



Government Affairs Newsletter NSC.org/alerts

Safety and Health on the Hill



Happy February! There will be six more weeks of winter according to Punxsutawney Phil, but we've had some historically warm weather here in D.C.

Road To Zero Coalition Update

The National Safety Council continues to lead an ever-growing group of stakeholders in an effort to end roadway fatalities. The next coalition meeting will be from 9 a.m. to noon, Wednesday, March 1, at the Association of the United States Army in Arlington, VA. Register to attend [here](#) and be sure to keep up with Road to Zero updates at the website [here](#) and on Twitter [@RoadtoZeroUS](#).

Missouri PDMP Bill

Missouri's legislature is again [mired](#) in debate over implementation of a proposed prescription drug monitoring program (PDMP). PDMPs are databases designed to track prescribing and dispensing of controlled prescription drugs. Every state but Missouri currently has a PDMP, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) calls PDMPs one of the "[most promising state-level interventions](#)" to improve opioid prescribing, inform clinical practice and protect patients at risk. There are several bills under consideration, including [Senate Bill 314](#) sponsored by Senator Dave Schatz and House Bill 90 sponsored by Representative Holly Rehder. NSC submitted testimony in support of both of these important bills. The National Safety Council strongly supports the use of PDMPs as a mechanism to prevent unintentional prescription drug overdose deaths.

Possible Delay for Fiduciary Rule

Acting Labor Secretary Ed Hugler will follow a [Presidential Memorandum](#) from President Trump to review the "Fiduciary" Rule, a regulation scheduled to take effect April 10, 2017. The rule would elevate accountability standards for all financial professionals who work with retirement plans or offer retirement planning advice. The Department of Labor asserted in a [statement](#) that it will "consider its legal options to delay the applicability date."



Executive Order Lawsuit

Three organizations – Public Citizen, the Natural Resources Defense Council and the Communications Workers of America – have [filed](#) a lawsuit against President Trump's [executive order](#) mandating two regulations be eliminated for every new regulation. The groups noted that the order could force the repeal of regulations aimed at a broad range of issues, including automobile safety and occupational health, without consideration of their benefits. The case is assigned to the District Court of D.C.

Ongoing Cabinet Confirmations/Hearings

The Senate [voted 93-6](#) to confirm Elaine Chao as the new Secretary of Transportation. The National Safety Council issued a [statement](#) congratulating Secretary Chao and pledging to work with her toward continued progress on transportation safety issues.

The Senate [voted 52-47](#) to confirm Senator Tom Price from Georgia as the new Secretary of Health and Human Services. Previously an orthopedic surgeon and member of the House of Representatives from Georgia, Secretary Price will assume control of a Department in flux with the uncertain future of the Affordable Care Act. The National Safety Council issued a [statement](#) congratulating Secretary Price and asserting hope for progress in combating an array of health issues, including the widespread opioid epidemic.

After numerous delays, the Senate HELP Committee [announced](#) that the confirmation hearing for Labor Secretary nominee Andy Puzder will take place Feb. 16.

Federal Budget

Usually, the first Monday in February is when the President submits a budget to Congress. However, in election years it is often postponed by several weeks. This document outlines White House spending priorities for the government and provides Congress with funding levels to which to react. The proposed Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Director nominee, Mick Mulvaney, has not yet been confirmed by the Senate, and he is the one to implement these priorities.

At this time, the government is operating on a continuing resolution of fiscal year 2016 funding levels that expires on April 28, 2017. As we approach that deadline, it seems more likely that Congress will not pass a full government spending bill by April 28, but continue FY2016 funding levels for most of the government until Sept. 30.

We will be watching for the release of the President's budget and monitor the funding levels for workplace safety programs, transportation safety programs and public health safety programs.

Supreme Court

The President has nominated Neil Gorsuch, a U.S. Court of Appeals judge for the Tenth Circuit. Judge Gorsuch has begun his meetings with Senators, and the Senate Judiciary Committee should begin its hearings on the nomination soon, which is the first step in the process to a vote on confirmation.



NSC Safe Communities America Annual Report

Safe Communities America is an accreditation program of the National Safety Council that supports and recognizes communities across the U.S. committed to improving safety at the community level. Recently, the Safe Communities team proudly released its 2016 Annual Report, highlighting successes of the past year and the many impacts this program has had across the nation. Please be sure to read the report [here](#) and learn more about the Safe Communities program [here](#).

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