

HLB Weekly Newsletter

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## GOVERNMENT RELATIONS & PUBLIC POLICY

*Your weekly dose of health care policy*

### TRUMP TRANSITION

#### Tom Price Becomes 23rd HHS Secretary

On Friday, the Senate voted to confirm Tom Price, M.D. (R-GA) as the Secretary of Health and Human Services (HHS) by a party-line vote of 52-47. He was sworn in later that day and will begin work on repeal and replace of the Affordable Care Act (ACA). Seema Verma, nominee for the Administrator of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) will be examined by Senate Finance Committee on Thursday.

### FEDERAL

### MACRA HIGHLIGHTS

CMS has announced its annual call for measures for the Merit-based incentive payment (MIPS). They have prepared [guidance](#) on the process to recommend measures for the 2018 performance year.

### UPCOMING HEALTH CARE ACTIVITIES

### **ACA Market Stabilization Proposed Rule Released**

This morning, CMS released a [proposed rule](#) providing [stabilization policies](#) for the insurance markets in the hopes of keeping insurers in the ACA exchanges while Congress works to repeal and replace the law. Many of the proposed changes were requested by the insurance community including changes to network adequacy requirements, shortening the open enrollment period, changing the special enrollment period requirements, among others. These changes would impact plans in 2018. CMS will accept comments through March 7th.

### **House Judiciary Committee**

2/16 at 10:00am - Regulatory Reform, Commercial and Antitrust Law Subcommittee hearing on H.R. 372, the [Competitive Health Insurance Reform Act of 2017](#).

### **Senate Finance Committee**

2/16 at 10:00am - Full Committee to [Consider the Nomination of Seema Verma, CMS Administrator](#).

### **WEEKLY FUN FACT**

Which president loved horses and was pulled over and cited by the DC Metropolitan Police Department for driving his horse-drawn coach dangerously fast in the city? In fact, while riding in a carriage through Central Park, he challenged the coach driver of his predecessor to a road race to the top of the park's Great Hill and won. The answer can be found [here!](#)

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