

Call your senators

**** High Priority ****

It is expected that the Labor HHS bill (HR 3010) that was passed in the House today by a vote of 215-213 will move to the Senate for vote, most likely tomorrow (Thursday). If you have not already done so, call your senators and ask them to vote AGAINST the bill. We are really focusing on Republicans, although we need to make sure all our Senators are on board.

Andrea and I have also been calling the Republicans on the Senate Special Committee on Aging to urge their support to vote against the bill as well.

Tonight I had a call from Senator Kennedy's HELP Committee. They asked that in addition to what we are doing, we target the following

Republican Senators:

Lamar Alexander, TN (202) 224-4944

Jim Talent, MO (202) 224-6154

Kit Bond, MO (202) 224-5721

Lincoln Chafee, RI (202) 224-2921

Olympia Snowe, ME (202) 224-5344

I have called each of their offices and left messages with their legislative aides. I have e-mailed the GECs from those regions and asked that they follow up tomorrow ASAP. Push them to vote AGAINST the bill.

Please do whatever you can to help get the word out. The vote will be close.

We need to find a way to get funding reinstated for geriatrics. NAGEC is also continuing to work closely with AGS to seek a special appropriation for geriatrics under the Defense Appropriations bill. We will be contacting some of you for your help. Also, if that doesn't work, there is still an opportunity to go for a supplemental appropriation in March.

We will exhaust every option before we permit the GEC network to fall!

Elyse A. Perweiler, MPP, RN