Health Care Policy Debate: Why it Matters, What is Your Role
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- Leader
  - Training Director, Family Leadership Coordinator, Riley Child Development Center (LEND)
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Am. Sub. H. B. No. 483

Speaker

of the House of Representatives.

Keith L. John

President

of the Senate.

Passed May 25, 2016

Approved July 13, 2016

Governor.
What We Hope to Cover

• Policy and Your Life and Work
• What is happening now
  – Background
  – ACA
• What Can You Do
  – Share Your Voice
  – Phone
  – Visit
• More Options, Tips and Resources
Related Systems and Issues

- PWD
- ACA
- Medicaid
- Medicare
- SSI
- Tax Code
- Education
- Research funding
- Vaccines
American Health System Today

Medicaid Expansion
Provided coverage to millions of people, including individuals with I/DD and other disabilities.

Market Place
Insurance non-discrimination provisions
- Bans the exclusion of people from health insurance coverage based on pre-existing conditions.
- Prevents insurers from charging people with disabilities and health conditions significantly more for health insurance coverage.
- Eliminates annual and lifetime caps on health coverage were included.

Plus
- Expands mental health parity provisions
- Requires coverage for dependents until age 26
- Improves accessibility of medical diagnostic equipment
- Habilitative Care

ACA also expanded access to long term supports and services by:
- Creating the Community First Choice Option
- Extending the Money Follows the Person Rebalancing Demonstration
- Creating the Balancing Incentives Program to incentivize states to increase access to non-institutional LTSS.
President Trump has begun to “repeal and replace” the Affordable Care Act.

“better health care for more people at less cost” -- 1/25/17

**Legislative**

ACA repeal budget resolution

- January 12\(^{th}\), Senate 51 to 48
- January 13\(^{th}\), House 227 to 198
- The resolution includes instructions to repeal large parts of ACA through reconciliation

**Executive Action**

- January 20\(^{th}\), Executive Order Minimizing the Economic Burden of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act Pending Repeal
- Nomination of Tom Price to lead the Department of Health and Human Services
What’s Next

• The repeal bill moves forward, starting in the House as it's a revenue bill. The House committees with jurisdiction over health care will mark up legislation, then send the work to the House Budget Committee, which will put the bill together.

• After committee approval, the repeal bill will go to the House floor for a vote.
  – Speaker Paul Ryan wanted health reform to be done by the end of March.
  – According to Ryan, House Republicans will mark up their reconciliation package within the next few weeks and bring it to the floor as soon as late February.
  – Rep. Diane Black told reporters that the goal is to be ready to vote on the bill by the first week of March, at the latest

• The bill will go to the Senate floor. It'll be subject to a lengthy debate period and another vote.

• Lawmakers will deal with differences between the House and Senate versions either in a conference committee or a House vote on the Senate-approved bill. This will probably be fast.

• The final bill goes to the White House for Trump's signature.

• Repeal becomes law once signed.
Needs
✓ Access to coverage
✓ Cost of coverage
  ✓ Cost of care
✓ Pre-existing conditions
✓ Life time
✓ Annual cap
✓ Up to age 26
✓ Essential benefit
✓ Medicaid
  ✓ Expansion
  ✓ Maintenance of Effort CHIP

Ideas
○ Risk pools
○ Tax credits
○ Health Savings Accounts
○ Insurance across state lines
○ Block Grant Medicaid
State vs. Federal

Branches

3 Branches of Government

- Constitution (provides a separation of powers)
- Legislative (makes laws)
  - Congress
    - Senate: 100 elected senators total; 2 senators per state
    - House of Representatives: 435 elected representatives total; representatives based on each state's population
- Executive (carries out laws)
  - President
  - Vice President
- Judicial (evaluates laws)
  - Supreme Court: 9 justices nominated by the president and must be approved by the Senate (with at least 51 votes)
  - Federal Courts: Other Federal Courts

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Who Matters

Your Elected Officials
Federal
• Two US Senators
• Representative from district where you are registered to vote or where patient lives
State
• Your Governor
• State Legislators

Extra Influential
• Leadership Positions
• Committee Membership
• Undeclared/persuadable
How to find
http://cqrcengage.com/aucd/congressionaldirectory
Why Advocacy?

• You have expertise and passion
• Your work and life will be impacted by policymakers’ decisions
• You vote and can hold policymakers accountable
• If you don’t speak up, someone else will speak for you
Things to Do...

• Register to vote and VOTE!!!
• Inform yourself
• Know your legislators
  – Follow them on Facebook
  – Follow on Twitter
  – Sign up for their newsletter
  – Follow in Media
• Contact your legislators
  – Call
  – Email
  – Fax
  – Meet

• Testify at public hearings
• Contact media (letter to editor, op ed)
• Testify about regulations
• Attend public forums
Ready Set Dial

Calling
1. Your story
   1. Who you are
   2. Why issue is important
   3. Your story
   4. What you would like to see
   5. Thank you

Tips and Hints
• 27-9-3 rule
  27 words 9 seconds 3 points
• After hours
• Once is not enough
• Follow ups
In District or In D.C.

Visit

- Schedule online
- Be early, prepared, polite
- Concise intro - Who you are, what your organization does
  - Your story – personalize the message on the fact sheet
  - Practice it aloud
  - Be brief
- Limit acronyms or technical terms
- Do not disparage government or his/her record or party
- Do not guess, assume or over reach
- Offer your future assistance
- Leave your fact sheet & business card

Follow-up

- Follow up with thank you email
- Provide any information you promised
- Keep in touch during legislative session
- Follow on social & old school media
- Show up at an event they host or attend
- Contact, comment, like, retweet as appropriate

Disability Policy Seminar 2017
Monday, March 20, 2017 - Wednesday, March 22, 2017
Website Link  http://disabilitypolicyseminar.org/
Remember

• Legislators are generalists; they can see over 1000 bills a year.

• Be a source of knowledge for them.

• If you don’t know something, say so, and then get back to them with the information.
AUCD Policy alerts
Advocacy Alerts are Not Spam 😊

• Use advocacy and action alerts to tell you:
  – When to act
  – Type of action
  – What message to use

• Remember – you are the expert, these are building your expertise

• Have information to personalize your message
Ethics (Don’t Ruin Your Career)

• According to IRS definitions, “advocacy” refers to general work that is done for or against a particular issue.

• “Lobbying” is defined by the IRS as attempting to influence legislation.
Bonus Material

• Block Grants

• High Risk Pool
  http://on.wsj.com/2ji6ewh

• Selling across state lines
  https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cKzkmLodiBg&t=70s
Media

National

- http://khn.org/
- www.politico.com
- www.rollcall.com
- www.politifact.com/truth-o-meter
- http://thehill.com/
Advanced Opportunities

• Policy Fellowships
  – AUCD
  – Kennedy
• Campaigns
  – Policy
• Policy Staff
• Internships