

## **LCAO Health Committee Minutes**

### **Meeting on June 27, 2017**

**Affordable Care Act Repeal/Medicaid Per-Capita Caps:** Committee members discussed the latest intelligence and news on the Better Care Reconciliation Act (BCRA). Prior to the meeting, Leader McConnell announced a vote on the bill was delayed until following the July 4th recess. Members also discussed key takeaways from the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) BCRA score.

Members identified a timeline for sending a LCAO Chair's letter expressing opposition to the BCRA. Members were invited to provide additional input on the letter, which will be delivered when the Senate returns the week of July 10th. The revised letter will reflect the CBO score and an earlier LCAO sign-on letter on the House-passed American Health Care Act (AHCA). LCAO will have a chance to vote on the letter at the full meeting on July 6<sup>th</sup>.

Members shared information on upcoming events/resources, including:

- The People's Filibuster (Tues-Thurs)
  - Families USA kick-off event (Tues AM)
  - SEIU #SaveMedicaid event (Tues mid-day)
  - Coalition rally and march (Wed PM)
- Justice in Aging state-by-state tweets
- State-by-state fact sheets on the AHCA to be updated to the BCRA
- New Manatt analysis of CBO score

Members shared key insights from LCAO and non-LCAO Hill meetings with target Republicans on the BCRA. LCAO members are experiencing some difficulty scheduling Hill meetings with the target offices, many of which are non-responsive or uninterested in meeting with national groups.

An LCAO meeting with Sen. Cassidy's office did not bear many insights. Sen. Cassidy's team expressed an interest in "protecting people" and frustration that Sen. Cassidy's proposal with Sen. Collins was not considered as part of the Senate GOP's ACA repeal process. Members will continue to pursue meetings with Sen. Portman, Sen. Murkowski, and Sen. Gardner.

**Medicare Extenders:** LCAO members discussed the need to begin advocacy on extending the therapy cap exceptions process and outreach and enrollment funding for low-income Medicare assistance programs. Members expect an extenders package will be drafted in July by the House Committees of jurisdiction, and the package is likely to be negotiated on a bipartisan basis. Timing remains unclear given ongoing negotiations related to a potential vote on the BCRA.

The LCAO health committee co-chairs (Medicare Rights and NCOA) will gather additional intelligence and report back to the Health Committee. Members discussed preparing a letter to send after BCRA advocacy is completed. Members agreed that advocacy on the BCRA should be the Committee's top priority.

**Prescription Drug Pricing Executive Order:** LCAO members expressed interest in drafting a coalition statement to respond to the prescription drug pricing Executive Order (EO) under development by the White House. A leaked draft of the EO is largely at odds with LCAO's historical positions on prescription drug pricing, including patent exclusivity extensions for pharmaceutical makers. At the same time, the EO may include value-based pricing arrangements that LCAO could support.

LCAO health committee members (NCPSSM and CMA) volunteered to draft a response to the leaked EO that can be revised once it is officially released, though the timing for the final order is unknown. Members agreed to weave messaging into the statement on the BCRA and how coverage losses will cause prescription drugs to become that much more unaffordable.

**Tentative next conference call:** Tuesday, July 18<sup>th</sup> at 3:30 PM; Call-in TBD

**Next meeting:** Tuesday, July 25<sup>th</sup> at 3:30 PM; Location and call-in TBD