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**Legislative, Trade & Regulatory News**

**SENATE VOTES TO REPEAL 1099 PROVISION**  
Last week, the Senate voted 81-17 to repeal the burdensome 1099 recordkeeping requirement that was scheduled to take effect in 2012. Codified as part of last year's health care reform law, the 1099 provision would require small business owners to file a 1099 form for each vendor from whom they make purchases of \$600 or more in a calendar year. Since becoming law, several members of the House and Senate have been working to repeal the provision. Senator Debbie Stabenow offered her repeal bill as an amendment to the Federal Aviation Administration Authorization Act (S. 2223). The House has already passed legislation repealing the entire health care law. While that legislation will not progress in the Senate, the House will likely move a separate 1099 repeal bill soon. President Barack Obama has already indicated his support to remove the 1099 reporting requirement from the law. (Kurt Courtney)

**HEALTH CARE REPEAL EFFORTS HIT ROADBLOCK IN SENATE; ADVANCE IN COURTS**  
Efforts to repeal the health care reform law proceeded on two separate tracks last week. First, federal judge Roger Vinson ruled last week that the 2010 federal healthcare law is unconstitutional. In a 78 page decision, Vinson found that, because the individual health care mandate is unconstitutional and because it is a linchpin for the entire reform measure, the entire law unconstitutional. Vinson stopped short of issuing an injunction preventing implementation of the law. Because several lower courts have made conflicting rulings, most pundits believe the legal and constitutional questions will not be resolved until the Supreme Court has a chance to review the law. Second, the Senate failed on a vote of 47-51 to approve an amendment to repealed legislation that would have endorsed an earlier House passed measure that would have outright repealed the health care reform law. Since a direct repeal has always been viewed as a longshot — especially since President Obama has indicated he will veto any repeal measure — this vote was perceived as a symbolic political statement intended primarily to encourage Senators to recommit to their positions approaching the 2012 elections. In the run up to that vote, the AAFA-supported business coalition pushing for the repeal issued a letter endorsing the repeal vote. Congress is now likely to turn its attention to repeal of individual provisions. To that end, although the Senate voted to oppose the repeal it did endorse in a separate vote a repeal of the paperwork requirement that was created as part of the health care law (see related article). (Kurt Courtney)

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**BETTER WORK VIETNAM PUBLISHES FIRST REPORT ON FACTORIES**  
The International Labor Organization's Better Work Vietnam program last month published its 1st Compliance Synthesis Report on the factories participating in the program. This report covers the first 32 factories participating in the program. As this is the first report, it is only an initial baseline and does not show any change over time of participating factories. Subsequent reports will indicate the degree to which participating factories have made improvements or faced additional challenges since this first report. The report did not find any evidence of forced or child labor in the 32 assessed factories nor did the report find any significant issues with discrimination or compensation. The report did find numerous violations of legal overtime hours. The report also found that none of the factories complied with core labor standards on freedom of association and collective bargaining. The report noted that Vietnamese law does not allow independent labor organizations to exist. The report discussed this issue at length. (Nate Herman)

**TPP — JOIN OTHERS IN URGING THE GOVERNMENT TO NEGOTIATE A COMMERCIALLY-MEANINGFUL FREE TRADE AGREEMENT**  
AAFA urges individual companies to sign on to a Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) coalition letter to the Obama administration urging the U.S. government to negotiate a high-standard and commercially-meaningful free trade agreement with the nine countries participating in the TPP negotiations. The letter is based on the 15 overarching negotiating principles outlined by the AAFA-supported U.S. Business Coalition for TPP. The countries participating in the TPP negotiations are Singapore, Chile, New Zealand, Brunei, Australia, Peru, Vietnam, Malaysia and the United States. AAFA signed on to a similar letter, along with a number of AAFA member companies, in June 2010. Signatures on the letter are due by this Wednesday, February 2. Please contact AAFA's Nate Herman (nherman@americanapparel.com, 703-979-8062) if you would like to add your company to the letter, or if you have any questions. (Nate Herman)

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**Clothing Prices to Rise 10 Percent Starting in Spring**  
From The Atlantic Journal-Constitution  
Clothing prices have dropped for a decade as tame inflation and cheap overseas labor helped hold down costs. Retailers and clothing makers cut fits and experimented with fabric blends to cut prices during the recession. [More](#)

**General Gives Stinging Rebuke to Contractors**  
From The Hill  
The top brass at the Pentagon is signaling in no uncertain terms that the defense industry needs to clean up its act and accept that the government can no longer throw away money on ill-conceived military projects. [More](#)

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