HR – 5613: “Protecting the Medical Safety Net Act of 2008”
The bipartisan House bill imposing moratoria on the CMS regulations (H.R. 5613) passed the House by a vote of 342-62! Despite the Administration’s objections and pressures, the vote was an overwhelming “Veto-Proof” majority. For specific information on how each House Member voted, click here. To view a copy of the bill, click here. For further background information on H.R. 5613, click here.

The Senate Republicans have been circulating a letter among their colleagues seeking signatures to prove that they would have the votes needed to sustain a Presidential veto on the moratoria. They need 34 votes to do that. There are 49 Republicans in the Senate. As of this morning, the best the Republicans could do was to get 18 signatures and several Republicans are now asking to have their signatures removed. The Senate could pass the moratorium bill and even if the President vetoed it, there are enough votes in both Houses to override the veto. Advocacy groups are now working to amend the supplemental war funding bill to include the moratorium language. A vote on the supplemental could come up as early as next week.

Call for Presenters/Speakers!
The 2008 NAME Conference Committee invites you to participate in our 6th Annual Conference, being held September 24-26, 2008 in Philadelphia at the Hyatt Regency at Penn's Landing. Click here to get more information about the Conference, including additional links to the “Call for Presenters”, “Presenters Application Form” and the “Call for Speakers”.

May is Better Hearing & Speech Month
The American Speech & Hearing Association (ASHA) has designated each May as Better Hearing & Speech Month. The theme this year is “Helping people communicate.” That is also one of the goals of this E-Tag resource. There is link to the ASHA Public Relations Handbook- A Guide to Reaching the Media which has helpful instructions for getting your message out using different media outlets.

You can find more information on the ASHA website about topics related to:

- Medicaid Reimbursement in Schools
- Medicaid Payment for School based Services

Systematic Education Reform and Disability Prevention Article from the Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities
The Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities (CCD) is a Coalition of national consumer, advocacy, provider and professional organizations headquartered in Washington, D.C. Since 1973, the CCD has advocated on behalf of people of all ages with physical and mental disabilities and their families. CCD has worked to achieve federal legislation and regulations that assure that the 54 million children and adults with exceptionalities are fully integrated into the mainstream of society. The attached article/summary describes a recent forum held at the Center for American Progress which was designed to inform school principals about the importance of identifying children with disabilities and how effective health education can greatly improve the health outcomes of school age children. As a result of this forum, a letter was forwarded to the Chairman of the House Education and Labor Committee to direct evidence based health training program to prevent the reduction of childhood disabilities.

We’re on the Web! www.medicaidforeducation.org
Email: Info@medicaidforeducation.com