



Senate Update – February 25, 2008

This Week in the Senate

The Senate resumes consideration of the Indian Health Care Act Amendments of 2007 (S. 1200) this week. The Senate first considered this bill the week of January 22, 2008. The legislation was introduced by Senator Byron Dorgan (D-ND) on April 24, 2007.

**Note: The Congressional Budget Office estimates that implementing S. 1200 would "have discretionary costs of \$2.7 billion in 2008, about \$16 billion over the 2008-2012 period, and about \$35 billion over the 2008-2017 period, assuming appropriation of the necessary amounts. We also estimate that enacting the bill would increase direct spending by \$9 million in 2008, \$53 million over the 2008-2012 period, and \$129 million over the 2008-2017 period."*

The Senate is expected to consider a number of amendments to S. 1200 on Monday and Tuesday. A vote on final passage of the bill is expected on February 26, 2008.

Also on February 25, 2008, the Senate is expected to vote on a cloture motions to proceed to the bill to provide for the safe redeployment of United States troops from Iraq (S. 2633). S. 2633 was introduced by Senator Russ Feingold (D-WI) and requires the President to commence phased redeployment of troops from Iraq. It would also prohibit the use of funds for the Iraq War beginning 120 days after enactment of the legislation. This motion is expected to fail.

Following this cloture vote, the Senate will vote on a cloture motion to proceed on another Senator Feingold bill that requires the Secretaries of Defense, Homeland Security, and State to submit a report to Congress setting forth the global strategy of the United States to combat and defeat al Qaeda and its affiliates (S. 2634). This motion is expected to fail.

The Senate will then bring up the New Direction for Energy Independence, National Security, and Consumer Protection Act and the Renewable Energy and Energy Conservation Tax Act of 2007 (H.R. 3221) for a cloture vote. If cloture is attained, the Senate will substitute the language of H.R. 3221 with the text of the Foreclosure Prevention Act (S. 2636). The Senate is using H.R. 3221 as the vehicle for S. 2636 in order to avoid a blue slip because the Senate bill contains tax provisions.

S. 2636 includes several provisions that were not included in the final version of the economic stimulus package and a \$4 billion funding increase for the Community Development Block Grant program.

Key Hearings

Thursday, February 28, 2008, the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations will hold a hearing regarding U.S. – Pakistan Policy with Deputy Secretary of State John Negroponte.