



HEALTH REFORM ADVISORY PRACTICE

Weekly Legislative Update



Dec. 30, 2016

A Health Reform Call to Action

It has been a quiet week in Washington DC, but the stillness, like the calm before a storm, is deceiving. Although the precise battle lines over health reform remain unclear, and it is likely true that no one has a great understanding of exactly how things will shake out, one thing is certain: The battle will be joined in earnest when Congress reconvenes on Jan. 3.

[Last week](#) we discussed an important letter from employer groups urging Congress to abandon health reform proposals that would increase taxes for employers and workers. This week Congressional Democrats are trying to organize populist support to influence Congressional Republicans to do no harm to the Affordable Care Act, Medicare and Medicaid.

In a letter to other Congressional Democrats, Sens. Charles Schumer (D-NY) and Bernie Sanders (I-VT) along with House Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi (D-CA), called for a series of rallies on Jan. 15, to fight Republican proposals they see as a threat to the healthcare system – including Medicare and Medicaid.

Congressional Democrats realize that their minority position in both the House and Senate limits how effective they can be at influencing legislation. As such, this letter is a plea to voters to make their voices heard. Congressional Republicans will likely counter, saying voters expressed in November a clear mandate to dismantle the ACA.

Nonetheless, the call to action is an important reminder that Republicans must still come up with a replacement plan that doesn't leave Americans worse off than they were under the ACA.

Lockton Comment: It's easy to be cynical about politicians ignoring the voice of the people, but most politicians crave insight and feedback from those they represent. In the coming weeks we will offer you resources to help you contact the members of Congress who represent you, should you desire to add your voice to the chorus. We think your voice will be important as Republicans re-shape health reform in the weeks and months ahead.

Don't miss it!

Please join us on Friday, Jan. 6 for our first webcast of 2017 and our first look at how the GOP's repeal and replace plans are taking shape. Click to [register](#).

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