

NOSORH

2012 Policy Institute

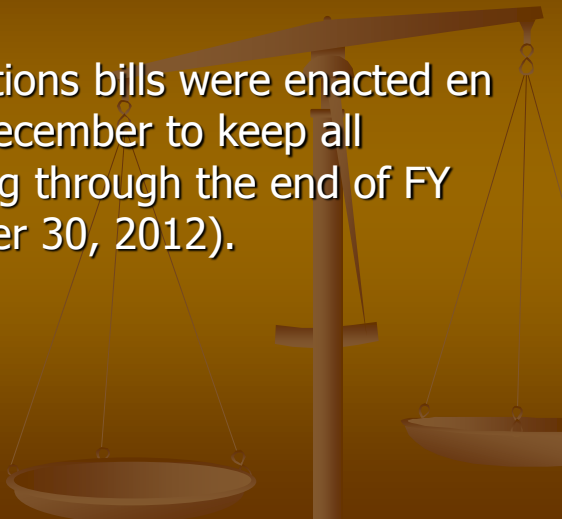
Does it make a difference?

- If my Representative/Senator is a:
 - Republican or Democrat?
 - Liberal or Conservative?
 - New or Experienced?
 - Tea Partier or Teetotaler?

In how I talk with him or her about the issues?

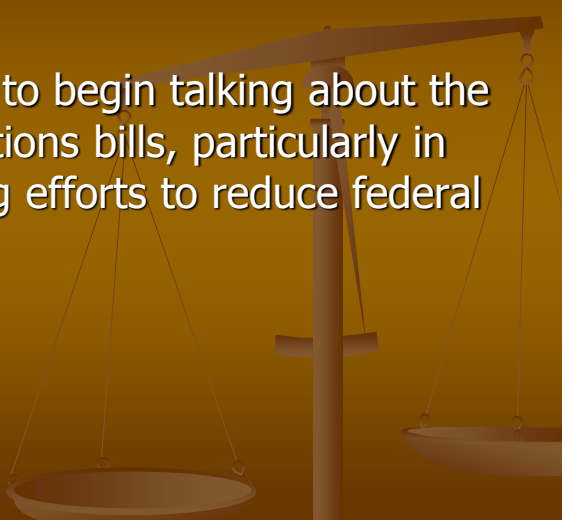
FY 2012

2012 Appropriations bills were enacted en masse in late December to keep all agencies running through the end of FY 2012 (September 30, 2012).



2013?

It's not too early to begin talking about the 2013 Appropriations bills, particularly in light of on-going efforts to reduce federal spending.



Key Players

House HHS Appropriations Subcommittee

Rehberg – Montana
 Lewis – California
 Alexander – Louisiana
 Kingston – Georgia
 Granger – Texas
 Simpson – Idaho
 Flake – Arizona
 Lummis - Wyoming

DeLauro - Connecticut
 Lowey – New York
 Jackson - Illinois
 Roybal-Allard - California
 Lee - California

Key Players

Senate HHS Appropriations Subcommittee

Harkin – Iowa
 Inouye – Hawaii
 Kohl – Wisconsin
 Murray – Washington
 Landrieu – Louisiana
 Durbin – Illinois
 Reed – Rhode Island
 Pryor – Arkansas
 Mikulski – Maryland
 Brown - Ohio

Shelby – Alabama
 Cochran – Mississippi
 Hutchison – Texas
 Alexander – Tennessee
 Johnson – Wisconsin
 Kirk- Illinois
 Graham – South Carolina
 Moran – Kansas

What Are State Offices of Rural Health

SORH website link?

SORH Contact information (names/issues)

Written materials about work of your SORH?

NOSORH issue No. 1, 2, 3 and 4!

Continued Federal Support of the State Office of Rural Health grant program both Appropriations and Reauthorization.

S.1680

Craig Thomas Rural Hospital and Provider Equity Act of 2011

SEC. 24. STATE OFFICES OF RURAL HEALTH.

Section 338J(j)(1) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 254r(j)(1)) is amended by inserting `and 2012 through 2013' before the period.

Cosponsors of S. 1680

Sen. Akaka [HI]
Sen. Barrasso [WY]
Sen. Bingaman [NM]
Sen. Collins [ME]
Sen. Gillibrand [NY]
Sen. Grassley [IA]
Sen. Harkin [IA]
Sen. Inhofe [OK]
Sen. Johnson [SD]
Sen. Klobuchar [MN]
Sen. Moran [KS]
Sen. Roberts [KS]
Sen. Schumer [NY]
Sen. Udall [NM]

We need/want more cosponsors!

If your Senator IS on the list, please THANK him/her for signing on as a cosponsor.

If your Senator is NOT on the list, please ask him/her to sign on as a cosponsor/

Question you may encounter:

Why does the federal government have to provide support for the STATE office of rural health?

1. The Federal Government has a strong public policy interest in ensuring that residents of rural communities have access to quality healthcare and health information.
2. Each State is different and each rural area is different. Rural Montana is different than Rural Pennsylvania or Rural Florida.
3. Under the SORH grant program, the federal government works in a partnership with each state, giving the state the FLEXIBILITY to design and carry initiatives that meet the goals of the program but do so in a manner consistent with the geography, topography and population distribution unique to that state.
4. The SORH grant program is a true state-federal partnership that allows federal dollars to be matched with state dollars to design and implement state-specific initiatives and programs intended to ensure that rural residents and rural healthcare providers have access to information and resources necessary to ensure the continued availability of healthcare in rural areas.

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- What does this mean for the folks back home?
- How does this money translate into:
 - Improved access to care
 - Improved quality of care
 - Lower cost of healthcare

What does this mean for the folks back home?

Bring EXAMPLES. Put a **face** on the SORH program.

Who does this program help?

How does this program help communities?

Specifically what communities have benefited and how?

Other issues

1. Efforts to remove CAH designation for facilities located within 10 – 15 miles of another hospital.
2. Reduce bad debt calculation for CAHs and RHCs
3. Reduce payment for CAHs from 101% of costs to 100% of costs

Other issues

- Eligibility of RHC providers for EHR incentives, PQRS and E-prescribing

1. Stay Focused
2. Know What you Know. If you don't know it, don't make it up.
3. Follow-up, Follow-up, Follow-up!
4. Don't forget the "ask"

Follow-up

It is imperative that you Follow-Up with the office after the visit. Send a thank you.

Did you?

- Invite the Senator/Representative to visit your office or one of the programs/facilities that receives funds or assistance so he/she can see first hand the benefit of the program? What about his/her staff?
- Offer to provide additional information that was not available at the time of your meeting?

Social Media

Do your Senators/Representatives have a facebook page?

Are you a face book friend with your Senators and Representatives?

Does your SORH have a facebook page?

Are your Senators and Representatives facebook friends if you do?

Do your Senators/Representatives "tweet"?

If your Senators/Representatives tweet, are you on their twitter account?

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1. PERSONAL e-mail
 2. PERSONAL Letter
 3. Form Letter
 4. Petition
 5. Other – Phone call, telegram (mass communication)
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