



HEALTHCARE ROUND-UP



January 18, 2017

[NAPEO Hosts Webinar on ACA Repeal and Replace Efforts. Replay the Webinar Here](#)

Available exclusively as a NAPEO-member benefit, click [here](#) to listen to a recording of last week's healthcare webinar. Seth Perretta and Malcolm Slee of Groom Law Group, and NAPEO staff discuss and answer questions on the latest efforts to repeal and replace the ACA. This need-to-know information is only available to NAPEO members. Additional healthcare-related webinars are being planned to offer NAPEO members' information, discussion, and analysis on healthcare-related developments. Details and registration information will follow soon.

[Senate Takes Major Step toward Repealing Healthcare Law](#)

The New York Times

Senate Republicans took their first major step toward repealing the ACA on January 12, approving a budget blueprint that would allow them to gut the healthcare law without the threat of a Democratic filibuster. The vote was 51 to 48. During the roll call, Democrats staged a highly unusual protest on the Senate floor to express their dismay and anger at the prospect that millions of Americans could lose health insurance coverage. One by one, Democrats rose to voice their objections.

[House Takes First Step to Repeal Obamacare](#)

The Hill

The House voted on January 13 to begin the process of repealing Obamacare, despite defections from some Republicans wary of rushing ahead without a plan to replace the law. Lawmakers voted largely along party lines, 227-198, to approve a budget resolution that's serving as a vehicle to unwind the healthcare law.

[Republican Senator Would Let States Keep ACA if They Want](#)

BenefitsPro

Republican Senator Bill Cassidy is making an offer to Democrats he hopes they won't refuse: If their states like Obamacare, they can keep it.

[Rand Paul Is Drafting His Own ACA Replacement](#)

BenefitsPro

Republican Senator Rand Paul said he's drafting legislation for a healthcare insurance plan that could replace Obamacare, including a provision to "legalize" the sale of inexpensive insurance policies that provide abbreviated coverage. "That means getting rid of the Obamacare mandates on what you can buy," Paul said in an interview.

[Proposals to Replace the Affordable Care Act](#)

Kaiser Health News

As Congress and President-elect Donald Trump work on a potential alternative to the ACA, a new summary from the Kaiser Family Foundation outlines key elements of a health plan proposed by U.S. Rep. Tom Price, the President-elect's nominee to be the Secretary of Health and Human Services. The summary breaks down his May 2015 proposal's approach to healthcare reform. Comprehensive summaries of other major proposals, including House Speaker Paul Ryan's A Better Way plan, will be added to KFF.org in coming weeks.

"Repeal and Replace" Obamacare: How Will All of This Sort Itself Out?

Healthcare Policy and Marketplace Review

Republicans are now looking at a strategy to introduce a series of piecemeal Obamacare replacements to be voted on in the near term - some under budget rules as they complete the next 2018 budget and some requiring 60 Senate votes - thereby forcing Democrats to vote against what could be popular alternatives one at a time. But even this strategy will hit snags - for example repealing Obamacare's popular preexisting condition reform and replacing it with a lesser Republican "continuous coverage" provision that would require 60 Senate votes.

Large Employer Health Plans Could Also See Some Impacts from Obamacare Overhaul

Kaiser Health News

If you think that because you get health insurance through your job at a big company, you won't be affected if Republicans overhaul Obamacare, think again. Several of the law's provisions apply to plans offered by large employers too (with some exceptions for plans that were in place before the law passed in March 2010).

Fixing Health Insurance Reform is a Zero Sum Game: The Only Way Republicans Can Lower Costs is to provide Less Coverage—Wrong!

Healthcare Reform and Marketplace News

The general discussion about fixing Obamacare has often inferred, that there is a certain cost to health insurance and that Republicans can rearrange the deck chairs any way they want but the cost will be the same. Wrong!

Exhale: Republicans Aren't Going To Let Obamacare's Insurance Markets Collapse

Forbes

In a perfect world, the ACA would be repealed and replaced at the same time. Unfortunately, we do not live in a perfect world. Republicans recognize this reality, and they have adopted a strategy to repeal portions of the ACA in the short-run, and replace the ACA in the long-run.

IRS May Have Big ACA Employer Tax Woes, Advocate Says

BenefitsPro

An official who serves as a voice for taxpayers at the Internal Revenue Service says the IRS may be poorly prepared to handle the wave of employer health coverage offer reports now flooding in. Nina Olson, the national taxpayer advocate, says the IRS was not equipped to test the accuracy of ACA health coverage information reporting data before the 2016 filing season, for the 2015 coverage year.

IRS Letters Warn Millions about Health Insurance Penalty

The Associated Press

If you haven't signed up for health insurance, you may soon be getting a not-too-subtle nudge from the taxman. The IRS is sending personalized letters to millions of taxpayers who might be uninsured, reminding them that they could be on the hook for hundreds of dollars in fines under the federal health care law if they don't sign up soon through HealthCare.gov. It's an unusual role for a revenue-collection agency.
