

Health Care in Motion

Timely, Substantive Updates on Policy Shifts · Actionable Advocacy to Protect Health Care

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Call for Feedback and Health Care Highlights

Health Care in Motion is celebrating its first birthday! For the last twelve months, we have aimed to provide timely, substantive updates on health care policy shifts and suggest actionable advocacy steps to protect access to care. With the passage last month of a new tax law that [eliminates the ACA's individual mandate](#), and the cessation—[perhaps only temporary](#)—of congressional health care repeal efforts, Health Care in Motion is using the opportunity of this anniversary to assess our work and to chart our course for the future.

We Want to Hear From You!

We have developed a [short survey](#) to let your voice be heard. It should take less than five minutes to complete. We would appreciate your help! Please click here to take the survey:

www.surveymonkey.com/r/HCIM

Health Care Highlights

Since Monday, when Congress reached a deal to [reopen the federal government](#) at least until February 8 and, importantly, to fund the [Children's Health Insurance Program \(CHIP\)](#) for another 6 years, the week in health care policy in Washington D.C. has been relatively quiet. Here are some of the week's health care highlights from around the country:

- On Wednesday, our friends at the [National Health Law Program](#), along with lawyers from the [Kentucky Equal Justice Center](#), the [Southern Poverty Law Center](#) and Jenner & Block, sued the Trump Administration over its approval of a waiver for Kentucky Medicaid. The first-of-its-kind class action lawsuit alleges that approval of the new Kentucky program elements “violate the Secretary of HHS’s authority under the Social Security Act, because they are not an experimental project that is consistent with the objectives of the Medicaid Act.” The Complaint—[which you can find here](#)—challenges many of the same changes to Kentucky Medicaid that you read about in [last week's Health Care in Motion](#), including premiums and cost sharing, ‘lockouts,’ benefits cuts, and work requirements.
- Earlier this week, state health officials in Idaho took the “legally dubious” step of inviting [health insurers to create health insurance plans](#) that fail to meet some of the important consumer protections required by the Affordable Care Act. Among the requirements that insurers will be allowed to jettison are fundamental protections for those living with pre-existing conditions, financial protections on out-of-pocket maximums and prohibitions on annual limits, as well as an allowance to exclude certain required benefits. Idaho officials justify their decision on the need to create cheaper, skimpier options for healthy customers, in the absence of the individual mandate. Idaho is relying on the

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Trump Administration to stand down on enforcing ACA requirements, although private litigation is likely. You can [read the new state policy here](#).

- [Kansas Governor Sam Brownback is resigning](#) his office in order to accept the position of Ambassador at Large for International Religious Freedom in the Trump Administration. This leaves the Medicaid waiver request of his administration in significant uncertainty, [amidst news reports](#) that Kansas officials [plan to alter their application to the federal government](#) for regressive changes to their Medicaid program. The federal government is still accepting comments on their application until 11:00pm Saturday, January 27, 2018. [You can submit comments here](#).

Thanks for reading! Please take a few minutes to complete our [short survey](#) and make your voice heard on the future shape of Health Care in Motion!

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