



James Firman, Chair

Minutes
August 2, 2017
Conference Call

1. Guest Speaker: Rodney Whitlock

- Expectations for the short term (between now and Labor Day)
 - CSRs are in less danger due to the court decision to allow Democratic state attorney generals to intervene and argue on behalf of CSRs
 - Statements from high level Senate Republicans suggest that leadership wants to move on
 - Members will get reactions when they are home in August, and that will impact whether they want to try another health repeal bill
- Post Labor Day expectations
 - A lot rides on what Sen. Alexander and the HELP Committee can do on stabilization in a short amount of time
 - The 9/30 deadline for CHIP and extenders is likely to shift with a 3-month extension
 - Watch to see if concurrent tracks of stabilization and CHIP/extenders come together in one package, in late November or early December. Could be a Christmas tree, with big questions on pay-fors.
- Likelihood of bipartisanship
 - Buying onto repair means ratifying the existence of ACA and Medicaid-a heavy lift for a number of members
 - It's also unclear if the Democrats are truly willing to be bipartisan-some think this paves the way to Medicare-for-all and won't want to fix the markets
 - Next year, health policy may be more bipartisan because it's an election year, but it depends largely on how this year ends, especially the stabilization package
- Medicaid per capita caps are unlikely to pass in a comprehensive fashion at this point, but they may do something like a 5-state demo
- Waiver concerns depend on when CMS Administrator Seema Verma pivots to effecting change through 1332 waivers
- Keep an eye on former Finance Committee staffer Kim Brandt in her new role at CMS
- A good message on Medicaid per capita caps is that it would be unreasonable to expect Medicare or the private sector to be structured this way, with arbitrary caps on growth
- The focus in 2018 will likely be on CMS and how they use their authority

2. Committee Reports

- The Health Committee sent an LCAO sign-on letter to the Senate on July 11 opposing ACA repeal and Medicaid proposals, and also sent a chair statement in opposition to the "skinny" proposal on July 27. The committee is turning to "extenders" issues, with some action expected in September, and will closely monitor any attempts to cut Medicare or Medicaid.

- The Community Services Committee is focused on appropriations. The Senate passed the Elder Abuse Prevention and Prosecution Act, with leadership from Sen. Grassley. Lance Robertson was confirmed by the Senate to lead ACL. The committee recapped the July 25 House Seniors Task Force briefing.
- The Income Security Committee discussed the budget for HUD. Linda Couch spoke at their last meeting about the HUD budget and rental assistance. Steve Goss from SSA reviewed the Trustees Report; good news on DI-went from 2023 to 2028. Rep. Grijalva introduced the SSI Restoration Act (HR 3307), and Protecting and Preserving Social Security legislation was introduced by Sen. Hirono (S. 1600) and Rep. Deutch (HR 3302).

3. Tax Reform

- This was a big issue when NCOA chaired LCAO five years ago we will invite back some of the speakers from the last time this was a concern
- There will likely be time devoted in each meeting to tax reform
- LCAO committees will review provisions related to their areas of interest
- Tax reform will start in the House
- Perhaps LCAO could draft a principles document

4. Announcements

- National Alliance for Caregiving released a paper on dementia and hosted a webinar about the results from the paper