



HEALTHCARE ROUND-UP



June 7, 2017

[Senate Republicans Aiming for Vote this Month on Health Legislation](#)

The Associated Press

Senate Republicans leaders plan to vote as soon as this month on major healthcare legislation, even though they remain uncertain for now whether their still-unwritten bill will pass. Senate Republicans have rejected the House bill but have struggled to come to agreement on a version of their own. But now, with pressing budget deadlines looming and President Donald Trump eager to focus on tax legislation, Senate Republican leaders have decided it's time to vote and move on.

[Republican Senators Open to Taxing Employer Health Plans](#)

Employee Benefits News

Republican senators are reportedly discussing a possible tax on employer-sponsored health insurance plans in order to stabilize the public health insurance market, a move that would affect the more than 177 million employees who get their health insurance through work.

[Issues for Employers as Healthcare Legislation Moves to the Senate](#)

Jones Day Law Firm

Although the American Health Care Act, as passed by the U.S. House of Representatives, mainly affects the individual and small group health insurance markets, it has implications for large employers. The repeal of the employer mandate, the replacement of the individual mandate with a continuous coverage requirement, the delay of the Cadillac tax, and changes to requirements for individual market coverage will affect the choices available to private sector employers. Now that the Senate is drafting its own bill, employers will want to understand their stake in the legislation.

[Three Common Small Business Health Insurance Misconceptions](#)



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Employee Benefits News

Running a small business is challenging enough without the confusion health insurance can cause. Too often the resulting angst is driven by common misconceptions about plans. Without a doubt, health insurance continues to be one of the most important and valued benefits that employers can offer to their workers. That said, navigating the employer-sponsored benefit landscape can be especially daunting for small businesses. But these perceptions are frequently rooted in fallacy rather than fact, and employers need to be aware of them.

Top 5 Insurance Carriers in Each State

Employee Benefits Advisor

Employee Benefit Adviser, in partnership with business intelligence data analytics firm miEdge, presents the top five large-group employee benefit insurance carriers by state. The ranking is based on commissions paid, which plan sponsors include in the Form 5500 Schedule A data they submit to the Department of Labor. Note: Groups under 100 lives, government entities and church plans are not required to file, and any disclosure on Schedule C's are not contemplated in these numbers.

Top 5 Insurance Carriers in Each State – Part 2

Employee Benefits Advisor

Voluntary Benefits Can Add to Business Success

BenefitsPro

Companies trying to recruit and retain the best talent might want to take a closer look at voluntary benefits - it's another way to expand offerings to employees without increasing costs to the employer.

The Single-Payer Party? Democrats Shift Left on Healthcare

The New York Times

For years, Republicans savaged Democrats for supporting the ACA, branding the 2010 law as a government takeover of healthcare. Now, cast out of power in Washington and most state capitals, Democrats and activist leaders have embraced an actual government takeover of healthcare. At rallies and in town-hall-style meetings, and in a collection of blue-state legislatures, liberal Democrats have pressed lawmakers, with growing impatience, to support the creation of a single-payer system in which the state or federal government would supplant private health insurance with a program of public coverage.

California Looks Closely at Single Payer

BenefitsPro

California Senate Bill 562 by Sens. Ricardo Lara, D-Bell Gardens, and Toni Atkins, D-San Diego, calls for the state government to pay doctors and hospitals for healthcare, eliminating the need for insurance altogether, as well as federal programs such as Medicare and Medicaid. However, the state would need a waiver from the Trump Administration to be able to use the monies currently allocated for those programs in a single-payer system instead.

How a Single-Payer Health Plan Would Look in California

The San Francisco Chronicle

Imagine if any California resident could walk into a hospital or clinic - penniless - to see a doctor about whatever health condition was bothering them. That's the scenario state senators envisioned when they pushed through SB562 this week, a bill that proposes a universal health system in California that would ensure that every resident would have access to healthcare. The \$400 billion-a-year proposal would mean that familiar institutions in the healthcare ecosystem - including insurance giants Kaiser Permanente, Blue Cross and Anthem - could be virtually eliminated in the nation's most populous state. Kaiser, the state's largest private employer, said the plan would ban its model of providing both care and coverage.

Five Regions/States Most Likely to Lose Obamacare Insurers

The Hill

The immense uncertainty surrounding Obamacare has some areas wondering whether they'll soon be in a dead zone - a place without any insurance plans to buy on the healthcare exchanges. Insurance companies are in the midst of filing premium requests for the ACA marketplaces. But before seeking those premium hikes, they'll have to decide whether to continue offering coverage at all. But for some regions, the worry that there won't be any insurance plan to buy, or a limited number, is particularly acute - even before decisions around the payments or what happens to Obamacare are made. Here are five places at risk.

Gov. Cuomo Takes Steps to Keep New York Insurers in Obamacare

Bloomberg

New York Governor Andrew Cuomo has announced steps to encourage insurers to keep selling health plans in the state's Obamacare exchange, as the companies withdraw from other markets amid uncertainty surrounding the health law. The state is tying participation in the ACA's marketplaces to other government contracts. Insurers that exit Obamacare's individual market would be cut off from government business including Medicaid, the children's health insurance program and the Essential Plan, which offers cheap coverage to some low-income people who don't qualify for other programs, according to a statement from the governor's office.

Anthem to Withdraw from Ohio Healthcare Exchange

The Cincinnati Enquirer

One of Ohio's largest healthcare providers is leaving the state's healthcare exchange, leaving residents in 18 counties without an insurance option. Anthem will pull out of the Ohio exchange as of January 1, 2018. Currently, 44,000 Ohioans have Anthem coverage they purchased on the exchange.