

**EDITION:** June 19, 2017

## GOVERNMENT RELATIONS & PUBLIC POLICY

*Your weekly dose of health care policy*

### CONGRESSIONAL

#### House Passes Health Care Bills as Part of ACA Repeal and Replace

As part of the three-phase approach of House Republicans to repeal and replace the Affordable Care Act (ACA), the House passed three additional pieces of legislation last week separate from the American Health Care Act (AHCA) to address additional changes that would be needed if AHCA were to be passed by Congress. These bills include:

- [Verify First Act](#) (H.R. 2581)
- [The Broader Options for Americans Act](#) (H.R. 2579)
- [Veterans Equal Treatment Ensures Relief and Access Now Act](#) (H.R. 2372)

### MACRA HIGHLIGHTS

CMS continues to provide [additional resources](#) on its website for providers to comply with the Merit-based Incentive Payment System (MIPS) requirements for 2017, including specific resources for primary care providers and cardiologists, and group participants.

### UPCOMING HEALTH CARE ACTIVITIES ON THE HILL

The first would require applicants for individual exchange-plan tax credits to prove American citizenship. The second would allow veterans to buy private exchange insurance using advanced tax credits, and the third would allow advanced tax credits for COBRA coverage.

The Senate continues to work on its version of the AHCA under budget reconciliation rules. Details on the Senate's changes and new provisions are still not available, but Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) is still aiming to bring the legislation to the floor for a vote before the July 4 Congressional recess, although this could be pushed into July.

## ADMINISTRATION

### CMS Seeks Information on ACA Flexibilities

On June 8, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) released a [request for information](#) (RFI) seeking [recommendations](#) and input on the regulatory structure of the individual and small group markets under the ACA to provide additional flexibilities. Comments will be accepted through July 12, 2017.

### CMS Estimates Coverage Losses Under AHCA

Last Tuesday, the CMS Chief Actuary released [estimates](#) of the financial and coverage implications of the AHCA. In the memo, CMS estimates that the legislation would lead to 13 million people losing health insurance coverage by 2026 compared to current law, due to the proposed changes to Medicaid and Federal insurance subsidies. This estimate differs from the Congressional Budget Office estimate of 23 million individuals losing insurance by 2026 under the plan which took into account other considerations.

### 2018 Analysis of Insurer Participation in Exchanges

Last Tuesday, CMS put out its current [2018 county by county](#)

### Senate Appropriations Committee

6/20 at 10:30am: [Agriculture, Rural, and FDA Subcommittee Hearing to review the FY2018 budget request for the Food and Drug Administration](#)

### Senate Foreign Relations Committee

6/20 at 2:30pm: [Multilateral International Development, Institutions, and International Economics Subcommittee Hearing to examine the World Health Organization and pandemic protection in a globalized world.](#)

### Senate Appropriations Committee

6/22 at 10:00am: [Labor, HHS, & Education Subcommittee Hearing to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2018 for the National Institutes of Health](#)

### House Energy and Commerce Committee

6/23 at 9:00am: [Health Subcommittee hearing on Examining the Extension of Safety Net Health Programs](#)

### WEEKLY FUN FACT

Did you know that...

President Woodrow

[projections of insurer participation](#) in health insurance exchanges. The [map](#) includes plan announcements through June 9, but plans have until June 21, 2017 to submit for 2018.

### **Data Released on Health Care Spending by State**

Last Wednesday, CMS Released [1991-2014 Health Care Spending by State](#). The data shows growth in health care spending due to Medicaid expansion and enrollment in Exchange plans, as well as an analysis of the impact of the recent economic recession.

Wilson approved the idea of observing an annual Father's Day in 1916. President Lyndon Johnson designated the third Sunday in June as Father's Day in 1966; but it was President Richard Nixon who signed the public law that made the Father's Day celebration permanent in 1972. Since then, Father's Day has been celebrated each year.

[Click here to read more fun facts about Father's Day.](#)

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