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Your Inside Track to Federal Policy



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House Moves Forward Legislation on Tax Reform, Public Health

This past week, the House of Representatives acted on two pieces of legislation with broad jurisdiction over healthcare and tax policy. On November 3, the House voted [242-174](#) to pass the Championing Healthy Kids Act ([H.R. 3922](#)), granting a five-year funding extension for the Children's Health Insurance Program and a two-year extension to community health centers, the National Health Service Corps, and other public health programs. The bill offsets costs by using funding from the [Prevention and Public Health](#) (the Prevention) fund, cutting \$6.35 billion over 10 years. In May, AACN signed onto a [letter](#) opposing any actions to reduce or repeal the Prevention fund, as this would leave a gap for other programs that receive support through this stream.

On November 6, the House Ways and Means Committee began marking up [H.R. 1 \(115\)](#), the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act. Republican leadership has long been eager to address tax reform. Once considered a possible avenue to move a health reform measure, such as stripping the individual mandate, recent reports now note that including repeal and replace measures would make it highly difficult for any tax package to pass Congress.

FDA to Hold Public Workshop on Opioid Packaging, Storage, and Disposal

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) will hold a two-day [public workshop](#), "Packaging, Storage, and Disposal Options to Enhance Opioid Safety—Exploring the Path Forward," on December 11-12 in Silver Spring, MD. The purpose of the workshop is to discuss strategies and seek input from stakeholders on the packaging, storage, and disposal of prescription painkillers. In a statement reaffirming the agency's commitment to addressing the [opioid epidemic](#), FDA Commissioner Scott Gottlieb, MD, outlined the goals of the workshop: to define the specific problems that need to be addressed, establish clear guiding principles for designing new product features, and better define types of data needed to evaluate if solutions are working. Register (in-person or via webcast) [here](#).

Next NINR Director's Lecture: Symptom Science in Irritable Bowel Syndrome

On November 14, Margaret Heitkemper, PhD, RN, FAAN, will present the fourth 2017 NINR Director's Lecture on the NIH Campus in Bethesda, MD. In her presentation, "Symptom Science in Irritable Bowel Syndrome: Biomarkers to Intervention," Dr. Heitkemper will describe her program of research, which addresses the pathophysiology and biobehavioral treatment of irritable bowel syndrome and the interaction of stress and symptoms in children and adults. The lecture will be followed by an opportunity for questions and discussion. This public event is free and will be available on [YouTube](#) a few weeks following the lecture. Visit www.ninr.nih.gov/directorslecture for more information.

