



## **AESA Online News – Special Edition May 1, 2008**

### **In this edition:**

- 1. URGENT: Immediate Senate Contacts Needed to Continue Medicaid Moratorium**
- 2. AESA Business Partner Great American Plan Administrators Provide No Cost Third Party IRS Compliance**

### **1. URGENT: Immediate Senate Contacts Needed to Continue Medicaid Moratorium**

A week ago we asked ESAs to contact their U.S. House members urging support of HR 5613, the bill to block administration regulations that would have cut the Medicaid school reimbursement program. Your work, along with that of other organizations opposed to the cuts, resulted in a bipartisan 349-62 victory, with 20 members not voting. The vote was 221 Democrats voting yea, none voting nay, and two not voting; 128 Republicans voting yea, 62 voting nay, and 8 not voting.

H.R. 5613, which will allow ESAs and LEAs to continue to receive reimbursement for the health-related transportation, administrative and outreach services provided for Medicaid-eligible students.

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services has issued regulations to end the program. Last year Congress passed a moratorium on implementing those regulations. That moratorium ends June 30. HR 5613 extends the moratorium to June 30, 2009.

We urge you to contact your House members who supported HR 5613 and thank them for their vote. You can check the roll call to see how your House member voted at: <http://clerk.house.gov/evs/2008/roll209.xml> .

We now urge you to immediately contact your two Senators and urge their support for the bill. Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-NV, has placed HR 5613 on a fast track for a floor vote perhaps as early as next week by invoking a Senate procedure that will bypass committee action.

President Bush has indicated he will veto the bill if it reaches his desk. The House vote is sufficient to override a veto. It is reported that Senate Republican

leaders are working to lock down enough opposition to prevent a veto-proof vote, even if HR 5613 passes.

### **AESA Business Partner Great American Plan Administrators Provide No Cost Third Party IRS Compliance**

*This article was included in the April 21 AESA Online News, but contained a typo in the program administrator and email address to request additional information. It is reprinted in this special edition of the AESA Online News with the correct contact person and email address. The AESA regrets the error.*

The IRS has mandated changes to the administration of tax sheltered individual annuity 403(b) and deferred compensation 457 plans effective January 1, 2009. The AESA and Great American Plan Administrators, an AESA Business Partner, are announcing a new program for ESAs and the school districts they serve to provide no cost administration of those programs that will meet the IRS mandated changes.

The program offers full compliance with the mandated changes, at no charge, regardless of the program providers through the third party plan administration of Great American Plan Administrators. The program will also provide:

- Updates on IRS regulations,
- Monitoring IRS limits,
- Accountability for the agency or district for loan and distribution processing, and
- Plan document preparation.

Additionally, the no cost plan administration provides consultation with the Great American Plan Administrators' staff regulatory attorney. The program includes secure electronic transfer of information. Great American Plan Administrators will work with the ESAs or school districts at no cost to align necessary data for the electronic transfer. The program also provides both employer and employee education and training.

For more information:

- Visit the AESA/Great American Plan program website at: <http://www.gaplandata.com/aesa.asp>
- View a three-minute web-based video describing the program at: <http://new.gafri.com/publicsite/swf/asea/player.html>
- Send an email requesting information to: [aesagaplan@gafri.com](mailto:aesagaplan@gafri.com)
- Contact Lana Woodring, Great American Plan Administrators, (800) 695-1471, ext. 11761.