



## **Senate Labor-HHS Text Released, 12 Days to Go in FY2019**

### **Appropriations/Budget**

On Sept. 18, the Senate Appropriations Committee released the text of its FY2019 Labor-Health and Human Services appropriations bill, after consideration of the bill in committee was postponed twice last week. The release of the text indicates to us that the Senate will forego formal committee proceedings on the bill and send it straight to the floor for a vote.

Unfortunately, the Senate-proposed bill contained much lower overall funding levels compared to the version passed by the House of Representatives earlier this year – the Title V Maternal and Child Health Services Block Grant is level funded at \$678 million, whereas the House version included a \$34 million increase for a total of \$712 million. Nonetheless, both chambers will still have to come together to negotiate a final bill and we will continue advocating that Congress support an increase to the Title V MCH Block Grant.

Regardless, final action on the FY2020 Labor-HHS appropriations bill will not be completed before Sept. 30 and we are awaiting passage of a continuing resolution (CR) that will keep the government funded at current levels for at least a few more weeks or months.

**TAKE ACTION:** It's never too late to reach out to your senators and representatives to let them know you support the \$712 million level of funding provided to Title V in the House bill and to urge that level of funding in the final FY 2020 Appropriations bill!

### **Autism CARES and Newborn Screening Saves Lives Act Reauthorizations**

Legislation to reauthorize both the Autism CARES Act and Newborn Screening Saves Lives Act have passed the House, but are stalled in the Senate. There are reports that reauthorizations of

these critical programs may be included in a CR – we will continue to keep you posted on this as well.

Don't hesitate to contact Amy Haddad [ahaddad@amchp.org](mailto:ahaddad@amchp.org) or Alyson Northrup [anorthrup@amchp.org](mailto:anorthrup@amchp.org) if you have any further questions!