

FOR PLANNING PURPOSES
February 12, 2007

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THIS WEEK: CHAIRMAN KENNEDY PUSHES HELP PRIORITIES FORWARD

PROGRESS ON MENTAL HEALTH PARITY, PAID SICK DAYS, STUDENT AID, HEAD START, SMOKING PREVENTION, STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES, PRESERVATION OF ANTIBIOTICS

Washington, D.C. – This week, Senator Edward M. Kennedy, Chairman of the Senate Health, Education, Labor (HELP) Committee will introduce legislation and hold hearings to push HELP Committee priorities forward. Kennedy and the HELP Committee will tackle issues ranging from mental health parity to college affordability. Below is a comprehensive list of bill introductions, hearings, and press conferences for this week:

BILL INTRODUCTIONS AND HEARINGS FOR THIS WEEK:

Monday

Head Start for School Readiness Act Introduction - Reauthorization that improves and strengthens the federal Head Start preschool program.

Mental Health Parity Act Introduction - Ensures greater health insurance parity for persons with mental illness.

Preservation of Antibiotics for Human Treatment Act Introduction- Protects the health of Americans by phasing out the non-therapeutic use in livestock of medically important antibiotics, unless their manufacturers can show that they pose no danger to the public health.

Tuesday

Protecting Children's Health in Schools Act Introduction - Ensures that school children with disabilities will continue to receive the health services they need to stay in school.

Student Aid Reward Act Introduction - Boosts college scholarships without costing taxpayers a dime by creating more efficiency in the federal student aid program.

WHAT: PRESS CONFERENCE

WHEN: 12:00 pm eastern

WHERE: S-115, U.S. Capitol

Hearing on affects of paid sick days on working families

WHAT: HEARING AND MEDIA AVAILABILITY- Workers affected by a lack of paid sick days will be available to the media for interviews at 9:30.

WHERE: DIRSKEN SENATE OFFICE BUILDING, ROOM 430

WHEN: INTERVIEWS AVAILABLE AT 9:30

HEARING BEGINS AT 10:00 AM

Wednesday

HELP Committee Executive Session: Head Start and Mental Health Parity legislation to be marked up

WHERE: DIRKSEN SENATE OFFICE BUILDING, ROOM 430

WHEN: 9:30 AM

Thursday

Family Smoking Prevention and Tobacco Control Act Introduction- Give the FDA the authority to regulate tobacco products in order to deter young people from starting to smoke, and assist current smokers in quitting.

WHAT: PRESS CONFERENCE

WHERE: S-207, UNITED STATES CAPITOL

WHEN: 1:30