



## Senate Update

### Last Week in the Senate

On July 14, 2008, the Senate began resumed consideration of the Tom Lantos and Henry J. Hyde United States Global Leadership Against HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria Act of 2008 (S. 2731). S. 2731 authorizes \$50 billion for programs to combat HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, and malaria for fiscal years 2009-2013.

On July 15 and 16, 2008, the Senate voted on the following amendments to S. 2731:

- The Senate voted 70-24 to table an amendment offered by Senator Jim DeMint (R-SC) that would limit spending to countries that are already operating U.S. sponsored AIDS programs. ([Record Vote 175](#))
- Senator Jim Bunning (R-KY) offered an amendment that would reauthorize the existing law for five years at \$15 billion. This amendment was defeated by a vote of 16-80. ([Record Vote 176](#))
- An amendment offered by Senator John Cornyn (R-TX) that would have established a bipartisan commission to improve oversight and eliminate wasteful government spending under the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief was defeated by a vote of 32-63. ([Record Vote 178](#))
- Senator Judd Gregg (R-NH) offered an amendment that would have established an Inspector General at the Office of the Global AIDS Coordinator. It was rejected by a vote of 44-51. ([Record Vote 179](#))
- An amendment offered by Senator Jon Kyl (R-AZ) would require a budget point-of-order against the legislation if more than \$10 billion was appropriated during the fifth year of authorization. The amendment was defeated by a vote of 28-67. ([Record Vote 180](#))
- Senator DeMint (R-SC) offered an amendment that would reduce the authorization level to \$35 billion over five years. The amendment was rejected by a vote of 31-64. ([Record Vote 181](#))

In addition, the Senate adopted an amendment by voice vote that was offered by Senator John Thune (R-ND) and Senator Jon Kyl (R-AZ) that redirects \$2 billion of PEPFAR funding to Indian law enforcement, health care, and water programs. On July 16, 2008, the Senate passed S. 2731 by a vote of 80-16. ([Record Vote 182](#)) The House is expected to consider S. 2731 during the week of July 21, 2008.

On July 15, 2008, the Senate voted 70-26 to override the President's veto of the Medicare Improvements for Patients and Providers Act of 2008 (H.R. 6331). ([Record Vote 177](#))

Following the passage of S. 2731, the Senate began consideration of the Stop Excessive Energy Speculation Act (S. 3268).

### **This Week in the Senate**

The Senate is expected to resume consideration of S. 3268 during the week of July 21, 2008. However, many Senate Republicans are expected to object to the bill, and it may not have the 60-votes to attain cloture. Senate Republicans would prefer that the Gas Price Reduction Act (S. 3202) be considered. The Republican alternative would increase oil production by opening the Outer Continental Shelf to oil exploration, lifting the ban on Western oil shale development, and encouraging energy efficient vehicles.