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# AAU WEEKLY WRAP-UP

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### CONGRESSIONAL SCHEDULE *NEW*

Both the House and Senate are in recess until Tuesday, September 8, when they will resume work on their ambitious fall agendas.

The Senate faces a heavy schedule when it returns. As the Finance Committee continues its high-profile work on health care reform—with floor consideration of a bill not expected until October—the chamber will use September to work on FY10 appropriations [bills](#) and on executive branch nominations. The Senate also is expected to consider a climate change bill, but the deadline for the committees of jurisdiction to introduce a joint bill remains unclear.

In the House, health care reform remains a top issue. The three House committees that have reported out health care bills are working to introduce a single bill for House floor consideration sometime this month. The chamber already has approved all of its FY10 appropriations bills, as well as climate change legislation ([H.R. 2454](#)).

Another major piece of legislation for the fall is budget reconciliation, which would overhaul the student loan system. Sometime this month, the House is expected to consider the bill reported by the House Education and Labor Committee in July, the Student Aid and Fiscal Responsibility Act ([H.R. 3221](#)). A companion bill has not been introduced in the Senate, but a measure is expected this month.

Congress also is expected to address the estate tax and expiring tax provisions, including the IRA charitable rollover and tuition deduction, which expire at the end of 2009. Under current law, the estate tax goes to zero in 2010 and then returns in 2011. It is unclear whether Congress will move a separate tax bill or include the estate tax and expiring tax provisions in the reconciliation bill.

### EXECUTIVE BRANCH

#### ARPA-E SEEKS ADVICE ON POTENTIAL NEW R&D AREAS FOR SUPPORT *NEW*

The Advanced Research Projects Agency-Energy (ARPA-E) has issued a formal request asking for suggestions on specific scientific and technological areas and programs that would be

appropriate for the new agency to consider supporting. ARPA-E officials plan to use the suggestions to help to determine future funding opportunities and programs. Comments are requested by September 25, 2009.

The agency is requesting ideas through a [Request for Information](#) (RFI), available on its website, which includes details on the types of information being sought and the appropriate way to submit it. The RFI is NOT a funding opportunity announcement.

The RFI describes the purpose of ARPA-E as follows: “ARPA-E aims to support the development of high risk/high payoff applied science and technology innovations that will have a positive disruptive impact on the energy landscape. ARPA-E will not provide financial support for exploratory basic science, incremental and straightforward engineering development work, or large-scale demonstrations.”

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