

## **LCAO Health Committee Minutes Conference Call on August 17, 2017**

Committee members discussed a sign-on letter regarding the potential HHS **roll back of non-discrimination protections under section 1557 of the ACA**. The discussion was led by Aaron Tax with SAGE and guest speaker Harper Jean with the National Center on Transgender Equality. The committee agreed to circulate the letter for comments and sign-on.

Committee members discussed sign-on letters regarding **Iowa and Maine Medicaid waiver comments**. The discussion was led by David Goldfarb with NAELA. Iowa proposed to repeal the 3 month retroactive eligibility rules. Sign-ons are due September 1<sup>st</sup>. Maine has proposed to waive certain transfer protections under Medicaid Section 1917, which sets much of the key rules around resources and eligibility. This has never been done before. Comments on Maine's 115 waiver request are due September 16<sup>th</sup>. The committee also agree to have a broader discussion in the near future about Medicaid waiver issues.

The Senate HELP committee has scheduled several hearings in early September on **stabilizing the health insurance market**, with witnesses including several governors and insurance commissioners. Families USA has also circulated a sign-on letter on market stabilization.

Committee members discussed possible action in September around **CHIP and other extender issues**. Although some rumors have circulated that a bill might pass before October 1<sup>st</sup>, since the House and Senate will only be in session together for 12 days this month, the more likely outcome is to extend programs into December and pass it as part of a larger package. Previous letters have focused on not shifting costs onto beneficiaries (such as increasing Medicare Part D LIS copayments), extending or making permanent Medicare low-income outreach and enrollment activities, the therapy caps fix, and the Medicaid Money Follows the Person program. The committee will draft a letter for sign-on in mid-September. We should also schedule Hill visits.

Committee members discussed **Medicare expansion proposals**, including a Medicare buy-in, lowering the eligibility age, and Medicare-for-all (e.g. S.1742). Some questions and potential concerns were raised about unintended consequences, such as the impact on Trust Fund solvency, adverse selection, costs and offsets, and whether a coverage cliff might be created. We agreed to have further additional discussions on these issues.

Committee members also briefly discussed:

- Concerns about the tax reform package potentially repealing the Medical Expense Deduction.
- The Ways and Means Committee “red tape” request for comments;
- Comments on the Medicare Physician Fee schedule proposed rule; and
- A sign-on letter in support of permitting Health Savings Accounts to be used for home care services.

**Next meeting:** Tuesday, September 26<sup>th</sup> at 3:30 PM; Location and call-in TBD