

Federal Legislative Activity related to Autism



Act Early Summit –March 2010

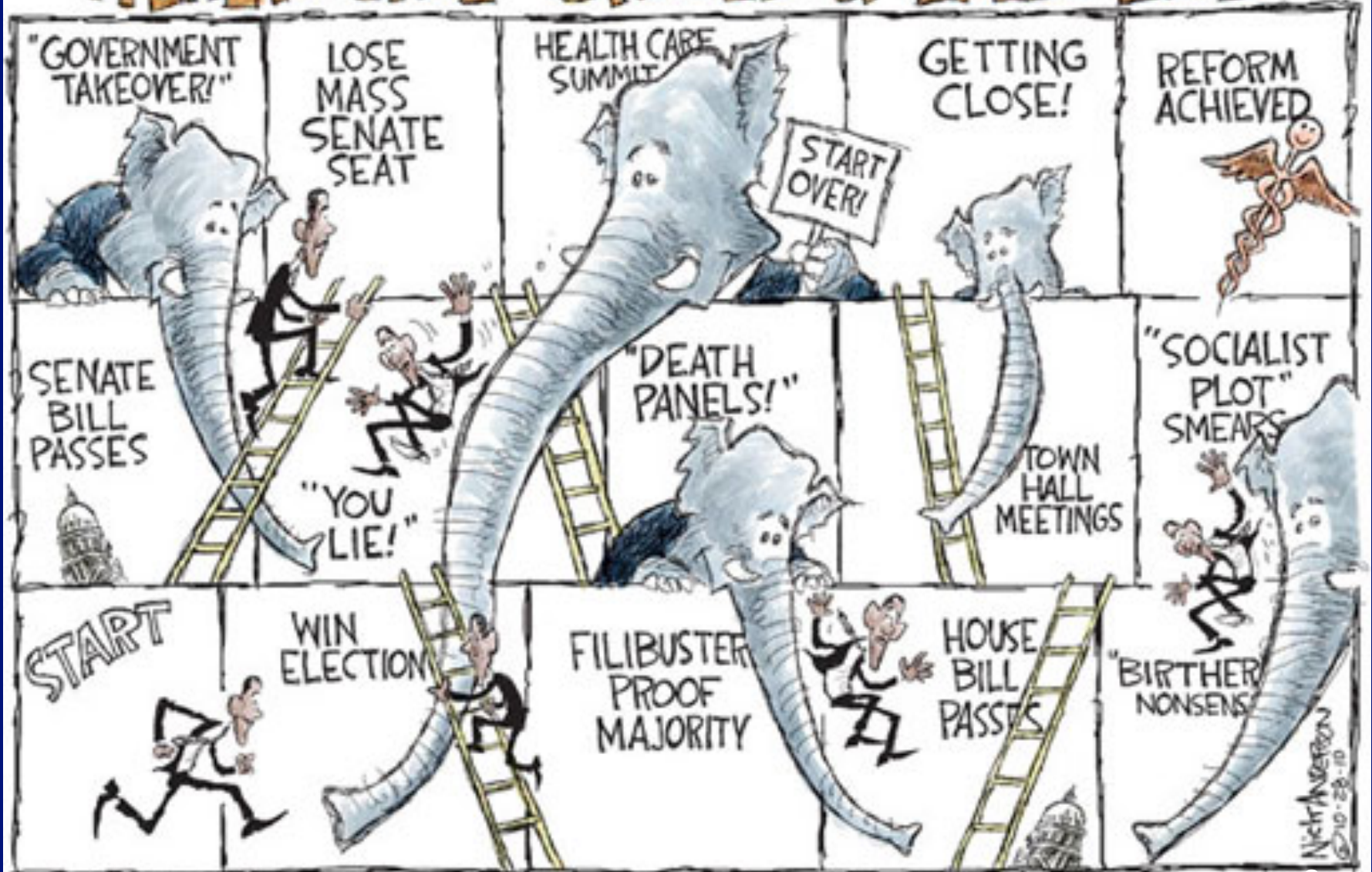


Health Reform Signed into law!!!

- House passed Senate bill and reconciliation bill on Sunday night 219-212
- Signed into law Tuesday, March 23
- Senate now debating reconciliation bill
- Hope to pass by this weekend with NO amendments



HEALTH CARE CHUTES & LADDERS



Health reform: critical provisions

- Cannot deny coverage based on pre-existing conditions!!!
- Elimination annual and lifetime caps in private insurance
- Insurers can not discriminate based on health status
- Out of pocket spending limits
- Minimum services includes “mental health and substance use disorder services, including behavioral health treatment.”

Critical provisions

- Rehabilitation and habilitation services and devices included in essential benefits
- Improving training of doctors, dentists, allied health professionals
- Data collection on disability health disparities
- Prevention programs with focus on disabilities

Other provisions: Long-term services and supports

- Community Living Assistance Services and Supports (CLASS) Act
- Community First Choice Option (Sec. 101 of the Community Choice Act) with increased FMAP incentives
- Continuing funding for Money Follows the Person

CLASS Act

- voluntary insurance program to provide services and supports to help those in need remain in their homes and communities
- For working individuals (18 and up)
- Premiums average \$123/month
- Benefits average \$75/day
- Self-funded and reduces deficit and Medicaid spending

Community First Choice (CFC)

- Core elements of the Community Choice Act (Section 101 of S. 683/HR 1670)
- Medicaid State Plan option (not mandate)
- To provide community-based attendant services and supports
- Individuals eligible for nursing homes and other institutional settings
- 6% enhanced FMAP for states that select the CFC option
- Option included in Senate bill; House bill includes “Sense of Congress” resolution



Next Steps for health reform

- Senate must pass reconciliation
- People with disabilities and families must support those that bravely voted for reform
- Need to work to implement the law; and
- Prevent any repeals or other weakening amendments
- Protect Medicaid and Social Security – entitlement Reform
- Continue work at state and federal level on insurance coverage of autism treatments ¹⁰

Now that health reform is over...

- Autism Treatment Acceleration Act
- Keeping All Students Safe Act
- Achieving Better Life Experience Act
- Workforce Investment Act – employment
- Elementary and Secondary Education Act
- Crime Victims with Disabilities Act
- Direct Support Professionals Fairness and Security Act
- DD Act and Family Support

Autism Treatment Acceleration

- S. 819 introduced by Sen. Durbin, Casey (D-PA), and Menendez (D-NJ) on April 2
- H.R. 2413 introduced by Mike Doyle (D-PA) and Chris Smith (R-NJ) on May 14
- Comprehensive services bill that focuses on services across lifespan, not just children
- Combines elements of Sens. Clinton and Obama/Durbin bills from last Congress

Acceleration Act

Main elements

- Demonstration project to develop comprehensive, coordinated autism services
- Demonstration grants to develop adult services
- Voluntary population-based registry
- Provision to strengthen existing national, regional, and local networks
- National training initiatives to provide interdisciplinary training, continuing education initiatives, and technical assistance
- Requires that health insurers cover the diagnosis and treatment of ASD, including ABA, assistive communication and assistive technology devices

Resources

- AUCD: <http://www.aucd.org>
 - Public policy – Autism
 - Action Center:
<http://www.aucd.org/template/capwiz.cfm>
- Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities:
<http://www.c-c-d.org>
- Autism Speaks Insurance Tracking:
http://www.autismvotes.org/site/c.frKNI3PCImE/b.3909861/k.B9DF/State_Initiatives.htm
- www.Easterseals.com - for state autism



NCSL Database for state legislation

<http://www.ncsl.org/programs/health/autism.htm>



Autism

November 2008

NEW [NCSL Autism Legislation Database](#)

Search 2008 legislation by state, topic, key word, year, status or primary sponsor. 2009 legislation will be added to the database as it is introduced. Click here for a [Glossary of Legislative Terms](#).

Autism is an autism spectrum disorder (ASD), which causes developmental disabilities and numerous social, behavioral and physical challenges. Individuals with ASDs often display unusual behaviors and interests, unusual ways of learning and paying attention, and impaired verbal and non-verbal communication skills. In addition to these behavioral symptoms, individuals with autism will often have physical ailments such as asthma, digestive disorders, persistent viral infections and epilepsy.

Signs and symptoms of ASDs begin before age three and last throughout life. ASDs occur in all racial, ethnic and socioeconomic groups, but are four times more likely to occur in boys than girls. According to a study done by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), one in 150 eight-year-olds in the United States had an ASD in 2007. Currently there is no cure for autism, but early detection and treatment can greatly improve symptoms and development.

Significant debate exists over the causes of autism. Scientists believe that both genes and environment play a role in the development of ASDs, noting that environmental factors may trigger the expression of certain genes. Research exploring a possible link between thimerosal in vaccines and autism has shown no causal connection between the two. In 1999, the Public Health Service agencies, the American Academy of Pediatrics, and vaccine manufacturers agreed that thimerosal should be reduced or eliminated in vaccines for infants, and since 2001 thimerosal has not been used in routinely recommended vaccines, with the exception of small amounts in the influenza (flu) vaccines. For more information about mercury and immunizations, please [click here](#).



Autism

[Database Home](#)

Last Updated: November 3, 2008

This searchable database tracks autism legislation from the 2008 session to present. Search legislation by state, topic, status, primary sponsor, bill number or keyword. To select more than one item (e.g., state or category) in the following lists, hold down the Control-key and click the desired selections.

State(s):

- All States
- Alabama
- Alaska
- Arizona
- Arkansas
- California
- Colorado
- Connecticut
- Delaware
- District of Columbia

Keyword in Title or Summary:

Year:

Primary Sponsor:

Topic(s):

- Any Topic
- Awareness
- Education
- Financing
- Health and Human Services
- Infrastructure
- Insurance
- Miscellaneous
- Professional Training
- Screening

Status:

Bill Number:



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Denver Office: Tel: 303-364-7700 | Fax: 303-364-7800 | 7700 East First Place | Denver, CO 80230 | [Map](#)

Washington Office: Tel: 202-624-5400 | Fax: 202-737-1069 | 444 North Capitol Street, N.W., Suite 515 | Washington, D.C. 20001

Questions?

