

## **LCAO Health Committee Minutes**

### **Meeting on September 28, 2017**

**Graham-Cassidy/Affordable Care Act (ACA) Repeal/Medicaid Per-Capita Caps:** Committee members reflected on the Senate's decision not to vote on the Graham-Cassidy proposal, the latest attempt to repeal the ACA and cut and cap Medicaid. 50 LCAO members signed on to a letter opposing Graham-Cassidy earlier in the week.

Committee members discussed next steps and tentatively agreed to draft a letter to Senate leadership encouraging a return to bipartisanship and regular order on Marketplace stabilization as well a commitment to protect Medicaid. The Health Committee co-chairs will consult with Finance Committee and HELP Committee staff members before drafting.

**Sign-On Letter re: 1557 Anti-Discrimination Rule:** Committee members were reminded about an LCAO sign-on opportunity led by SAGE (with input from NADSA, Justice in Aging, and AFSCME) urging HHS not to revisit/reopen rulemaking on the ACA's anti-discrimination protections. To sign, contact Aaron Tax at [atax@sageusa.org](mailto:atax@sageusa.org).

**Upcoming Tax Debate:** Committee members reported on a briefing with House Ways & Means Committee Democratic staff members concerning tax reform and President Trump's and House/Senate Republican leaders proposed framework for tax reform. Members discussed how the Health Committee would engage in a broader LCAO effort on taxes. Potential messaging includes an emphasis on how steep tax cuts (unpaid for) would increase pressure to undermine and cut key programs for older Americans, including Medicare and Medicaid, and how repeal of the medical expense deduction would disproportionately impact seniors.

**Comments on sign-on letter re: Advanced Illness Patient Choice and Quality Care Act:** Committee members were alerted to an LCAO sign-on opportunity to support S.134 & H.R.2797—a bill to promote coordinated care at the end of life and promote the use of advanced directives. The legislation is consistent with several principles previously adopted by LCAO.

**Medicare Extenders:** Earlier this month, 34 LCAO members sent a letter to House and Senate members on the coalition's key priorities for a health care extenders package, including: (1) ensuring no offsets shift costs to people with Medicare; (2) extending/increasing funding for low-income outreach and enrollment activities targeted to Medicare beneficiaries; (3) addressing the therapy caps through repeal or extension of the exceptions process; and (4) continuing the Money Follows the Person program.

Committee members discussed timing for an extenders package given the likely expiration of the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) and funding for federally-qualified community health centers. Members agreed an end of year package was most likely on LCAO's key priorities and will continue advocacy to ensure these programs are continued/funded.

**Other Announcements:** Committee members were alerted to two upcoming comment opportunities: (1) on HHS' strategic plan and (2) on a Request for Information (RFI) about the future direction of the Center for Medicare & Medicaid Innovation (CMMI).

Committee members should await information about two upcoming meetings (separate from the LCAO Health Committee's typical schedule): (1) on Medicaid waivers with invited speakers, likely David Machledt with NHELP and Judy Solomon with CBPP; and (2) on prescription drug pricing issues with Public Citizen.

**Next meeting:** Tuesday, October 24th at 3:30 PM; Location and call-in TBD