Congress Monday (Jan. 22) voted to re-open the government through Feb. 8, fund CHIP for six years and delay three of the Affordable Care Act’s industry taxes after Senate Democrats agreed to a deal following Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell’s (R-KY) pledge to hold a vote on the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program if a deal is not reached by the next funding deadline. Industry stakeholders were pleased the bill delays the ACA taxes, but said they are continuing to push for them to be permanently repealed.

The House passed the continuing resolution 266 - 150 after the Senate approved it by a 81-18 margin. Democrats, many of whom voted against the continuing resolution, will continue to push for additional health care policies including funding for community health centers, which also expired on Sept. 30, more support for responding to the opioid crisis and certain Medicare extenders left out of the legislation. A member of House GOP leadership said there isn’t a schedule yet for voting on the extenders.

In addition to funding the Children’s Health Insurance Program for six years, the CR delays the so-called “Cadillac tax” on high cost insurance and the medical device tax for two years, and also pauses the health insurance tax for 2019.

Stakeholders who have long been pushing for Congress to delay the industry fees celebrated the legislation but noted they will still fight to get the taxes permanently repealed.