

HLB Weekly Newsletter

[View this email in your browser](#)

**EDITION:** October 17, 2017



## GOVERNMENT RELATIONS & PUBLIC POLICY

*Your weekly dose of health care policy*

### CONGRESSIONAL

**The Senate was in recess last week and returned yesterday.**

**The House is in recess this week and will return Monday, Oct 23.**

### ADMINISTRATION

#### **CMS Releases MA and Part D Star Ratings**

Last Wednesday, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) released [Star Ratings](#) for 2018 health and drug plans in advance of Medicare Open Enrollment. Most

### MACRA HIGHLIGHTS

This CMS [fact sheet](#) details the supplemental service payments included in CMS' APM Incentive Payment calculations.

Stay up to date on MACRA with CMS' [recent webinars!](#)

### HEALTH CARE ACTIVITIES ON THE HILL

**Senate Health, Education,  
Labor & Pensions**

areas across the country have Medicare Advantage (MA) and Part D plans with four or more stars. In 2018, approximately 73 percent of MA enrollees with prescription drug coverage will be in plans with four and five stars. Compared to 2017, approximately 69 percent of these enrollees were in four and five star plans. Approximately 44 percent of Medicare Advantage plans that offer prescription drug coverage will have an overall rating of four stars or higher in 2018.

### **President Trump Signs Executive Order on Insurance**

Last Thursday, President Trump signed an [Executive Order](#) that takes action to change health insurance markets by expanding coverage options offering less comprehensive benefits than Affordable Care Act (ACA) essential health benefits rules require. The President's executive order will prioritize three areas for improvement in the near term:

- Association health plans (AHPs);
- Short-term, limited-duration insurance (STLDI), and;
- Health reimbursement arrangements (HRAs).

### **President Trump Announces End of CSR Payments**

On Oct 12, the Administration announced that they were ending cost sharing reduction (CSR) payments to insurers. CSR payments help insurers pay out-of-pocket costs of low-income individuals. In response, insurers and providers sent a [joint letter](#) to Congress urging for them to take action. In addition to that push, 18 states and Washington D.C. have joined in a [multi-state lawsuit](#) against the administration.

#### **Committee**

**10/17 at 10:00am:** Full committee hearing on [The Cost of Prescription Drugs: How the Drug Delivery System Affects What Patients Pay, Part II.](#)

#### **Senate Health, Education, Labor & Pensions Committee**

**10/19 at 10:00am:** Full Committee hearing on [Examining How Health Choices Can Improve Health Outcomes and Reduce Costs.](#)

#### **WEEKLY FUN FACT**

Radio changed the face of politics in the 20th century. The first live radio broadcast took place during a House debate on a constitutional amendment to abolish tax-exempt securities. In what year did this milestone occur?

Click [here](#) to find the answer.

## **HOOPER, LUNDY & BOOKMAN, P.C.**

**Government Relations and Public Policy**

401 9th Street NW, Suite 550 Washington, DC 20004 | Telephone 202.580.7700

[www.health-law.com](http://www.health-law.com) | [@HLBHealthLaw](https://twitter.com/HLBHealthLaw)