

PUBLIC POLICY AND ADVOCACY

Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) Program

On May 16, 2002, the U.S. House of Representatives voted 229-197 in favor of the Republican bill (H.R. 4737) to reauthorize the Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) Program, which was established as part of the welfare reform legislation in 1996. The Democratic substitute was defeated by a vote of 198-222. APA's Public Policy Office is now focusing on the Senate to ensure that access to mental health, substance abuse, and child care services is provided for in their proposal to help enable women to make the successful transition from welfare to work. The Senate plans to take up welfare reform legislation this summer. Once a measure is passed, House and Senate conferees will meet to resolve the differences between the two bills.