



ITCA Update May 27, 2025

Both the House and the Senate are on Memorial Day recess this week. Before recess, the House passed its version of the Budget Resolution. The Senate is scheduled to focus on its version of the bill throughout June. The full version of President Trump's budget request for FFY 2026 is expected to be released sometime this week.

House Reconciliation Bill On May 22nd, the full House passed the 1,000-page reconciliation bill by a vote of 215 to 214. Following the vote, the House adjourned for the weeklong Memorial Day recess. According to the Congressional Budget Office (CBO), the bill shifts some costs for SNAP onto states and cuts SNAP by about \$295 billion that may eliminate 3.2 million low-income people from getting food aid. The CBO also reports the bill cuts more than \$700 million from Medicaid, resulting in about 7.6 million people losing Medicaid coverage and making about 7.6 million additional people uninsured over 10 years.

CBO estimates the bill will add \$2.4 trillion over 10 years to the national debt, which already exceeds \$36 trillion. This would trigger automatic sequestration cuts of up to \$500 billion to Medicare starting as soon as 2026. Congress can ignore the rules that would automatically trigger cuts, or it could pass legislation to stop Medicare cuts. The bill could also trigger cuts to other programs including the Social Services Block Grant, Promoting Safe and Stable Families (Title IV-B) and Maternal, Infant and Early Childhood Home Visiting.

The bill has been referred to the Senate with a request from Speaker of the House Johnson to make as few changes as possible. Passage of the Senate version of the bill is expected to be challenging. Some members of the Senate do not support the bill's increase in the debt ceiling. Some want more cuts, as much as \$2 trillion more, while others are concerned about the significant cuts already in the House bill particularly in Medicaid and SNAP. Some Senators still insist there should be several smaller bills instead of one larger bill. Some are opposed to the elimination of clean energy tax credits.

Senate leadership expects the bill to be marked up as soon as the week of June 23rd with passage of a final bill by the July 4th recess. Senate Majority Leader John Thune can only lose 3 votes from his party to get the bill passed in the full Senate.

Federal Court Blocks ED Administration Staff Reductions U.S. District Judge Myong Joun of the U.S. District Court for the District of Massachusetts has issued a preliminary injunction, rejecting the administration's claim that the thousands of terminations in the Department of Education announced in March were for efficiency. The judge indicated that these actions made processes less efficient by disrupting services for students, families, and states. Judge Joun said these staff

reductions were aimed at carrying out the promise to eliminate the department which requires congressional approval. According to the 88-page opinion, “The record abundantly reveals that Defendants’ true intention is to effectively dismantle the Department without an authorizing statute.”

The ruling blocks the firings and requires the department to reinstate employees terminated since Trump’s inauguration to “restore the Department to the status quo such that it is able to carry out its statutory functions.” The order also prohibits the Department of Education from transferring its functions to other agencies. The injunction was requested by a pair of school districts in Massachusetts, the American Federation of Teachers and 21 Democratic state attorneys general. The administration has initiated an appeal of this ruling. The ruling is located at: [88-page opinion](#).

MAHA Report Released The Make America Healthy Again (MAHA) Report, Make Our Children Healthy Again: Assessment has been released. The report was ordered by Executive Order 14212 on February 13, 2025, that created the Make America Healthy Again Commission. The assessment speaks of a crisis in children’s health and suggests root causes of deteriorating child health. It “establishes a clear, evidence-based foundation for the policy interventions, institutional reforms, and societal shifts needed to reverse course.”

This assessment identifies and discusses four potential drivers behind the rise in childhood chronic disease including:

- *Poor Diet:* The American diet has shifted dramatically toward ultra-processed foods (UPFs), leading to nutrient depletion, increased caloric intake, and exposure to harmful additives. Nearly 70% of children’s calories now come from UPFs, contributing to obesity, diabetes, and other chronic conditions.
- *Aggregation of Environmental Chemicals:* Children are exposed to an increasing number of synthetic chemicals, some of which have been linked to developmental issues and chronic disease. The current regulatory framework should be continually evaluated to ensure that chemicals and other exposures do not interact together to pose a threat to the health of our children.
- *Lack of Physical Activity and Chronic Stress:* American children are experiencing unprecedented levels of inactivity, screen use, sleep deprivation, and chronic stress.
- *Overmedicalization:* There is a concerning trend of overprescribing medications to children, often driven by conflicts of interest in medical research, regulation, and practice. This has led to unnecessary treatments and long-term health risks.

The report concludes that “by examining each of these drivers, this assessment equips MAHA Commission stakeholders and partners with the facts needed to identify where and how policy interventions will likely have the most impact.” The report can be found at: [WH-The-MAHA-Report-Assessment.pdf](#)