CHIRP hearings set

Congressional hearings are planned for Labor Day on the Academy’s Child Health Incentive Reform Plan (CHIRP). The CHIRP bill (S 376) would require businesses to include children’s preventive care in employee health plans in order for insurance premiums to be considered tax deductible.

While the Academy will serve as the lead witness for CHIRP during the September hearings, other support groups such as the National Education Association and the Children’s Defense Fund also will be invited to testify. Insurance companies who include preventive care for children as part of their standard coverage might take part in the presentation.

“By preventing so many serious, expensive and perfectly unnecessary health problems from ever developing, CHIRP would drastically alter the quality and cost of American health care for years to come,” said John Chatee (R-I), a member of the Senate Finance Committee and chief sponsor of CHIRP.

Because of their tax-deductible status, group health plans have become the dominant method of financing personal health services in the United States. More than 85 percent of all full-time employees in the nation are covered by some form of private health insurance. Unfortunately, most coverage provided by these plans is aimed at hospitalization, procedures and other acute-care services that contribute directly to soaring health care costs: they discourage preventive care and ultimately hold down health costs.

For the insurance industry, the bill has come to consider fundamentally redinial, of its policies to emphasize preventive care and ultimately hold down health costs. CHIRP is an all-out Congress of Pediatrics offering pre- and post-meetings.

Pre-meetings include meetings with AAP. Fellows invited to Child Psychiatry meeting in Santa Barbara. AAP Research Dept. to host session at Annual Meeting. Members lend expertise for magazine articles.

Columns
Washington Update 2
Health Alert 6
Chapter Newsletter 7
Focus on Practice 9
Second Opinions 18

Departments
Policy Statement: Handgun control 12
Policy Statement: Retractile materials 12
Fellows in the news 18
Course Calendar 19

The Academy offers wide range of sections. Page 15.

In nine years, the Sections grew from 350 members to over 1,000 members today. The Sections were established as a result of a resolution adopted by the Academy Colorado Chapter in 1971 and approved by the Executive Board in 1971.

Membership in the Section is not restricted to certified neonatologists and pediatricians. Membership is open to any physician interested in neonatal or peri-natal care.

One of the Sections aims, Dr. Butterfield said, is to decentralize educational activity to the districts. To do this, the Section budget money from its dues to provide grants of up to $500 per district a year. Such a grant was awarded last fall by District 1 to conduct a workshop for pediatricians on the impact of the Baby Doe rule. Another grant was used by District 4 to support a joint meeting during the AAP Spring Session on perinatal controversies.

Another section activity includes a perinatal newsletter and the presentation of the Virginia Appar Award, which was established to honor distinguished service to perinatal pediatrics.

Hib vaccine guidelines explained

There has been some concern among pediatricians about when children should receive the Hemophilus influenzae type B (Hib) vaccine.

The Academy would like to re-affirm its position which recommends that children receive the one-shot vaccine at 24 months. For those who haven’t received the vaccine by that age, immunization up to the fifth birthday is recommended.

For the Academy’s official policy statement on the Hib vaccine, see the August issue of Pediatrics.