

HLB Weekly Newsletter

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EDITION: February 27, 2018



GOVERNMENT RELATIONS & PUBLIC POLICY

Your weekly dose of health care policy

CONGRESSIONAL

House Passes Bipartisan Health Care Bills

Yesterday, the House of Representatives passed several bipartisan, non-controversial health care bills.

- [Military Surgical Systems Integrated Nationwide to achieve ZERO Preventable Deaths \(MISSION ZERO\) Act \(H.R. 880\)](#)
- [Stop, Observe, Ask and Respond \(SOAR\) to Health and Wellness Act \(H.R. 767\)](#)
- [Congenital Heart Futures Reauthorization Act \(H.R. 1222\)](#)
- [Sickle Cell Disease Research, Surveillance, Prevention](#)

MACRA HIGHLIGHTS

For the Merit-based Incentive Payment System (MIPS), [groups](#) have until March 16, and individual providers until March 31 to submit data for [2017 reporting](#).

HEALTH CARE ACTIVITIES ON THE HILL

Senate HELP Committee
2/27 at 10:00am: Full Committee

[and Treatment Act \(H.R. 2410\)](#)

- [Action for Dental Health Act \(H.R. 2422\)](#)
- [A resolution recognizing the importance and effectiveness of trauma-informed care \(H. Res. 443\)](#)

These bills now must be passed by the Senate.

ADMINISTRATION

HHS Released Short-Term Limited Duration Insurance Proposal

Last Tuesday, the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) released a [proposed rule](#) to allow short-term, limited-duration insurance plans for longer periods, an effort previously included in President Trump's October 2017 Executive Order on insurance reforms in an effort to promote choice and competition in the insurance market. The [proposal](#) would change the maximum duration of short-term insurance plans to less than 12 months from the current maximum duration of less than three months. These plans would not be subject to Affordable Care Act requirements. Comments will be accepted through April 23.

CMS Actuaries Project Health Expenditures

Last week, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) posted a [notice](#) for the 2018 Burdens Associated with Reporting Quality Measures study, a program to help CMS study clinical workflows and data collection methods using different submission systems and understand reporting burden in the Merit-based Incentive Payment System (MIPS). Those accepted into the study will receive full credit 2018 MIPS Improvement Activities performance category. Applications for the study will be collected through March 23.

[hearing](#) on The Opioid Crisis: The Role of Technology and Data in Preventing and Treating Addiction.

House Judiciary Committee

2/27 at 1:30pm: Regulatory Reform, Commercial and Antitrust Law Subcommittee [hearing](#) on Competition in the Pharmaceutical Supply Chain: The Proposed Merger of CVS Health and Aetna.

House Energy and Commerce Committee

2/28 at 1:00pm: Health Subcommittee [hearing](#) on Combating the Opioid Crisis: Helping Communities Balance Enforcement and Patient Safety.

WEEKLY TRIVIA

Who was the first African-American to run for president?

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

Government Relations and Public Policy

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