



Health Care Reform Update

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Quote of the Week

"It's getting hotter, and there are bumps, but we are closer to health-care reform than ever before"

**Rahm Emanuel,
White House Chief of Staff**

Today...

- Update on Senate HELP Committee
- House Committee Actions
- What's Next?

In Previous Calls

- Discussed overall structure of the bills
 - **Medicaid expansion**
 - **Health insurance exchange/gateway**
 - **Minimum benefit package that includes MH and SUD services**

Senate HELP Committee

- Affordable Health Choices Act passed by Committee on July 15, 2009
- Prohibiting Discrimination Based on Health Status. (including physical and mental illness), claims experience, prior receipt of health care, medical history, genetic information, evidence of insurability (such as being a victim of domestic violence), or disability. (§2706)

Senate HELP Committee

- Ensuring the Quality of Care. Health insurance policies will be required to include financial incentives to reward the provision of high quality care that include case management, care coordination, chronic disease management, wellness and health promotion activities, child health measures, activities to improve patient safety and reduce medical errors, as well as culturally and linguistically appropriate care. (§2707)

Senate HELP Committee

- Extension of Dependent Adults: All individual and group coverage policies will be required to continue offering dependent coverage for children until the child turns age 26, according to regulations to be established by the Secretary of Health & Human Services. (§2709)
- No Lifetime or Annual Limits. No individual or group health insurance policy will be permitted to establish lifetime or annual limits on the dollar value of benefits for any enrollee or beneficiary. (§ 2710)

Provisions we Like

Community Living Assistance Services and Supports

- *Synopsis: This section creates a new national insurance program to help adults who have or develop functional impairments to remain independent, employed and stay a part of their communities. Financed through voluntary payroll deductions (with opt-out enrollment similar to Medicare Part B)*

Provisions we Like

Mental and behavioral health education and training grants: Grants are awarded to schools for development, expansion, or enhancement of training programs in social work, graduate psychology, professional training in child and adolescent mental health, and pre-service or in-service training to paraprofessionals in child and adolescent mental health. (§ 436)

Provisions We like

- Senator Jack Reed offered amendment #200 during Committee that was passed 14-9
- Community-based mental and behavioral health: \$50 million for coordinated and integrated services through the colocation of primary and specialty care in community-based mental and behavioral health settings.

Provisions We like

- **Community Transformation Grants:** This section authorizes the Secretary to award competitive grants to eligible entities for programs that promote individual and community health and prevent the incidence of chronic disease.
- Communities can carry out programs to prevent and reduce the incidence of chronic diseases associated with overweight and obesity, tobacco use, or mental illness; or other activities that are consistent with the goals of promoting healthy communities. [§ 321]

House of Representatives

America's Affordable Health Choices Act – HR 3200

Introduced in 3 Committees – already passed by two

Education and Labor Committee passed on July 17

Ways and Means Committee passed on July 17

Education and Labor Bill - amendment

- ...Preventative Services and including mental health and substance abuse services recommended by the Task Force on Clinical Preventive Services and those mental health and substance abuse services with compelling research or evidence, including Screening, Brief Intervention and Referral to Treatment (SBIRT).

Energy and Commerce Committee - amendment

Amendment offered by Reps. Eliot Engel (D-NY) and Doris Matsui (D-CA):

Creates “Federally-Qualified Behavioral Health Centers” to be certified by SAMHSA.

First step in the development of national standards and benefits for these entities.

Amendment to the Training Program in HELP Bill

- “(1) an accredited health professions school, including an accredited school or program of psychology, psychiatry, social work, marriage and family therapy, professional mental health and substance abuse counseling, or addiction medicine;
- “(2) an accredited public or nonprofit private hospital;
- “(3) a public or private nonprofit entity; or
- “(4) a consortium of 2 or more entities described in paragraphs (1) through (3).



Opportunities and Challenges

Senate Finance Committee

**Bill Expected to be released on Thursday,
July 23.**

I know you have heard this before...

Questions Remain

- **Timing...**
- **Energy and Commerce Able to Pass Bill?**
- **Regular order of Budget Reconciliation in Senate**
- **Negotiation over size (House v. Senate)**

Together We Will!

- **Keep Eye Out for Action Alerts, PPU**
- **Start Planning for Hill Day Next Year**
- **Become Part of our Key Contact Network:**
 1. **Three contacts with members of Congress**
 2. **Build relationships – share information; offer assistance; participate in campaign activities**

Contact me – chucki@thenationalcouncil.org

Future Webinars: Health Care Reform Update

All webinars are at 2 pm EST:

- August 5
- August 19

Register online: www.thenationalcouncil.org