

October 2007

Legislative Management Team (LMT) Report:

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1. Federal Legislation

- The House is expected to vote on **H.R. 1424**, a mental health parity bill. This bill would expand benefits to include coverage for “disorders” such as jet lag and caffeine addiction making them comparable to more serious mental health conditions. In contrast, the bill passed by the Senate on September 18, **S. 558** is bipartisan in nature and represents a reasonable compromise on this issue. It was crafted with the input of a coalition of interested parties, including NAHU. We are asking all members to send an [Operation Shout](#) message to their representatives to urge them to substitute the Senate-passed legislation for the House bill.
- On Wednesday October 24 the House Ways and Means Committee passed **H.R. 3920**, The Trade and Globalization Assistance Act of 2007, by a vote of 26-14. NAHU is concerned that this legislation would severely limit the purchasing options for TAA Health Care Tax Credit (HCTC) recipients. Since the HCTC is the **only** federal tax credit for the purchase of health insurance in existence, NAHU feels that it is crucial that the credit is structured well, even if it is targeted at a small population.
- Representatives John Larson (D-CT) and Dave Camp (R-MI) have collaborated to introduce an excellent bipartisan bill, **H.R. 3947**, the FSA Improvement Act. The bill would allow for a \$500 rollover per year in FSA accounts (avoiding the "use-it-or-lose-it" feature that discourages FSA adoption) and would sunset after three years to hold its cost to around \$3 billion dollars.
- The House majority put forward and passed a new version of SCHIP compromise legislation, **H.R. 3963** by a vote of 265-142. While this is a clear majority, the House Democrats did not obtain enough votes to sustain a presidential veto. The White House issued a strongly worded statement opposing the latest version and has indicated that unless the legislation undergoes substantial changes, President Bush will again veto the bill. NAHU has focused efforts during the reauthorization process on suggesting improvement's to SCHIP's premium assistance provisions, so that more families can be covered together under private employer-sponsored plans.

2. THE LMT AT WORK

UPCOMING EVENTS

1) November 6th, 2007 – ELECTION DAY.

ONGOING WORK

1) Doug Lubenow and Dave Mordo, accompanied by David Smith of PPAG met with Keri Logosso of the Governor's office and Steven Goldman, Commissioner of the Department of Banking and Insurance on October 23rd. The meeting went well and we are secure in saying that there is no real threat of eliminating the role of the broker in New Jersey. The Commissioner however did indicate he is very much interested in seeing transparency, i.e. the disclosure of commissions to the consumer. He feels that the consumer should be able to negotiate commissions in the small group market much like it is done in the large group market. It should be noted that ANY changes would have to be statutory in nature, meaning it would need to go through the legislature and not be done by way of a "ruling" coming out of the Commissioner's office.

It is also safe to say that they had no real concept of the work the broker does on behalf of the client until they were enlightened by Doug. We are encouraged that the dialogue will continue and that we need to be proactive in keeping the lines of constant communication open.

2) Lisa Holck, Doug Lubenow, Linda Root and Nicole Gunia attended various fundraisers across the state in the ongoing effort to make our Association visible to members of the legislature. We thank them for their volunteerism.

3) HIAPAC & HUPAC fundraising continues. We have contributed more money this year so far than in the past 3 years so we must replenish the funds so that we keep the momentum going. Please consider giving what you can.

4) The LMT had its quarterly meeting on Wednesday, October 24th. We would first like to extend a thank you to [Aetna](#) for the use of their Cranbury, NJ facility. We were again joined by Lynne Clausen who we hope will be a permanent fixture on the LMT as well as a new visitor, Craig Lordigyan. Craig is a broker as well as a member of NJAHU and wanted to see the work we are trying to accomplish on the LMT.

3. 2007 – 2008 Legislative Management Team (LMT) SUB-COMMITTEES

HIAPAC/HUPAC	Theresa Semple, Jim Stenger
CAPITOL CONFERENCE	Dave Mordo
MEDIA RELATIONS/COMMUNICATIONS	Jack Kalosy, Joe Torella, Frank Ruggiero, Lisa Holck
LIAISON TO THE WEBSITE	Jack Kalosy

WHITE PAPERS/POSITION PAPERS	Joan Fusco, Eileen Shrem
ADOPT A LEGISLATOR/MEETINGS/TESTIMONY	Doug Lubenow, Jim Stenger

If you would like to volunteer your time for any of the LMT sub-committees, please contact Dave Mordo at 732-936-0100.

4. CAPITOL CONFERENCE 2008

If you are interested in attending this year's Capitol Conference from February 4th to February 6th in Washington D.C. the registration will be on-line at www.nahu.org on November 1st.