



Federal Legislative Activities - Week of September 8, 2014

Please find a listing of federal legislative activities the County and our federal advocates are monitoring during the week of September 8 below. Potential further action on a continuing resolution is also expected.

Congressional Hearings and Floor Activity

Wednesday, September 10th

9:30 | House Veterans' Affairs Full Committee Markup – Veterans Affairs Legislation - Markup of the following bills:

[HR 3593](#) – The VA Construction Assistance Act of 2013 – A bill to improve the construction of major medical facilities, and for other purposes.

[HR 4276](#) – Veterans Traumatic Brain Injury Care Improvement Act - A bill to extend and modify a pilot program on assisted living services for veterans with traumatic brain injury.

[HR 4862](#) – Our Vets Deserve Better Act - A bill to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to meet with certain advisory committees to receive administrative and policy recommendations to improve the health care system of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

[HR 4971](#) – Ask Veterans Act - A bill to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to conduct annual surveys of veterans on experiences obtaining hospital care and medical services from medical facilities of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

[HR 5094](#) – A bill to recoup certain bonuses or awards paid to employees of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

10:00 | House Education and the Workforce Subcommittee on Higher Education and Workforce Training and Subcommittee on Early Childhood, Elementary and Secondary Education Hearing – Department of Education Oversight

10:00 | House Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Health Panel Discussion – Health and Medicine Issues – Panel discussion on medicine, patients and treatments.

1:00 | House Veterans' Affairs Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations Hearing – Veterans' Appeals Board Oversight – "Cases Languish and Data Manipulated at the Board of Veterans' Appeals."

2:00 | House Natural Resources, Subcommittee on Indian and Alaska Native Affairs Hearing – Tribal, Alaskan Public Lands Bill - [HR 1600](#) – Requirements, Expectations, and Standard Procedures for Executive Consultation with Tribes (RESPECT) Act - A bill to prescribe procedures for effective consultation and coordination by federal agencies with federally recognized Indian tribes regarding federal government activities that impact tribal lands and interests to ensure that meaningful tribal input is an integral part of the federal decision-making process.

2:30 | Senate Indian Affairs Full Committee Hearing – Irrigation Projects – Hearing notice unavailable.

2:30 | Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Full Committee Hearing – Freight Rail Service Issues - The hearing will focus on rail service issues throughout the country, including congestion and locomotive and railcar shortages. Stakeholders will discuss the impacts of rail service issues on various industries and the economy.

Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, September

On Thursday, the House will meet at 9:00 for legislative business, last votes expected no later than 3:00 p.m. and no votes are expected Friday. Legislation Considered Under Suspension of the Rules:

[H.R. 5057](#) - EPS Service Parts Act of 2014 - A bill to amend the Energy Policy and Conservation Act to permit exemptions for external power supplies from certain efficiency standards, and for other purposes.

[H.R. 4290](#) - Wakefield Act of 2014 - This bill authorizes the current level of \$30.2 million for the Emergency Medical Services for Children (EMSC) program for each of the fiscal years 2015 through 2019. EMSC is designed to ensure that pediatric service is well-integrated into an emergency medical service system and that the entire spectrum of emergency services is provided to children and adolescents as well as adults.

[H.R. 669](#) - Sudden Unexpected Death Data Enhancement and Awareness Act - This bill authorizes the continuation of data collection regarding the unexpected deaths of children, including stillbirth, sudden unexplained infant death (SUID) and sudden unexplained death in childhood (SUDC).

[H.R. 5078](#) - Waters of the United States Regulatory Overreach Protection Act of 2014 - The measure prohibits EPA and the Army Corps of Engineers from finalizing, implementing or enforcing either guidance or a rule proposed earlier this year that seeks to clarify the federal government's authority to regulate certain intrastate waters under the Clean Water Act, and it requires the agencies to consult with state and local officials to develop a new regulatory proposal.

[H.R. 3522](#) - Employee Health Care Protection Act of 2013 - A bill to authorize health insurance issuers to continue to offer for sale current group health insurance coverage in satisfaction of the minimum essential health insurance coverage requirement, and for other purposes.