



8400 Westpark Drive  
2nd Floor  
McLean, VA 22102  
1-800-523-4447  
Fax: 703-610-0210

## AAA Health Care Reform Update

### March 26, 2010

*With the passage of health care reform legislation, this will be the last weekly AAA Update dedicated to the issue. However, the AAA will continue to report on new developments on the issue in the weekly AAA Government Affairs Updates as well as in periodic special updates on pressing matters on implementation of health care reform. We hope that you have found these weekly AAA Health Care Reform Updates to be of value to your organization.*

#### Congress Passes Health Care Reform Reconciliation Bill

By Patton Boggs, AAA Advocacy Firm

Last night, the U.S. House of Representatives, by a vote of 220 to 207, passed a revised Reconciliation Bill (H.R. 4872) which makes changes to the health care reform bill (H.R. 3590) that President Obama signed into law on Tuesday. H.R. 4872 would not alter the Medicare ambulance relief extensions which were enacted on Tuesday as part of the *Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act* (H.R. 3590). The Reconciliation Bill now goes to the President for his signature.

On March 21, the House had passed the *Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act* as well as the Reconciliation Bill. The *Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act*, which contained the Medicare ambulance relief extensions, went straight to the President whereas the Reconciliation Bill was referred to the U.S. Senate.

During Senate consideration of the Reconciliation Bill, Republicans offered dozens of amendments designed to force votes on politically difficult issues and raised numerous procedural objections. A primary goal of the Senate Republicans was to change the Reconciliation Bill and force the bill to be referred back to the House. All of the amendments offered failed but the Senate Parliamentarian sided with Senate Republicans that two minor student loan provisions of the bill

violated reconciliation rules. Yesterday afternoon, the Senate passed the Reconciliation Bill by a vote of 56 to 43 and the revised bill with the two provisions struck was referred back to the House. The House then voted on the bill last night.

The Medicare ambulance relief provisions in the *Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act* would extend the 2% urban, 3% rural and super rural increases for one-year retroactive to January 1, 2010. The original Senate version of the *Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act* would have started the extensions of relief on April 1 of this year. However, the AAA was able to work with its champions in the Senate to amend the bill which occurred during consideration of H.R. 3590 on the Senate floor.