

## POLICY & PRACTICE

### Physical Activity Bill Introduced

U.S. Rep. Zach Wamp (R-Tenn.), Rep. Ron Kind (D-Wis.), and Rep. Jay Inslee (D-Wash.) have introduced a bill to mandate more physical activity for schoolchildren. The Fitness Integrated With Teaching Kids (FIT Kids) Act would add physical education to the ways of determining accountability under the No Child Left Behind Act. States would be graded on how well they worked to meet a target for required physical education of 150 minutes per week in elementary schools and 225 minutes per week for middle- and high-school students. Schools would be required to report their progress, including details on the amount of time students spend in required physical education and the percentage of elementary and secondary school physical education teachers who are state licensed or certified in physical education. "The statistics on childhood obesity are staggering, and we need to get them going in the other direction," Rep. Wamp said in a statement. "Research shows that healthy children learn more effectively and achieve more academically. The FIT Kids Act would ensure a strong emphasis on physical education to help bolster academic performance and provide students with the physical activity and education to lead healthy lifestyles."

### Proposed Imaging Cuts Decried

The Access to Medical Imaging Coalition, a group that includes the American Association of Clinical Endocrinologists, has

asked House members to change a section of the Children's Health and Medicare Protection (CHAMP) Act of 2007 that would impose further cuts on Medicare reimbursement for medical imaging procedures. The proposed cuts would be in addition to a \$13 billion cut in imaging payments under the Deficit Reduction Act that went into effect last January. Under those cuts, "access to imaging services, particularly in rural areas, is being limited," the coalition said in a letter to House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.). For example, "the Community Women's Health Clinic in Charleston, W.Va., has stopped performing osteoporosis screening and treatment services altogether because they can no longer afford to do the procedures. These additional CHAMP Act proposed cuts would also have a harsh impact on underserved populations who have little or no insurance or cannot afford to pay out of pocket for imaging services." The proposed cuts include a 50% reduction in the technical component for certain imaging services. The House and Senate both passed legislation to reauthorize children's health care in August; a conference committee is expected to reconcile the different bills this month.

### Small Practices Decline

Physicians are shying away from solo and two-physician practices, according to a new report from the Center for Studying Health System Change. Although these small practices are still the most common

practice arrangements, between 1996-1997 and 2004-2005 researchers saw a shift from solo and 2-person practices to mid-sized, single-specialty groups of 6-50 physicians. The percentage of physicians who practiced in solo and two-person practices fell from 41% in 1996-1997 to 33% in 2004-2005. During the same time period, the percentage of physicians practicing in mid-sized groups rose from 13% to 18%. The biggest declines in physicians who choose small practices have come from medical specialists and surgical specialists, whereas the proportion of primary care physicians in small practices has remained steady at about 36%. "Physicians appear to be organizing in larger, single-specialty practices that present enhanced opportunities to offer more profitable ancillary services rather than organizing in ways that support coordination of care," Paul B. Ginsburg, president of the Center for Studying Health System Change, said in a statement. The report's findings are based on the group's nationally representative Community Tracking Study Physician Survey.

### FDA, DoD to Share Data

The Department of Defense will share data and expertise with the Food and Drug Administration related to the review and use of FDA-regulated drugs, biologics, and medical devices in an effort to identify potential concerns and recognize benefits of products, the two agencies said. The DoD will share general patient data from military health system records with the FDA, although the agencies will

protect all personal health information exchanged under the agreement. Among the DoD programs involved in the agreement is TRICARE, which serves 9.1 million members of the uniformed services, military retirees, and their families, and TRICARE prescription data likely will be the first information shared as part of the project. The partnership between the DoD and FDA is part of the FDA's Sentinel Network, a project intended to explore linking private sector and public sector information to create an integrated electronic network.

### GAO Finds Medicaid Decline

A law requiring most U.S. citizens applying for Medicaid coverage to document their citizenship has caused eligible citizens to lose Medicaid coverage, and the law costs far more to administer than it saves, according to two government analyses. The law went into effect on July 1, 2006, and affects 30 million children and 16 million parents currently enrolled in Medicaid, as well as millions of new applicants. The first analysis, from the Government Accountability Office, found that half the states are reporting declines in Medicaid coverage because of the requirement, and many of those losing coverage appear to be U.S. citizens. The second analysis, produced by the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, found that for every \$100 spent by federal taxpayers to implement the documentation requirements in six states, only 14 cents in Medicaid savings can be documented.

—Joyce Frieden

## CLASSIFIEDS

Also Available at [www.clinicalendocrinologynews.com](http://www.clinicalendocrinologynews.com)

### PROFESSIONAL OPPORTUNITIES



Marshfield  
Clinic.

Where the future  
of medicine lives.



MARSHFIELD  
CLINIC.  
Where the future of medicine lives

Marshfield Clinic is a nationally recognized health care leader and innovator. We provide our physicians with the most advanced medical equipment and health information technology available today. And with a wide range of continuing education opportunities designed to serve the needs of physicians as well as patients.

Marshfield Clinic offers:

- Generous guaranteed two year salary followed by unlimited RVU production based income
- A 100% endocrinology practice
- A comfortable call schedule shared among a system-wide department of five colleagues
- EMR accessed with mobile PC at point of service
- The advantage of practicing where genetic research and educational opportunities are easily accessible
- A community that offers affordable housing, excellent schools, plus proximity to excellent indoor and outdoor recreational activities
- A benefit package including a fully funded retirement plan, matching 401K plan, four weeks paid vacation, two weeks CME with up to \$5,800 allowance, generous relocation, and more

Incentive available for the right candidate!

To learn more about an excellent opportunity, please contact: Mary Treichel, Physician Recruiter, Phone: 800-782-8581 extension 19774; Fax: 715-221-9779; E-mail: [treichel.mary@marshfieldclinic.org](mailto:treichel.mary@marshfieldclinic.org); Website: [www.marshfieldclinic.org/recruit](http://www.marshfieldclinic.org/recruit)

### Baltimore

Hospital employed Endocrinology position joining well established physician in desirable growing northwest suburb of Baltimore associated with dynamic and modern 200 bed hospital. Join busy outpatient practice with comprehensive diabetes center that includes wound center and hyperbasic medicine. Excellent salary, bonus and benefits. Donohue and Associates 800-831-5475. Fax 314-984-8246 E/m: [donohueandassoc@aol.com](mailto:donohueandassoc@aol.com)

### Project



Give. Dept. A  
Washington, D.C. 20007

## BEST READERSHIP, LOW COST QUALIFIED LEADS

2007  
CLASSIFIEDS

Clinical Endocrinology News  
Rates

4 Column Classified Ads  
From 1" to 12"  
Sizes from 1/48th  
of a page  
to a full page

For Deadlines and More Information  
Contact: Andrea Lamonica  
Tel: (800) 381-0569 or  
fax your ad to 914-381-0573  
Email ad to: [a.lamonica@elsevier.com](mailto:a.lamonica@elsevier.com)



Clinical Endocrinology News  
Elsevier-Clinical Endocrinology News  
1120 Jensen Avenue  
Mamaroneck, NY 10543

### Disclaimer

CLINICAL ENDOCRINOLOGY NEWS assumes the statements made in classified advertisements are accurate, but cannot investigate the statements and assumes no responsibility or liability concerning their content. The Publisher reserves the right to decline, withdraw, or edit advertisements. Every effort will be made to avoid mistakes, but responsibility cannot be accepted for clerical or printer errors.