



HEALTHCARE ROUND-UP



February 2, 2017

[Employers Urged to Continue ACA Compliance as No Repeal Plan Emerges](#)

Employee Benefits News

Congressional Republicans adopted a budget resolution in January that set a target of Friday, January 27 to deliver an ACA repeal plan. As the January 27, 2017 deadline for a report on ACA reconciliation came and went without a recommendation for an ACA repeal or replace bill, employers are advised to continue compliance with the ACA.

[ACA Isn't Over Yet: New Section 1557 Nondiscrimination Rules](#)

Mondaq

While the fate of the ACA remains to be seen, in 2016 the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) published a final rule implementing ACA Section 1557 nondiscrimination provisions which covered entities need to continue to be mindful of in 2017 (and, possibly, beyond). The final rule prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age or disability in certain health programs and activities and imposes obligations on covered entities.

[One Healthcare Impact of President Trump's Executive Order – Replacement Plans Emerging](#)

Mondaq

Within hours of his inauguration, President Trump issued an Executive Order labeled "Minimizing the Economic Burden of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act Pending Repeal". The immediate impact of this executive order is uncertain and affected parties would be best advised to await further guidance before reacting to the order.

[Republicans Shift from Replacing Obamacare to Repairing it](#)


The Hill

Key Republican lawmakers are shifting their goal on Obamacare from repealing and replacing the law to the more modest goal of repairing it. It's a striking change in rhetoric that speaks to the complexities Republicans face in getting rid of the ACA. Many of the law's provisions are popular, and some parts of the law that the GOP does want to repeal could have negative repercussions on the parts seen as working.

[Michael Burgess Will Lead the GOP Charge on Unwinding Obamacare](#)


The Texas Tribune

U.S. Rep. Michael Burgess, a Texas Republican, led his first hearings this week to unwind the ACA, the Democrats' 2010 health care overhaul. But in an interview with the Tribune on Wednesday, Burgess suggested his aim was not so much to unwind the landmark bill but "to fix" the overall health care system.



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[Demand for Popular Short-Term Insurance Plans Could Surge If Health Law Is Relaxed](#)

Kaiser Health News

Short-term health plans have been around for decades, bridging coverage gaps for people who are between jobs or have recently graduated from school for example. After the ACA law passed, some people gravitated toward them because they were willing to trade comprehensive coverage for a cheaper sticker price - even if it meant paying a tax penalty for not having the comprehensive coverage required in the law. Now, as Republicans look for ways to the ACA's coverage requirements and explore the possibility of not enforcing the requirement that people have health insurance, short-term plans may be poised to grow even more.

[Health Insurers Warn of Wider Defections from ACA Marketplaces for 2018](#)

The Washington Post

Leaders for the health insurance industry, state insurance commissioners and brokers warned Wednesday that more health plans almost certainly will defect from ACA marketplaces unless Congress and the Trump administration provide some concrete assurances within the next two months. Unless the government promises to continue subsidies and other features of the law for at least another year, some states probably will not have any insurers selling health plans to individuals buying coverage on their own for 2018, the witnesses warned at a Senate hearing.

[5 Things Required To Be Part of ACA Health Plans](#)

The Wall Street Journal

The ACA created new federal requirements for health plans. Some critics of the law want to allow more flexibility in plan design, which they say could help bring down premiums and potentially draw in more healthy enrollees. Here are some of the law's insurance mandates, and potential trade-offs, if those are relaxed or eliminated.

[For Rhode Island, Interstate Health Insurance Sales Didn't Pan Out](#)

NPR

While Republicans in Congress are working to repeal the ACA, it's not at all clear what might replace it. During the campaign, President Trump suggested a nationwide insurance market that would allow insurance plans to be sold across state lines. The [idea](#) has been kicking around for years, and some states have tried it, including Rhode Island, where it didn't work too well.

As always, feel free to suggest topics we should cover in future emails. If you have any questions or experience any problems with links, please send a note to [Sarah Youssef](#) or [Thom Stohler](#).

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