Federal Policy & Budget Updates

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spring into action

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Federal Healthcare Policy Updates

Affordable Care Act (ACA) and Medicaid

Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP)

Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV) program
Federal Healthcare Policy Updates

Affordable Care Act (ACA) and Medicaid

- March 24, 2017 – postponed ACA Repeal vote in the U.S. House of Representatives
- May 4, 2017 – successful ACA Repeal vote in the U.S. House of Representatives (217-213)
- July 28, 2017 – failed ACA Repeal vote in the U.S. Senate (49-51)
- September 26, 2017 – canceled vote on Graham-Cassidy
Federal Healthcare Policy Updates

OBAMACARE IS THE LAW OF THE LAND
Federal Healthcare Policy Updates

Advocacy Works! ACA repeal is dormant, if not defeated!

- Thousands of calls
- Dozens of protests and rallies
- Earned media throughout the state
- Constant social media presence
- Coordination across the state and with national partners
- Over 100 organizations in Protect Our Care Illinois Coalition (PoC IL)
- Over 1000 individual members in PoC IL Coalition
Federal Healthcare Policy Updates
3 Republicans and 48 Democrats let the American people down. As I said from the beginning, let ObamaCare implode, then deal. Watch!
Federal Healthcare Policy Updates

Deliberate actions to undermine the ACA

- Former HHS Secretary Tom Price’s Anti-ACA Campaign
  - Using funds earmarked for “consumer information and outreach” HHS began to air a series of testimonial videos featuring people allegedly “harmed” by the ACA

- Trump Administration announced it would reduce funding for marketplace advertisements and outreach
  - Federal marketing cut by 90% from $100m to $10m
  - Illinois navigator awardees saw funding cut by 31%, nearly $800,000
Federal Healthcare Policy Updates

Deliberate actions to undermine the ACA

- Open enrollment cut in half from three months to six weeks, Nov. 1- Dec. 15

- Shutting down HealthCare.gov website
  Wednesday, November 1, 2017 - overnight
  Sundays 12am-12pm ET, except on December 10, 2017
Federal Healthcare Policy Updates

Deliberate actions to undermine the ACA

- Executive Order: creates a loophole for groups and individuals to buy skimpier health plans
  - Expands short-term, unregulated plans

- Ending Cost-Sharing Subsidies (CSRs) for insurance marketplace plans
  - Insurers in Illinois assumed CSRs would be cut in their 2018 proposed Marketplace rates
  - This is responsible for big premium increases and potential destabilization down the line
Federal Healthcare Policy Updates

What’s next for the ACA and Medicaid?

- Strengthening the individual market
- Hands Off Medicaid and the ACA!
  - I AM MEDICAID Campaign
  - HB4165 – Due No Harm bill
- Road to universal coverage
Federal Healthcare Policy Updates

- **Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP)**
  - Provides health insurance for nearly nine million children each year across the US (~325,000 children in IL)
  - Federally-funded, state-administered block grant, works with Medicaid
  - Funding expired September 30, 2017
  - States started running out of money at the end of 2017
  - Between February and March 2018, CHIP was funded for another 10 years through the last 2 Continuing Resolutions passed by Congress and signed by the President!
Federal Healthcare Policy Updates

Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV) program

- Supports pregnant women and at-risk families with children from birth to age 5
- ~1100 children served in IL

Through the same continuing resolution that funded CHIP between February and March 2018, MIECHV was funded for an additional 5 years.
Federal Budget Updates

FY18 Omnibus Appropriations bill

• Passed March 23, 2018
• Removed Sequestration Caps
• Increases Non-Defense Discretionary Spending by $600m
Federal Budget Updates

Early Childhood Funding

- $2.37B increase for the Child Care and Development Block Grant
- $35m for CCAMPIS
- $20m for 21st Century Community Learning Centers
- $11.4m for IDEA Part C; $12.8m, for Part B
- $250m for Preschool Development Grants
Federal Budget Updates

- $3 Billion Increase to Early Childhood Programs
- Illinois will receive $82.8m in additional child care funds beginning this year
- Child Care funds must be used to implement provisions of the 2014 CCDBG Reauthorization
Federal Tax Plan Updates

- At the end of 2017, Congress passed one of the largest tax cuts in US history.
- The tax plan, as predicted, would add $1.5 trillion to yearly deficit by 2027.
- A majority of the benefit goes to the top 1%.
- By 2027, most families making under $75,000 a year will see a tax increase.
Federal Tax Plan Updates

- Reduces Corporate rate from 35% to 21%
- Repeals the Individual Mandate
- Doubles the standard deduction, but eliminates the personal exemption
- Caps state and local taxes (SALT) deductions to $10,000
Federal Tax Plan Updates

- Child Tax Credit is doubled to $2,000, $1,400 of which is refundable
- Estate tax exemption is doubled
- Individual tax cuts are temporary; the corporate rate cut is permanent.
- Watch for big changes when you file your 2018 taxes in 2019.
Federal Tax Plan Updates

The Republican Two-Step Fiscal Agenda

Step 1: Cut taxes for the rich now, driving up deficits

GOP tax framework would give 80% of its tax cuts to top 1% of households, according to Tax Policy Center, and add at least $1.5 trillion to deficits.

Step 2: Use higher deficits to justify cuts in critical programs, such as:

- Rental assistance
- Medicaid
- Food assistance through SNAP
- Education

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