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GOVERNMENT RELATIONS & PUBLIC POLICY

Your weekly dose of health care policy

CONGRESSIONAL

Senate Vote on ACA Repeal Likely Next Week

With a new boost of momentum, [legislation](#) introduced by Senators Graham (R-SC), Cassidy (R-LA), Johnson (R-WI) and Heller (R-NV) to repeal and replace the Affordable Care Act may receive a vote next week before the September 30 reconciliation deadline. After the slowing of [bipartisan efforts](#) to stabilize the health insurance markets, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) has indicated his intention of bringing the legislation to the floor for a vote, but there remains no clear indication that the current bill has enough support in the Senate to pass, as well as in the House prior to the deadline. The situation remains fluid as Republicans seek to

MACRA HIGHLIGHTS

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

HEALTH CARE ACTIVITIES ON THE HILL

Senate Finance Committee
9/25 at 10:00am: Full Committee Hearing to [Consider the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Proposal](#).

Senate Homeland and

reach 50 votes in the Senate, but the Senate Finance Committee plans to hold a hearing on the legislation Monday afternoon and a preliminary estimate from the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) is also expected early next week. Kaiser Family Foundation has prepared helpful resources [comparing the various ACA repeal bills](#) as well as a [state-by-state analysis](#) of federal health spending under the Cassidy-Graham bill.

CHIP Reauthorization Legislation Introduced

After reaching an agreement last week, Senators Hatch (R-UT) and Wyden (D-OR) introduced the [Keeping Kids' Insurance Dependable and Secure \(KIDS\) Act \(S. 1827\)](#), legislation extending funding for the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) for five years. The bipartisan legislation has been agreed to by the Senate Finance Committee, but the House Committees of jurisdiction, may be heading in a different direction with their legislative efforts. Additionally, it is unclear if there will be an effort to bring this legislation up for a vote prior to the September 30 funding deadline, given the current efforts on ACA repeal.

ADMINISTRATION

CMS Releases RFI on New Direction for CMMI

On Wednesday, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) issued a [Request for Information](#) (RFI) seeking feedback on a [new direction](#) for models within the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation (CMMI). CMMI is interested in feedback on the following areas of focus:

1. Increased participation in Advanced Alternative Payment Models (APMs);
2. Consumer-Directed Care & Market-Based Innovation Models;
3. Physician Specialty Models;

Governmental Affairs Committee

9/26 at 10:00am: Full Committee
Hearing on [Block Grants: How States Can Reduce Health Care.](#)

House Veterans' Affairs Committee

9/26 at 10:00am: Health
Subcommittee hearing on
[Veterans Benefits.](#)

WEEKLY FUN FACT

Did you know...

In 1960, the per capita cost of healthcare in the United States was \$147 per person; adjusted for inflation, the calculation would be \$1,082. But now, it is estimated that the United States spends over \$8,250 per capita on healthcare every year which is over 22% more than the next highest country in the world and over 170% higher than the average of the highest-spending 50 countries in the world. This means that our current per capita cost of healthcare has grown over 660% above and beyond normal inflation.

To read more interesting facts about today's health care in the United States, [click](#) here.

4. Prescription Drug Models;
5. Medicare Advantage (MA) Innovation Models;
6. State-Based and Local Innovation, including Medicaid-focused Models;
7. Mental and Behavioral Health Models; and
8. Program Integrity.

Comments to the RFI will be accepted through November 20, 2017.

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