding amounts throughout the appropriations process.

## **Senate Sets Aside TANF Reauthorization Bill**

Though reauthorizing the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program was high on Republican leaders' spring agenda, the Senate took up its bill during the last week in March only to stalemate over procedural and partisan differences. It is now less likely that the 108<sup>th</sup> Congress will be able to complete the process begun some 18 months ago when the current TANF law was originally set to expire.

Though not considered "dead" at this point, the Senate legislation – known as the Personal Responsibility and Individual Development for Everyone (PRIDE) Act -- has been set aside because Republicans failed to garner the 60 votes needed to limit debate on the bill. Majority Leader Bill Frist (R-TN) can place the bill back on the Senate schedule, but is unlikely to do so unless he can muster the 60 votes needed to limit debate and the number of amendments to be offered. Without 60 votes in favor of what is known as Frist's "motion to invoke cloture", Democrats are sure to offer several amendments on labor issues – addressing minimum wage, unemployment benefits, and overtime pay. Unless Democrats are allowed to bring these amendments forward for up-down votes, they will not agree to the cloture motion, which is needed in order to move the bill forward. Republican leaders have opposed the Democrats' demands, thus creating the current standoff.

Negotiations between Democrats and Republicans on how to move the TANF bill forward are expected to continue. If an agreement is not forthcoming soon, however, it will be very difficult to complete TANF reauthorization this year.

As you may recall from previous *Prevention Advocates*, the House passed its version of TANF reauthorization in February 2003. The Senate Finance Committee agreed to report a bill in September after Committee Chair Charles Grassley (R-IA) promised Senator Olympia Snowe (R-ME) that she could offer the first amendment during floor debate to significantly increase child care funding.

**Snowe Amendment to Increase Child Care:** As promised, Senator Snowe – together with Senator Christopher Dodd (D-CT) -- was allowed to offer a child care amendment when the welfare bill was brought to the Senate floor in late March. In defiance of the Bush Administration, as well as House Republican leaders, the Senate voted overwhelmingly (78-20) in favor of the amendment, which adds an additional \$6 billion in child care funding to the welfare bill. Both House and Senate bills had included a \$1 billion increase in child care funding; the Senate bill now calls for an extra \$7 billion, which will need to be reconciled with the House figure once the full Senate passes its bill. The White House has stated that extra child care funds above \$1 billion are not needed because welfare caseloads have been dramatically reduced since the TANF law was enacted in 1996. Senator Snowe and many Senate Democrats have argued that only a portion of children from eligible families currently receive child care assistance.

**TANF Extended Through June 30, 2004:** Unable to complete TANF reauthorization before the current law was set to expire March 31<sup>st</sup>, Congress passed its 6<sup>th</sup> short-term extension allowing the program to continue through June 30<sup>th</sup>. Though House Ways and Means Committee Chair



Wally Herger threatened to use the latest extension to bring about policy changes to the TANF program, each chamber passed what is called a “clean” extension of the current law. Passing additional “clean” extensions may be more difficult, however, as House Republicans – frustrated by lack of progress in the Senate – push for policy changes to the TANF program that were approved by the House more than a year ago.

The TANF extension also allows title IV-E child welfare waivers to continue through June 30<sup>th</sup>. Language addressing the waiver program is included in both House and Senate welfare reauthorization bills.

## ***Time Still Left to Register for PCA America’s National Conference (May 16-19 in Orlando!)***

As we as a field observe Child Abuse Prevention Month this April, we are reminded of the importance of combining our efforts to focus on this important issue. PCA America’s national conference presents a unique opportunity for all of us to come together to talk about issues in prevention and learn from our peers. Following are some workshops highlighting prevention in a way that you won’t find in most other conference settings.

A3: Introduction to Federal Policy and Advocacy to Prevent Child Abuse and Neglect

A11: The Power of Prevention: What you can do!

B7: Child Maltreatment and Methamphetamine

C5: Reframing Our Issue: A New Way of Talking About Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention

D6: Working at the Crossroads of Politics and Policy: How to Advocate Without Getting Run Over

D5: The Healthy Marriage Initiative and Child Abuse Prevention

E5: Cultivating the Seeds of Prevention: Tools, Techniques, Strategies and Philosophies

E12: Baby Basics: Shaken Baby Syndrome Prevention and Awareness Curriculum  
Announcements:

***CONTINUING EDUCATION UNITS:*** Get credit for absorbing all this new information!

Continuing Education for this conference is sponsored by the Institute for Continuing Education and will be awarded on a session-by-session basis. The total number of CEU’s awarded is 22 hours. For more information and to sign up, go to

[http://www.preventchildabuse.org/news/conf\\_registration.htm](http://www.preventchildabuse.org/news/conf_registration.htm) and download the registration book. You will also have the opportunity to register for CEUs when you’re on-site at the conference.

***TIME’S RUNNING OUT!:*** Hotel Reservation Deadline: **You must book your hotel room at Disney’s Coronado Springs no later than April 15 to receive the special conference rate of \$129/night** – Call today – 407-939-1020. Due to popular demand, the hotel is booking up fast, and some post-conference days are already sold out, so don’t delay – book today! (If the hotel is sold out, they will transfer your reservation to another Disney hotel property at the same conference rate – be sure to ask for details when you call to reserve your room.)



**Advance conference registration will close on April 30<sup>th</sup>.** All registrations must be received or postmarked by April 30<sup>th</sup> in order to receive the Regular Registration rate of \$350. Any subsequent registrations will be returned and individuals will have to register on-site at the higher on-site registration rate of \$395.

To register, book a room and for a full list of speakers and workshops, go to [www.preventchildabuse.org](http://www.preventchildabuse.org), or to receive a registration book in the mail, call 312.663.3520 x109.

## ***Useful Resources for Advocates***

- ❑ To kick off the beginning of National Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Month, a news conference was held on April 1<sup>st</sup> featuring Assistant Secretary Wade Horn, House Majority Leader Tom Delay, and Surgeon General Richard Carmona. During this event, the formation of a new working group – the Surgeon General’s Workshop on Child Maltreatment – was announced. For more information, access the press release at <http://www.hhs.gov/news/press/2004pres/20040401.html>.
- ❑ New data on child maltreatment was also released at the April 1st press event. HHS estimates that, in 2002, 896,000 children had substantiated cases of abuse or neglect, and about 1,400 children died of abuse or neglect. Approximately 2,600,000 reports of possible maltreatment were received by child protection services agencies. The data was collected via the National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System (NCANDS); the report includes summary findings for the calendar year 2002. *Child Maltreatment 2002* can be downloaded from the Children’s Bureau website at <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/cb/publications/cm02/index.htm>.
- ❑ The January 2004 edition of the OJJDP publication *Juvenile Justice Bulletin* discusses possible explanations for a reduction in substantiated sexual abuse cases between 1992 and 2000. A copy of this report can be accessed via the OJJDP website at <http://www.ojjdp.ncjrs.org/publications/PubAbstract.asp?pubi=11458>.
- ❑ Since 1996, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) has approved 25 child welfare waiver demonstration programs in 17 states. Summaries of state waiver programs can be found on the Children’s Bureau website at: <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/cb/initiatives/cwwaiver.htm>.
- ❑ Under current law, HHS can approve waivers for up to 10 states each year to conduct demonstration projects that give states additional flexibility to use title IV-E funds for services that promote child safety, permanency, and well being. This year, the Department has received proposals for new child welfare waivers from 12 states. Additional proposals are expected before decisions are made about granting the waivers. Proposal summaries will be posted on the Children’s Bureau website to inform the public and invite comment. Proposals, and instructions for providing comment, will be posted at: <http://www.acf.hhs.gov.programs.cb.initiatives/cwwaiver/proposals/index.htm>.



- ❑ A new report has been issued on the federal financing “straightjacket”, or the inability to use federal foster care funds for strategies – such as prevention services and substance abuse treatment -- that could improve child safety and permanency. *The Foster Care Straightjacket: Innovation, Federal Financing & Accountability in State Foster Care Reform* was issued by Fostering Results, a national, nonpartisan project supported by the Pew Charitable Trust to raise issues facing children in foster care. The report can be accessed at:  
[http://www.fosteringresults.org/results/reports/pewreports\\_03-11-04\\_straightjacket.pdf](http://www.fosteringresults.org/results/reports/pewreports_03-11-04_straightjacket.pdf).
- ❑ A *Grant Opportunities Notebook*, now available from HHS, includes information on: federal grant opportunities; how to become a grant reviewer; and the Compassion Capital Fund. The Notebook can be downloaded from the Center for Faith-Based and Community Initiatives web page at  
<http://www.hhs.gov/fbci/docs/FBCI2004GrantsNotebook.pdf>.
- ❑ The Census Bureau has published a new report on the social and economic characteristics of U.S. children. Check out *Children and the Households They Live In: 2000* at the Census Bureau’s website at <http://www.census.gov>.
- ❑ Docs For Tots is a nonprofit organization working to increase the number of doctors who are doing child advocacy work on behalf of infants, toddlers, preschoolers and their families. The organization serves as a bridge between doctors interested in advocacy work and local and state child advocacy organizations. Visit their website, [www.docsfortots.org](http://www.docsfortots.org), for more information and for help in finding a doctor in your area that is interested in becoming involved in your work.
- ❑ Information about the 2004 elections can now be accessed through Prevent Child Abuse America’s legislative action center. For candidate bios, candidates’ statements on important issues, or information on voter registration, go directly to <http://capwiz.com/pca/e4/>, or visit our legislative action center (available via our website at [www.preventchildabuse.org](http://www.preventchildabuse.org)), and click on “Elections and Candidates”.

---

**To subscribe or unsubscribe to the *Prevention Advocate*, please contact Jane Ascroft at [jascroft@preventchildabuse.org](mailto:jascroft@preventchildabuse.org).**

Writer: Jane Ascroft

Special Contributor: Tom Birch by way of the *Washington Memorandum* (If you would like to subscribe to the *Washington Memorandum*, contact Tom Birch at [tbirch@elinkisp.com](mailto:tbirch@elinkisp.com)).

Editor: Shaun Lane

© 2003 by Prevent Child Abuse America

*Prevention Advocate* is published monthly.

