



Capitol News!

by the
**National Association of State Head
Injury Administrators**

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Dear NASHIA Member,

Welcome to *Capitol News!* Congress returned this week after the Thanksgiving break. After this week, the 115th Congress has only two more weeks as the lawmakers are scheduled to adjourn Dec. 13. Before adjourning, Congress needs to pass the remaining appropriations bills that are set to expire Dec. 7, in order to avoid a government shutdown. Appropriation bills affecting the Departments of Defense, Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education have already been signed into law, funding these federal agencies through Sept. 30, 2019.

Yesterday, the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP) Committee finished its work for this year, which included voting in favor of the TBI Program Reauthorization Act (S.3657), which is now on the Senate Calendar. Read further for more information. Finally, the Congressional Brain Injury Task Force's Awareness Day has been scheduled for March 13, 2019. For further information on NASHIA's public policy work, go to the NASHIA [website](#).

This Week in Congress

The House and Senate were in session this week. As the Democrats picked up 40 seats from the November election, the House will switch to leadership by the Democrats in January. The Republicans elected Rep. Kevin McCarthy (R-CA) as the Minority Leader. This week, the Democratic Caucus elected Rep. Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) to be the Speaker of the House with Rep. Steny Hoyer (D-MD) as the Majority Leader. The full House of Representatives will vote on the Speaker of House Jan. 3, 2019.



This week, the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions met for the final time, voting on a package of health care bills and nominations.

Legislation

Senate HELP Committee Passes the TBI Act Reauthorization

Yesterday, the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP), chaired by Sen. Lamar Alexander (R-TN), advanced [S.3657](#), the Traumatic Brain Injury Program Reauthorization Act of 2018, introduced by Senators Orrin Hatch (R-UT) and Bob Casey, Jr. (D-PA). The bill reauthorizes State grants, state protection and advocacy grants, and programs administered by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) with regard to prevention, public education and data collection through fiscal year 2024. The legislation designates the Administration for Community Living (ACL) in law as the administering agency for both the State grant and the protection and advocacy grant program.

The authorization levels for both the State grant and protection and advocacy grant programs were increased to reflect the additional funding received in the previous fiscal year. Specifically, the authorization level for the State grant program was increased from \$5,5000 to \$7,321,000 for each of the fiscal years 2020 through 2024 and the state grants for protection and advocacy services from \$3,100,000 to \$4,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2020 through 2024. In addition,

authorization levels for the CDC program was increased by \$5 million each year in order for the Injury Center to implement and to administer a concussion surveillance system, which authority was added to the CDC section. The new provision allows CDC to implement concussion data collection and analysis to determine the prevalence and incidence of concussion.

The bill has now been placed on the Senate Calendar for consideration by the full Senate.

Senate HELP Committee Advances the EMSC Bill

The Senate HELP Committee also voted favorably for [S.3482](#), Emergency Medical Services for Children Program Reauthorization Act of 2018, offered by Senators Bob Casey, Jr. (D-PA), Orrin Hatch (R-UT), and Brian Schatz (D-HI). The legislation extends the EMSC program through fiscal year 2024 to ensure that, from the ambulance to the emergency department, emergency health care providers are prepared to treat children.

Administered by the U.S. Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), EMSC is the only federal grant program specifically focused on addressing the distinct needs of children in prehospital and hospital emergency medical systems. The EMSC Program works to ensure that seriously sick or injured children have access to the same high-quality pediatric emergency health care, no matter where they live in the United States.

Briefings

CBITF Sets Date for 2019 Brain Injury Awareness Day

The Congressional Brain Injury Task Force has scheduled the Brain Injury Awareness Day for Wed., March 13, 2019. As in the past, the day will consist of a fair, briefing and reception. Mark your calendar and stay tuned for further information.

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The National Association of State Head Injury Administrators assists State government in promoting partnerships and building systems to meet the needs of individuals with brain injuries and their families.

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