



STAMP REPORT SUMMARY

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DATE: 9/1/2020

MEETING UPDATE: June 2020-August 2020

- The Temporary Reciprocity to Ensure Treatment (TREAT) Act was introduced, which would provide temporary licensing reciprocity for all practitioners and health care professionals in all states during a national emergency, including for telehealth services.
- The Trump administration proposed that 10% of education funds be earmarked for private schools and the administration's proposed 'Educational Freedom Scholarships' in the next COVID-19 response legislation

Schools Notes

- ASHA staff participated in the National Alliance of Specialized Instructional Support Personnel's August meeting to discuss COVID-19 response legislation, school reopening issues, and legislation introduced by Sen. Chris Murphy (D-CT) and Rep. Ayanna Pressley (D-MA) to prohibit federal funds for school resource officers (H.R. 7848/S. 4360).
- ASHA hosted a phone call with the National Education Association (NEA) to discuss how to provide ASHA resources on school reopening with NEA members, ASHA staff also participated in a call hosted by the Council of Administrators of Special Education to discuss "Reopening Schools-Considerations for Students with Disabilities".
- ASHA staff created a Schools Reopening State-by-State Tracker that includes each state's reopening plans as well as 7 indicators of issues of importance to ASHA members and whether each state's plan addresses each of those areas: <https://www.asha.org/uploadedFiles/State-School-Re-Opening-Plans.pdf>
- Senate Republicans introduced their Phase 4 COVID-19 relief bill, the Health, Education Assistance, Liability Protections, and Schools (HEALS) Act, which provides HHS authority to extend all current telehealth authorities and flexibilities until the end of the COVID-19 PHE or December 31, 2021, whichever is later. The legislation includes \$105 billion for education (including about \$70 billion for K-12, with one third released immediately, and two thirds reserved for schools that at least partially reopen for in-person education).

Health Care Notes

- Last week ASHA submitted comments to the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) regarding the 2021 Medicare Prospective Payment System for Skilled Nursing Facilities. As CMS had just implemented the Patient Driven Payment Model (PDPM) on October 1, 2019 for the 2020 fiscal year, the proposed rule did not include any sweeping changes. The comments also highlighted concerns ASHA has with PDPM implementation and encouraging additional federal agency oversight of the program.

- As a result of ASHA advocacy in coalition with AOTA, APTA NASL, NARA and AHCA, CMS announced that skilled nursing facilities (SNFs) could provide and bill for outpatient (Part B) telehealth services; which helps expand the ability of speech-language pathologists and other SNF clinicians to provide medically necessary services while reducing risk of transmission of the COVID-19.
- The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) released its 2021 proposed rule for Medicare Part B (outpatient) services last week. The rule confirms significant cuts to audiology, speech-language pathology, and other Medicare services due to increases to payment for primary care services. However, CMS proposed both to accept ASHA-recommended values for new and updated codes for vestibular and auditory evoked potential testing and to provide increases for certain speech-language pathology evaluation codes. Furthermore, the proposed rule adds more services to the permanent telehealth list, though audiology and speech-language pathology services are not directly addressed. A summary of the proposed rule is available at <https://www.asha.org/News/2020/2021-Medicare-Part-B-Proposed-Rule- Includes-Coding-Changes-Significant-Payment-Cuts/>. GAPP staff are analyzing the rule and will provide written comments to CMS by the October deadline.