Memorandum

DATE: December 21, 2005
TO: NAPH CEOs, Government Relations Committee and Communications Staff
FROM: Kate Leeson, Assistant Vice President for Legislative Affairs
SUBJECT: NAPH ALERT - Senate Passes Reconciliation Bill

The U.S. Senate just voted to pass the FY 2006 Deficit Reduction Act (S. 1932) by a vote of 50 to 50 with Vice President Dick Cheney breaking the tie in favor of the Republican majority’s position to support the reconciliation conference report. (As you will recall, the U.S. House of Representatives voted on Monday to pass the bill by a vote of 212 to 206.)

However, before final passage Senator Kent Conrad (D-ND) offered a procedural motion, which successfully removed certain provisions from the bill, forcing the Senate’s newly revised version back to the House. Before President Bush can sign the bill into law, the House must vote on this new version, either later this week or in January. It is currently anticipated that the House will easily pass the bill. Attached is a summary of the bill’s provisions of interest to NAPH members. To our knowledge, the Senate did not make any changes to these provisions.

NAPH would like to thank its members who worked tirelessly throughout this year to advocate on behalf of Medicaid beneficiaries and the providers who serve them. As the close Senate vote indicates, your calls, letters and visits with Members of Congress certainly had an impact. We look forward to working with you on behalf of your institutions and patients in 2006. If you have any questions, please contact Kate Leeson, assistant vice president for legislative affairs at (202) 585-0112 or kleeson@naph.org.