



## House Will Take Up Amendment for Child Psychiatry Loan Forgiveness

In the coming two days, healthcare is expected to be debated and voted on in the House of Representatives. This is the next step to moving further to significant changes in healthcare delivery. To view some of the mental health provisions of the bills click [here](#). This bill, like the Senate is not perfect. However, it does include provisions to:

- prohibit insurance companies from denying insurance coverage, charging more, or retroactively taking away coverage when children get sick,
- keep children covered under the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) in the program until in 2013,
- expand mental health parity, and
- provide funds to support and develop mental and behavioral health training programs, specifically pediatric mental health training programs.

The House is expected to vote on the bill on Saturday. However, before this happens the House Rules Committee will decide on the amendments that will be accepted. **There is one specific amendment that we are watching carefully and ask that you call your Representative to ask them to support – [amendment #64](#) offered by Representative Matheson (UT) that provides loan forgiveness to pediatric subspecialists and child mental health professionals.** This is the same language that is included in the Senate HELP committee bill (see previous legislative updates and alerts).

Please call your Representative with the following message:

*As a constituent and child and adolescent psychiatrist, I ask for your support of Representative Matheson's amendment for pediatric subspecialty and child mental health loan forgiveness. One of the key barriers to mental health treatment is access to pediatric specialists trained in the identification, diagnosis and treatment of children and adolescents with emotional and behavioral disorders. Increasing educational debt, and a long training period, are two prominent factors that discourage medical students in choosing a career in child and adolescent psychiatry, other child mental health professions, and pediatric subspecialties.*

[Please click here to contact your representatives.](#)

The Rules Committee vote and the House vote are not the last stop for the healthcare debate, but rather the next step towards improved access and treatment for children. There will still be plenty of additional opportunities to work to improve the bills and

there will be many “twists and turns” in the coming weeks. We are still waiting to hear what is in the Senate Finance and HELP Committee merged bill. I hope you will work with us to continue to improve these different bills as we move toward one final healthcare legislation.

If you have any questions about healthcare reform or our other legislative issues, please let our Government Affairs office know. Thank you for your advocacy!

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