



S. 999 - Stroke Treatment and Ongoing Prevention Act

FLOOR SITUATION

S. 999 is being considered on the floor under suspension of the rules and will require a two-thirds majority vote for passage. The bill was introduced by Senator Thad Cochran (R-MS) on March 27, 2007, and was passed by the Senate by unanimous consent on September 24, 2008.

**Note: S. 999 is similar to H.R. 477 which was passed by the House by voice vote on March 27, 2007.*

S. 999 is expected to be considered on the House floor on September 26, 2008.

SUMMARY

S. 999 requires the Secretary of Health and Human Services to establish and evaluate a grant program to enable states or a consortia of states to develop stroke care systems and to foster the development of these systems by providing primary stroke prevention and identification, treatment and rehabilitation of individuals who experience a stroke.

The bill requires grants to be used for specific stroke related activities, including establishing, enhancing, or expanding a statewide stroke care system and stroke care centers, conducting evaluation activities to monitor clinical outcomes and procedures, and enhancing coordination of emergency medical services. The Secretary may give special consideration to geographic areas in which there is an elevated incidence or prevalence of stroke or a rural or underserved area or an area that demonstrates a significant need for assistance in establishing a comprehensive stroke care system.

A stroke is defined as "a 'brain attack' in which the blood flow to the brain is interrupted or in which a blood vessel or aneurysm in the brain breaks or ruptures."

The bill authorizes such sums as may be necessary for fiscal years 2008 through 2012.

BACKGROUND

In the United States, strokes are the third leading cause of death among the population. Although the symptoms of a stroke are easily identifiable, not all persons having a stroke seek immediate medical attention. Advances in medical technology, coupled with timely treatment of a stroke, are improving the likelihood of a patient to survive and recover from a stroke.

According to the American Heart Association (AHA), approximately 700,000 Americans suffer from a stroke each year, with more than 150,000 die annually. The AHA estimates that someone dies of a stroke every 3 minutes.

COST

The Congressional Budget Office does not have a cost estimate for S. 999 as of September 24, 2008.

STAFF CONTACT

For questions or further information contact Brianne Miller at 6-2302.