SOCIAL SERVICES: HOUSE PASSES STAND ALONE FOOD STAMP BILL

By a vote of 217-210, the House on September 19, 2013, narrowly passed H.R. 3102, a stand-alone bill funding the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), the federal food stamp program. SNAP funding was separated from the farm bill reauthorization when the combined bill was defeated on the House floor in June. The House passed H.R. 2642, dealing only with farm programs, in July.

The bill will cut about $40 billion dollars in food stamp funding over 10 years. Much of this savings will come from imposing stricter work requirements on recipients.

The Senate’s bill, which continues to combine farm and nutrition programs in one bill, would cut about $4 billion. Sen. Debbie Stabenow (MI), chair of the Senate’s Agriculture Committee, has said that she will not accept the House bill in conference negotiations. The Administration has also threatened to veto the bill.

For more information, go to:
http://rules.house.gov/bill/113/hr-3102 and
http://thomas.loc.gov/cgi-bin/bdquery/z?d113:hr.03102:

SOCIAL SERVICES: SENATE HELP REPORTS CHILD CARE REAUTHORIZATION

On September 18, 2013, the Senate HELP Committee (Health, Education, Labor and Pensions) reported out S. 1086, the bipartisan Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) Act of 2013, a bill that reauthorizes and updates the CCDBG program. The program provides families with federal vouchers to pay for child care so that parents may work or go to school. Some important amendments include a background check requirement on all care providers with unsupervised access to children, a
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requirement for states to spend more funds on initiatives to improve quality, and a reform of CCDBG eligibility that ensures families are not disincentivized to earn more money for fear of losing their child care. Prior to the reform, parents often made the choice not to work extra shifts or accept promotions with pay raises because they would exceed the low income threshold required to keep their children in federally funded daycares but would still not earn enough to pay for care on their own. This bill aims to correct that "disincentive structure," according to the Committee.

"Child care is a critical support for virtually every working parent, and this bipartisan bill will enhance quality and safety, ensure that low-income and at-risk children and families have access to affordable care, promote the healthy development of children enrolled, and improve services for children with disabilities who require care," said Chairman Tom Harkin (IA). States will be impacted as they will be required to use more of the CCDBG funds for quality initiatives such as training, professional development, and professional advancement of the child care workforce. The bill requires that CCDBG providers meet certain health and safety requirements, related to prevention and control of infectious diseases, first aid and CPR, child abuse prevention, and administration of medication, among others.

Among the specific provisions contained in the bill are the following:
- States must set aside 3 percent of funding to expand access and improve the quality of care for infants and toddlers. In addition, the amount states set aside for quality improvement activities must be at least 10 percent within five years of enactment and states must report on what activities they choose to invest in. States must also describe how they are prioritizing quality care for children from low-income families in areas of concentrated poverty or unemployment.
- Allows quality funds to support the development of guidelines relating to health, mental health, nutrition, physical activity and development for young kids, and incorporates the health and wellness needs of children into professional development.
- Requires States to explain how they will meet the needs of children with disabilities, and ensures that the CCDBG provisions are coordinated with IDEA programs for infants and toddlers and preschool-aged children with disabilities.

For more information about S. 1086, please see:
http://www.help.senate.gov/newsroom/press/release/?id=859ef1ac-1d3d-4c88-8fd8-9d388b5dc593&groups=Chair

RESOURCES: HOUSE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE REPORTS WRRDA 2013 BILL

House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee members who crafted the Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2013 (HR 3080) say the legislation would create jobs, provide flood protection and cut the time it takes to study and approve big projects critical for the nation's harbors and inland waterways. A bipartisan group of House lawmakers introduced the latest version of the WRRDA legislation last week, and on September 19, 2013, the committee approved the bill by voice vote with two amendments. Among many functions, WRRDA authorizes the U.S. Army Corps of
Engineers’ key missions and projects. Historically Congress has passed a WRRDA bill every two years, but the last one was signed into law in 2007.

Rep. Bob Gibbs (OH), chairman of the Water Resources and Environment Subcommittee noted, “While it once took the Corps three to five years to complete a study, it has become normal for this process to take 10 to 15 years. WRRDA cuts the red tape, streamlines reviews, and accelerates the lengthy process, saving us precious time and money and allowing infrastructure improvements to move forward.” He also stressed that the reforms in the bill will help cut the costs of moving freight on the nation's waterways.

The WRRDA bill also would streamline environmental reviews, deauthorize $12 billion worth of inactive projects, create sunset dates for newly authorized projects, reform the Inland Waterways Trust Fund and create a new Water Infrastructure Public Private Partnership Program.

To replace the congressional earmarks that use to authorize projects, H.R. 3080 requires the Corps of Engineers to provide Congress with a list of projects ready for approval. Congress will then have the ability to approve or disapprove of the projects.

During the markup, Reps. Janice Hahn (San Pedro) and Grace Napolitano (Norwalk) withdrew two amendments. Hahn’s would have protected any Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund monies from being used for general federal budget purposes. Napolitano’s amendment would have required that states get back at least 30 percent of the funds contributed to the Fund.

Sacramento would benefit from levee improvements as part of the 23 projects in the U.S. that already have been reviewed and recommended by the Army Corps that are authorized in the bill. Consequently, Rep. Doris Matsui (CA) said she strongly supports WRRDA. “Congress has not passed a WRRDA bill since 2007. It is time to fix and strengthen America's levees. We cannot let this important legislative effort linger any longer, she said.”

The bill may be considered on the House floor during the week of October 7, 2013.

For more information, please see http://transportation.house.gov/WRRDA

RESOURCES: HOUSE WATER & POWER SUBCOMMITTEE HOLDS HEARING ON HYDROPOWER

On September 19, 2013, the House Natural Resources Water and Power Subcommittee, chaired by Rep. Tom McClintock (Thousand Oaks) held a hearing entitled: “Keeping Hydropower Affordable and Reliable: The Protection of Existing Hydropower Investments and the Promotion of New Development.”

Witnesses included: Kerry McCalman, Senior Advisor, Hydropower and Electric Reliability Compliance Office, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, Denver, Colorado; Randy Livingston, Vice President, Power Generation, Pacific Gas and Electric Company, San Francisco, California; John Grubich, General Manager, Okanogan Public Utility District, Okanogan, Washington; Dr. Michael J. Sale, Executive Director, Low Impact Hydropower Institute, Wartburg, Tennessee; and Leslie James, Executive Director, Colorado River Energy Distributors Association, Phoenix, Arizona.

Hydropower is a clean, renewable form of energy that accounts for seven percent of electricity generated in the U.S. and prevents 200 million annual metric tons of carbon emissions. The hearing examined whether some federal regulations and lawsuits are diminishing existing hydropower and hindering the development of new hydropower.

Mr. Livingston pointed out that PG&E owns and operates the nation's largest investor-owned hydroelectric system, which relies on nearly 100 reservoirs located primarily in the higher elevations of California's Sierra Nevada and Southern Cascade mountain ranges; the system consists of 26 federally
licensed projects, with 7 projects currently in the "active" relicensing process. He testified to the need to improve how various interests such as fish and wildlife habitat protection, recreational uses, and water quality and flow management are addressed in a way that is less expensive for licensees and participants, and allows for resolution when different agencies of authority may prescribe overlapping or conflicting conditions.

Mr. McCalman described the Bureau of Reclamation's stewardship of federal investment in hydropower in detailing the success of existing projects as well as areas identified for increased productivity given continued funds for upgrading existing hydropower plants.

For more information, please see http://naturalresources.house.gov/calendar/eventsingle.aspx?EventID=349036

**EDUCATION: HOUSE COMMITTEE HOLDS HEARING ON HIGHER EDUCATION**

With the upcoming reauthorization of the Higher Education Act in mind, the House Education and the Workforce Subcommittee on Higher Education continued a series of “Keeping College within Reach” hearings. On September 18, 2013, the subcommittee hearing focused on how academic institutions are keeping costs down while maintaining quality of education through partnerships with the private sector. Chairwoman Virginia Foxx (NC) cited the advent of Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs) as an example of the type of technologies that can provide free or relatively low cost educational materials to students.

Witnesses included: Dr. Jeffrey Docking, President, Adrian College, Adrian, Michigan; Ms. Paula R. Singer, President and Chief Executive Officer, Laureate Global Products and Services, Baltimore, Maryland; Dr. Rich Baraniuk, Professor, Rice University, Founder, Connexions, Houston, Texas; Dr. Charles Lee Isbell, Jr. Professor and Senior Associate Dean, College of Computing, Georgia Institute of Technology, Atlanta, Georgia.

Dr. Docking explained how working with area businesses helped the small liberal arts school overcome steep declines in student enrollment and unprecedented operating deficits. By offering students new opportunities to conduct micro-research studies with local business leaders, work with local doctors, and create business plans with nearby startup companies, Adrian College has doubled enrollment over the past eight years. Students were also more prepared to join the workforce, as their skills were developed to meet local business needs.

Ms. Singer noted that while many institutions are eager to forge new partnerships with private entities, federal regulations can prevent them from doing so. “How regulators adapt and respond to existing and new forms of innovation in higher education will determine whether institutions are able to meet the rapidly changing needs of students in the U.S. and to remain competitive worldwide.”

For more information, please see http://edworkforce.house.gov/calendar/eventsingle.aspx?EventID=349700

**EDUCATION: SENATE HELP HOLDS HEARING ON HIGHER EDUCATION ACT**

On September 19, 2013, the Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee held a hearing entitled: The Triad: Promoting a System of Shared Responsibility. The hearing focused on understanding the history and current issues regarding the effectiveness of the higher education "triad" in preparation for the upcoming reauthorization of the Higher Education Act. The higher education "triad" refers to the system of shared responsibility between state governments, the federal government, and voluntary accreditation in their roles overseeing Title IV providing federal financial assistance under the HEA. State governments are largely responsible for regulating the accreditation organizations
that the federal government relies on to accredit institutions and determine their eligibility for federal financial aid awards.

Witnesses included: Dr. Paul E. Lingenfelter, Former President, State Higher Education Executive Officers Association, Boulder, CO; Dr. Terry W. Hartle, Senior Vice President, American Council on Education, Washington, DC; Dr. Susan D. Phillips, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, University at Albany, SUNY, Albany, NY; Dr. Marshall A. Hill, Executive Director, National Council for State Authorization Reciprocity Agreements, Boulder, CO.

Dr. Lingenfelter outlined the history of the "triad," and offered suggestions for how the triad should continue to evolve in order to meet increasingly diversified demands and to take advantage of innovations in education that meet the needs of a competitive global economy. He outlined how states can adjust their role in the triad to focus more on students than institutions. Next, he discussed how accrediting organizations can be improved through greater transparency, more coherent standards for the knowledge and skills signified by an academic degree, and more focus on student outcomes rather than enrollment/admissions-centric models for Title IV accreditation. Finally, he described ways in which the federal government can adapt its role to improve the integrity and cost-effectiveness of federal programs that assist students in higher education. He testified that developing and making effective use of accountability tools such as loan default rates, enrollment retention and graduation rates, while overcoming the challenges of complex data and analytical problems should be a priority for the federal government. Other witnesses similarly outlined how the triad is working and how it could be improved.

For more information, please see http://www.help.senate.gov/hearings/hearing/?id=bced8932-5056-a032-5249-e04bdd2eea5b

**TRANSPORTATION: SENATE EPW HOLDS HEARING ON MAP-21**

The Senate Environment and Public Works Committee, chaired by Sen. Barbara Boxer, held a hearing on September 18, 2013 on "Implementing MAP-21’s Provisions to Accelerate Project Delivery."

Witnesses were: The Honorable John D. Porcari, Deputy Secretary of Transportation, U.S. Department of Transportation; The Honorable Daniel M. Ashe, Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; The Honorable Nancy Helen Sutley, Chair, Council on Environmental Quality; and Mr. Joseph W. Comé, Assistant Inspector General for Highway and Transit Audits, U.S. Department of Transportation.

Mr. Porcari began by citing a Congressional Research Service (CRS) report that reviewed the causes of project delay and found that the “Causes of delay that have been identified are more often tied to local/state and project-specific factors, primarily local/state agency priorities, project funding levels, local opposition to a project, project complexity, or late changes in project scope.” Nevertheless, he acknowledged the opportunity to also improve the Federal permitting and review processes. He outlined the Department’s role in expediting the permitting and review process for high priority projects (HPPs), publicly posting schedules and detailing the milestones necessary to complete the permitting process. One of the projects was the Los Angeles transit project. Porcari also discussed the Every Day Counts (EDC) initiative, designed to identify and use innovation aimed at shortening project delivery time, enhancing the safety of our roadways, and protecting our environment.

Director Ashe discussed Section 1311 of MAP-21, which authorizes State DOTs and Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) to develop programmatic mitigation plans as part of the statewide or local planning process, in order to address the potential environmental impacts of future transportation projects. The FWS supports this section as beneficial to integrating efficient, strategic
conservation into the transportation planning process, particularly at a larger landscape level. Ashe also suggested that the provision be strengthened in reauthorization legislation through the inclusion of a pilot program that would provide funding to States or MPOs to undertake programmatic mitigation planning. In addition, noting that state wildlife agencies are critically important to resource conservation in their States, he called for State DOTs to work closely with their State wildlife agencies as well as the FWS to develop programmatic mitigation plans for transportation projects.

For more information, go to:

SECURITY: HOUSE HOMELAND SECURITY SUBCOMMITTEE EXAMINES PREPAREDNESS


Witnesses were: The Honorable Tim Manning, Deputy Administrator, Protection and National Preparedness, Federal Emergency Management Agency; Mr. Mark Ghilarducci, Director, California Governor’s Office of Emergency Services, testifying on behalf of the National Governors Association and the Governors Homeland Security Advisors; Mr. Jeffrey W. Walker, Senior Emergency Manager, Licking County, Ohio, testifying on behalf of the International Association of Emergency Managers; Chief James Schwartz, Fire Chief, Arlington County Fire Department, testifying on behalf of the International Association of Fire Chiefs; and Ms. Kathy Spangler, Vice President, U.S. Programs, Save the Children.

Director Ghilarducci laid out the significant challenges facing the states in maintaining preparedness, including: a growing number of homeland security threats and hazards related to cybersecurity; “a suite of federal preparedness grant programs whose structure no longer aligns with the current economic or security environment; and a newly established doctrine on national preparedness, which has shown early promise, but needs time and fine-tuning to be truly effective in the long term.”

He called on the federal government to strengthen engagement with states by improving information sharing; better leveraging state and local fusion centers to share intelligence information and mitigate cyber threats; assisting with cyber incident response planning; and working through the Council of Governors to build and enhance the role of the National Guard to support state cybersecurity needs. Mr. Ghilarducci also called for increased funding for state and local preparedness grants, noting that nondisaster preparedness grant funding has dropped 75 percent since 2003. However, he said, the current preparedness grant programs are often duplicative, place too many statutory restrictions on the use of funds, and unnecessarily shorten performance periods. He stated that the National Preparedness Grant Program (NPGP) proposed by FEMA is a “good first step” to addressing many of the challenges with the current grant programs.

For more information on the hearing, go to:
HEALTH: HOUSE SUBCOMMITTEE EXAMINES USING SCIENCE TO SOLVE METHAMPHETAMINE ADDICTION

The House Science, Space and Technology Subcommittee on Research and Technology held a hearing on September 18, 2013, to explore scientific solutions for methamphetamine addiction. Witnesses included: Dr. Edythe London, The Thomas and Katherine Pike Professor of Addiction Studies, Director of the UCLA Laboratory of Molecular Neuroimaging at the David Geffen School of Medicine, University of California at Los Angeles; Ms. Niki Crawford, First Sergeant, Meth Suppression Section Commander, Indiana State Police; Dr. Jane Maxwell, Senior Research Scientist, School of Social Work, University of Texas at Austin; Dr. Celeste Napier, Director, Center for Compulsive Behavior and Addiction, Professor of Pharmacology and Psychiatry, Rush University Medical Center, Chicago, Illinois.

Building on an earlier subcommittee hearing "Frontiers of Human Brain Research," this hearing included testimony from witnesses about the brain's role in meth addiction. Witnesses also discussed the importance of inter-disciplinary research, such as sound social science research which helps define the scope of meth production and distribution and can be used to inform law enforcement operations as well as public policy decisions to decrease the availability of meth; neuroscience can aid in the development of treatments for addicts.

The research program at UCLA directed by Dr. London began in 1999 and was one of the first major research efforts in the nation to address the growing problem of meth addiction. Dr. London testified that while the illegal use of methamphetamine in the U.S. is now reduced to 50% of the levels of 2006, the problem is still severe in California communities and in other states where there are still established populations of users and supply connections set up with the Mexican drug cartels. In California, admissions to treatment for methamphetamine use disorders in 2009 and 2010 exceeded admission rates for all other substances, including alcohol. "Here I would like to note that the strong support from the Congress to the National Institutes of Health and its research recipients over the past two decades have enabled both basic research as well as the development of new medications and treatment modalities," stated Dr. London. "This critical area continues to be important, affects many lives in our nation, and needs your continued support."

For more information, go to:

TAXES: HOUSE JUDICIARY LEADERSHIP RELEASES PRINCIPLES ON INTERNET SALES TAXATION

On September 18, 2013, House Judiciary Committee Chairman Bob Goodlatte (VA) and Subcommittee on Regulatory Reform, Commercial and Antitrust Law Chairman Spencer Bachus (AL) released basic principles pertaining to the issue of Internet sales tax. The principles were drafted after input was received from taxpayers, industry and trade groups, and representatives of state and local governments, and are intended to guide discussion on the issue and spark creative solutions, the Committee press release noted.

The “Basic Principles on Remote Sales Tax” are:

1. Tax Relief – Using the Internet should not create new or discriminatory taxes not faced in the offline world. Nor should any fresh precedent be created for other areas of interstate taxation by States.
2. Tech Neutrality – Brick & Mortar, Exclusively Online, and Brick & Click businesses should all be on equal footing. The sales tax compliance burden on online Internet sellers should not be less, but neither should it be greater than that on similarly situated offline businesses.

3. No Regulation Without Representation – Those who would bear state taxation, regulation and compliance burdens should have direct recourse to protest unfair, unwise or discriminatory rates and enforcement.

4. Simplicity – Governments should not stifle businesses by shifting onerous compliance requirements onto them; laws should be so simple and compliance so inexpensive and reliable as to render a small business exemption unnecessary.

5. Tax Competition – Governments should be encouraged to compete with one another to keep tax rates low and American businesses should not be disadvantaged vis-a-vis their foreign competitors.

6. States’ Rights – States should be sovereign within their physical boundaries. In addition, the federal government should not mandate that States impose any sales tax compliance burdens.

7. Privacy Rights – Sensitive customer data must be protected.

For more information, go to: http://judiciary.house.gov/news/2013/09182013.html

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY: HOUSE JUDICIARY SUBCOMMITTEE HOLDS HEARING ON VOLUNTARY AGREEMENTS


Witnesses were: Ms. Jill Lesser, Executive Director, Center for Copyright Information; Mr. Cary Sherman, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Recording Industry Association of America; Mr. Randall Rothenberg, President and Chief Executive Officer, Interactive Advertising Bureau; Mr. Gabriel Levitt, Vice President, PharmacyChecker.com; and Mr. Robert Barchiesi, President, International AntiCounterfeiting Coalition.

Ms. Lesser detailed the establishment of the Copyright Alert System (CAS) through a voluntary agreement among the top Internet Service Providers – AT&T, Cablevision, Comcast, Time Warner Cable and Verizon – and the Motion Picture Association of America (MPAA) and the Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA), and their member companies. The CAS is a voluntary educational initiative that enables copyright holders to notify consumers when their internet access accounts are alleged to have been used illegally to download and share copyrighted movies, music or TV shows. Such notices are sent in a manner that respects users’ privacy, educates them about how to correct their behavior and offers them an independent review process to ensure that users’ accounts are not inadvertently misidentified as having been used to engage in digital piracy. The CAS began operating early in 2013.

Ms. Lesser testified that over the coming months CCI will begin evaluating user response to the program, including the impact it is having on the behavior of those receiving Alerts, and its impact on peer-to-peer (P2P) piracy of the CAS and our broader educational activities.

Mr. Sherman detailed other voluntary agreements intended to prevent piracy, such as that with major credit card companies, who have agreed to terminate their relationship with a website if the site persists in intentionally selling illegitimate products. He touted the benefit of these voluntary agreements, and supported the establishment of a voluntary agreement with search engine companies.

For more information, go to: http://judiciary.house.gov/hearings/113th/hear_09182013_2.html.
ECONOMY: HOUSE SMALL BUSINESS EXAMINES PRIVATE SECTOR BUSINESS
EDUCATION INITIATIVES

The House Small Business Subcommittee on Economic Growth, Tax and Capital Access held a
“Private Sector Business Education Initiatives” hearing on September 19, 2013, to review private sector
training and mentorship programs that are providing education to small business owners and
entrepreneurs, and their effects on small business growth and job creation. Witnesses included: Ms.
Dina Powell, Managing Director, Goldman Sachs, New York, NY; Dr. Stephen Morgan, Chair, Board
of Trustees, My Own Business, Inc. (MOBI), City of Industry, CA; Mr. Damien Stevens, Founder &
CEO, Servosity, Greenville, SC; Ms. Kim Pate, Chief External Relations Officer, Corporation for
Enterprise Development, Washington, DC.

Dr. Morgan is Chair of the Board of Trustees of the Los Angeles-based nonprofit My Own
Business, Inc., an organization that provides free educational tools and training via the web to support
successful businesses worldwide. Their web-based program is licensed by CISCO for its training
programs of small businesses around the globe, as well as by the World Bank in its Small and Medium
Enterprise (SME) outreach worldwide. For the past twenty years MOBI has offered this free business
training to nearly 35 million people who have visited the MOBI website. Since the launch of the web
based MOBI curriculum, 469,000 have completed the courses and nearly 31,000 have applied for
Certificates of Completion.

In a 2010 study by the U.C.L.A. Anderson Graduate School of Business, 5,000 MOBI graduates
were surveyed. Results showed that 22 percent of the respondents indicated their businesses would have
failed if they had not studied the topics offered in the MOBI curriculum; furthermore, 56 percent have
actually started a business, and 77 percent of those who started a company were still in business. Nearly
60 percent of the respondents reported that they had been in business for more than two years and
nearly one-third reported that they planned to hire at least one new employee within the next twelve
months. “Given the years of experience we have in creating a strong educational toolkit, we would like
the Small Business Administration to also appropriately apply our educational program to its support of
America’s entrepreneurs. We have previously supported their initiatives in this regard,” noted Dr.
Morgan.

For more information, please visit

REPORT: NETNAMES RELEASES STUDY REVEALING THE SCOPE OF ONLINE PIRACY

In an event hosted by the Information Technology and Innovation Foundation (ITIF), with
opening remarks from U.S. Senators Orrin Hatch (UT) and Sheldon Whitehouse (RI), co-chairs of the
Congressional International Anti-Piracy Caucus, keynote speaker Dr. David Price, Head of Piracy
Intelligence, NetNames, presented a new study that attempts to quantify the infringement of
copyrighted content by internet users worldwide.

According to the research, three key regions – North America, Europe, and Asia-Pacific –
account for 82.6% of all internet users and 95.1% of all bandwidth consumed. Within these three
regions, online piracy has increased by 159.3% between 2010 and 2012 in terms of absolute bandwidth
consumed for pirated content; 23.8% of all bandwidth consumed in these three regions is for pirated
content. According to the report, 432 million unique internet users worldwide – that is, individuals
were not counted more than once regardless of the frequency of their usage – explicitly sought
infringing content during the month of January 2013 alone. The report concludes that as internet usage
continues to grow at a rapid pace, so does internet-based copyright infringement. While the report cites
some instances in which coordinated law enforcement efforts have successfully shut down piracy-focused websites, such as MegaUpload, with a subsequent correlation in the closure and/or decline of usage of similar websites, it also shows that online piracy is continuing to evolve and grow due to the adaptive nature of piracy technologies.

A panel discussion moderated by Dr. Robert D. Atkinson, president of ITIF, followed the presentation. Panelists included Dr. Price; Sandra Aistars, Executive Director, Copyright Alliance; and Jonathan Zuck, President, The Association for Competitive Technologies. Mr. Zuck pointed out that not only does online piracy represent a loss of revenue for content creators, but it is also a pathway to privacy invasions. He cited instances of "brand-jacking," in which mobile apps or other software takes on the name and appearance of a legitimate app but is actually spyware used to collect information about the user.

For more details about the findings and methodologies used in the "Sizing the Piracy Universe" report, please visit [http://www.netnames.com/sizing_the_piracy_universe](http://www.netnames.com/sizing_the_piracy_universe).

**REPORT: CA HEALTHCARE FOUNDATION ANALYZES HEALTH CARE COSTS**

The California Healthcare Foundation released a report in September 13, 2013 entitled: *Health Care Costs 101, Slow Growth: A New Trend?* The report was authored by Katherine B. Wilson, and is part of CHCF's California Health Care Almanac. It details how much is spent on health care in the US; which services are purchased; and what proportions are financed by households, government, and business.

The author finds that while the US continues to spend a greater percentage of GDP on health care than any other industrialized nation, the 2011 increase bucked historical trends.

Key findings include:
- In 2011, health care spending reached $2.7 trillion, an average of $8,680 per person.
- Both health spending and the overall economy grew at similar rates, keeping health care's share of the gross domestic product (GDP) unchanged for the third straight year at 17.9%.
- Health care's recent 3.9% spending increase is considerably slower than growth posted over the past 20 years (6.3% average annual increase between 1991 and 2011).
- The slow rates of growth were seen across all spending categories in 2011, and no major categories exceeded 5% per year.
- Prescription drugs spending increased 2.9% in 2011, a near-record low.
- Public health insurance paid for the largest share of the nation's care at 39%; private health insurance paid for 33%.
- Health care spending consumed 46% of federal government revenues and 6% of household income.
- State Medicaid spending increased dramatically in 2011 as enhanced federal aid to states expired mid-year; state spending on Medicaid grew 22.2%, while federal Medicaid spending fell 7.1%.


**BRIEFING: FIND ME 911 TO HOLD BRIEFING ON E-911 (CELL PHONE) SYSTEM**

The Find Me 911 Coalition will host a congressional staff lunch featuring a presentation and discussion of the current regulations governing the E-911 system and how they should be updated to accommodate today's use of wireless technology.

The briefing is on Monday, September 23, 2013, from 12:00 Noon to 1:30 PM, in Room B338 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, DC. Box Lunches will be served.
The briefing will discuss the significant challenges faced by 9-1-1 Centers when they try to find victims who have called for help using a cell phone, and whether current FCC location accuracy requirements are being applied and are adequate given the increasing use of cell phones. Presenters will also discuss recent reports from California that the accuracy of outdoor location abilities may have dropped over the last few years.

Presenters include: Jamie Barnett, Rear Admiral USN (Ret.), former Chief of the FCC’s Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau, representing the Find Me 911 Coalition; Danita Crombach, President of the California Chapter of the National Emergency Number Association, and Communications Manager, Ventura County Sheriff's Office; Dr. Brian Fontes, President and CEO of the National Emergency Number Association (NENA); Dorothy Spears-Dean, PH.D, Public Safety Communications Coordinator, Enterprise Solutions and Governance, Virginia Information Technologies Agency (VITA); and Trey Forgety, Director, Government Affairs, NENA.

For more information, go to: www.findme911.org or Find Me 911 on Facebook. The briefing is open to the public. To attend, RSVP to RSVP@findme911.org or call: 202-667-4967.