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## Senate approves FMAP extension

### The McPherson Sentinel

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Topeka — The U.S. Senate on Thursday approved the Federal Medical Assistance Percentages extension, which extends funding from the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act of 2009 to state Medicaid programs and programs that will help in retaining jobs for teachers and other public employees.

The funding, which was set to expire Dec. 31, will now cut-off at the end of June 2011.

Kansas Governor Mark Parkinson, who had been an advocate for the extension, said the financial aid would greatly benefit Kansas and keep the state's budget balanced.

"I am grateful that a majority of Senators were able to set aside politics and vote for this critical assistance for Kansas," said Parkinson. "These funds will not only allow us to keep our budget in balance, but prevent thousands of teacher lay-offs and keep Kansas on the road to economic recovery. We look forward to the ultimate passage of this jobs bill and the benefits it will bring to our classrooms and our economy."

Current estimates show Kansas receiving more than \$87 million from the FMAP extension and \$92 million from the Education Jobs Fund, which was part of the legislation.

The U.S. House of Representatives must now also approve the measure.

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