

What's New at the American Public Health Association Student Assembly March 2005

APHA Action Alert: Protect Medicaid From Cuts in Funding

On March 15, the Senate is expected to consider its budget resolution which currently includes instructions to cut federal Medicaid funding by \$15-\$20 billion over five years. Senators Smith and Bingaman are offering an amendment that would strike these instructions, therefore protecting the Medicaid entitlement. If this amendment is not passed, then the instructions to cut funding for Medicaid will be passed by both chambers, which will ultimately lead to decreases in people enrolled in and services offered under the program, as they would be required to pass measures to meet that savings goal.

Let's stop Medicaid cuts before they start! Call you Senators now toll free at **(800) 828-0498** and tell them to support the Smith/Bingaman amendment. Take action now and get talking points at <http://capwiz.com/apha/callalert/index.tt?alertid=7196106&type=CO>. After you call using our electronic tool for talking points, you will be able to make comments directly back to us through the tool.

Thank you for your advocacy and please visit APHA's [Medicaid Advocacy Center](#) to learn more about our efforts on Medicaid.

Action Committee Update

Our Co-Chair Jay Bhatt has resigned in order to take the position of Vice President of the American Medical Student Association. We wish him well! If anyone is interested in the Action Committee Co-Chair position please contact Kate Maggioncalda Action Committee Chair at: kem2108@columbia.edu.

National Public Health week (April 4-8, 2005) is fast approaching, and the Action Committee has created a toolkit to help people observe the week more fully. The Student Assembly has partnered with our parent organization, the American Public Health Association (APHA), to promote student participation in NPHW. During NPHW, APHA and its partners will promote the three Ps in adding more healthy years to life: Prevent Protect and Plan. Additionally, a student supplement to the APHA Planner's Guide, available online at <http://www.apha.org/nphw>. After you have completed your outstanding programs and initiatives in your community, the Student Assembly would like to hear from you. We ask that you send information on the NPHW events in your community to us to recognize in our newsletter, *News & Views*, and to compile in the APHA-SA Project Idea Book. Thank you for your continued commitment to improving the health of your community.

Interested in Diversity Related Issues?

The Diversity Committee has also created a monthly newsletter which can be found on the www.phsc.org website. The February issue focused on efforts to promote and maintain at schools of public health in the U.S. The March issue will be focusing on Women's History month.

In the Spotlight

By Jenn Hoffman

Indiana has embarked on a new era in Indiana legislative agendas. A republican changing of the guard in November, resulted in a republican controlled House and Senate, as well as Governor's Office. These new members of the Indiana government met with their completely republican executive branch (Secretary of State, Treasurer, Auditor, and Superintendent of Education). However, this change may have resulted in a business focused climate for the legislature overshadowing the public health measures proposed. This year the legislature has acted to improve the health and wellness of Hoosiers through measures to decrease access to methamphetamine ingredients, reduce childhood obesity, increase access to care, and prohibit smoking in enclosed public places. Though each of these measures would have been a victory for public health advocates, all saw their end when the Indiana House Minority, in an effort to exhort their limited control refused to come to the floor and vote during the bill deadline days. This refusal to vote killed 130 bills or over 50 percent of the proposed House legislation. Efforts have been made resurrect four public health measures, but it will be up to the Indiana Senate to approve these amendments added to their previous legislation. Currently, Indiana is still considering twelve measures, listed below:

Bill Number	Bill Title	Bill Author
HB1039	Defrauding Drug or Alcohol Screening tests	(R)- Ayres
HB 1057	Open Alcoholic Beverage Containers	(R)- Duncan
HB 1126	Immunity for 501C's	(R)- Foley
HB 1223	Fighting Methamphetamine	(R)- Koch
HB 1607	Licensure of Abortion Facilities	(R)- Noe
HB 1743	Child Caseworker Caseload Ratios	(R)- Budak
HB 1746	Sex Offender Registry	(R)- Budak
SB 036	Mandatory Coverage of Female Annual Examinations	(D)-Antich
SB 207	Prescription Drug Card Program	(R)-Dillion
SB 440	Funding for Long-term Care	(R)-Server
SB 444	Methamphetamine and Pharmacy Security	(D)-Skinner
SB 529	Department of Child Services	(R)- Lawson

Introduction to the State:

Indiana was the 19th state to join the union and remains ranked 14th in the union based on population (5, 544, 150) according to the 1990 census data.

Health Statistics:

Currently, 26.1 percent of Indiana's population smoke; and 26.0 percent are overweight according to the United Health Foundation's 2004 State Health Rankings. We also have an uninsured rate of 13.9 percent with 13.7 percent of Hoosier children living in poverty. Leaving us tied with Delaware for 32nd in the nation for healthy people.

Introduction to the Legislature:

The state has a part-time legislature; meaning that our state government meets only 60 days a year to consider all of the legislation to be considered that year. We operate on a biennium budget which is also considered during the 60 session days.

SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITY!!
THE PAUL AMBROSE HEALTH PROMOTION
STUDENT LEADERSHIP SYMPOSIUM
APPLICATION DUE: APRIL 6, 2005

OPEN TO: First- through fourth- year medical students, graduate nursing students, third- through fourth- year PharmD Students, or graduate physician's assistant students; who are currently enrolled in a U.S. accredited program.

The Paul Ambrose Health Promotion Student Leadership Symposium strives to engage 45 medical, graduate physician assistant, graduate nursing, and PharmD student leaders in building new visions, models, and experiences for health professions education. The Symposium will feature skills-based leadership training and education in content areas such as population-based health care, community organizing, project planning, negotiating, public speaking, policy advocacy, cultural competency, and health care finance and delivery. These knowledge domains presented in an action-oriented leadership symposium will help create valuable change agents within participants' schools and communities.

Students will be expected to engage in health promotion/disease prevention education projects in their institutions or community following the Symposium. Students are also required to enlist a mentor for guidance in the post-symposium project and to engage students in the field of prevention. The mentor should be a faculty member from the department of preventive medicine or a related department at their institution. Travel expenses to the Paul Ambrose Student Leadership Symposium will be covered up to \$250, hotel lodging will be provided, and participants will have access to a \$200 stipend to assist in implementing post-symposium projects.

The Symposium is sponsored by a Cooperative Agreement between the Association of Teachers of Preventive Medicine and the Office of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, in collaboration with the American Medical Student Association and Community-Campus Partnerships for Health.

WHEN: June 24-26, 2005

WHERE: Washington, DC

DEADLINE: Applications are due by **April 6, 2005**

Please contact training@atpm.org for application materials or visit our website at www.atpm.org and follow the link for "Career Development/Training."

Wanted: A Few Good Articles

The Action Committee welcomes contributions from APHA-SA members. Tell us about health policy concerns that you are concerned about! Requirements: articles can be about local, state, national, or global health policy issues, and can be 3 pages or less. Articles are due by the 20th of every month, and may be emailed to Kate Maggioncalda Action Committee Chair at: kem2108@columbia.edu.



APHA