



HEAL Coalition ALERT: Full Senate Passes Radiologic Care Bill

Before adjourning to end the 109th Congress, the full Senate reported a bipartisan bill that may have an impact on schools of allied health. On December 6, the “Consumer Assurance of Radiologic Excellence (RadCARE) Act,” sponsored by HELP Committee Chairman Mike Enzi (R-WY) and Ranking Member Ted Kennedy (D-MA), was passed by unanimous consent. The legislation would direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to set new standards for radiologic education and certification.

Coalition Executive Director Tom Netting noted that HEAL staff had met with relevant Congressional staff to provide them with technical advice and expertise on the bill, based on comments received from HEAL Coalition members, and would continue to work with policy-makers on this issue. Although the House did not act in time to send the measure to the President’s desk prior to adjournment, Netting observed that the bipartisan legislation, which was unanimously passed by the HELP Committee in September 2006, would likely be re-introduced by Senator Kennedy when he assumes the Chairmanship of the HELP Committee in the 110th Congress.

Former Assistant Secretary of Health and Human Services Tom Donnelly, Senior Counselor to the HEAL Coalition, added that the legislation “demonstrated the value of the HEAL Coalition concept. There are numerous pieces of legislation that will have a measurable impact on allied health schools, and the health education community needs a strong presence with both Congress and the Department of Health and Human Services to ensure that legislative objectives are achieved in the most effective manner possible.”

If you are interested in joining us, would like more information regarding the HEAL Coalition, or wish to learn more about this legislation, contact Executive Director Tom Netting at (202) 626-8553.