



Date: November 20, 2003
To: NJ State NAHU Board
From: Jack Kalosy, HIA, NJ State Legislative Chair

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Subject: November Legislative Report

1 Details on the PAC

- July 2003 started a new fiscal year for the NJAHUs PAC called Health Insurance Agents PAC (HIAPAC). We have a balance of \$2,519.54 in the PAC as of November 17, 2003. If you donated last year to your PAC, thank you for your support last year. It is important to remember that the PAC needs to be funded on an annual basis. Our goal is a \$7,500 balance annually. We are asking all members to donate at least \$25 per year. If you can donate more, please do so.
- We need additional Fundraisers for the PAC.
- The HIAPAC lapel pins for our PAC will be ready in two weeks. The North Jersey Board has ordered 300 pins.

2 Current Legislative Environment

- The elections were held on November 4th, 2003. The Democrats once again control the NJ Assembly by a margin of 47 seats to 33 Republican seats. The Senate was equally divided prior to the election. The Democrats now control the Senate by a margin of 4 seats. This shift in power will allow The Governor to pass his agenda with little if any resistance.
- The "Adopt a Legislator" Program is being implemented by Dave Mordo. Please contact Dave and volunteer to work with your State or Federal Legislator.
- The Legislative Management Team had a meeting on October 7, 2003 to discuss our goals and agenda for the fourth quarter 2003. We had 13 members present at the LMT meeting.
- Legislative Meeting Reports:
 - We have a meeting scheduled with Assemblymen Bodine & Chatzidakis democrats from the 8th district for November 25, 2003. We will discuss their bill A- 2356 that seeks to create a commission to study ways to increase insurance competition in New Jersey.
 - Jessica Waltman will speak at one of the Governors Task Force committee's to explain the advantages of High Risk Pools on November 21st, 2003.
 - Our President, Tom Daniels, wrote two important letters on November 12, 2003 to the NJDOBI to go on record during the comment period on one regulation and a post comment period recommendation on an existing regulation. Our president commented on NJAC 11:17A-1.2 and 1.4, this regulation allows Professional Employer Organizations to use unlicensed people to sell their program. The second recommendation to the NJDOBI was on 11:17B-2.1 (The Producer Act) under the commissions section. Our concern centered on the commission section allowing a licensed producer to pay a "referral" fee to a non-licensed entity.
 - We have two members of our association that sit on two of the three Governors Task Forces on Healthcare. Tom Daniels, our State President, and Dutch Vanderhoof, Our Northern Jersey Legislative Chair.

3. Important Legislative Issues to address this Quarter
 - 2:1 rate ratios for the individual marketplace.
 - Change the NJ Statutory Continuation to look like Federal COBRA.
 - Add percentage of eligible employees participating in the group as a rating factor.
 - We are looking into language in the NJ Producer Act that allows non-licensed entities to be paid a referral fee (AKA Rebating).
4. Event planning
 - Health Forum
 - Capitol Conference
 - Storming the Statehouse

**This is the list of bills that the NJAHU Legislative team is tracking.
Health Underwriters Bill Tracking list (2002-2003)**

Health Underwriters (2002-2003)

| | |
|------------------|--|
| Bill: | A374 |
| | Wisniewski (D19) |
| Sponsor | |
| s: | |
| Summary | Requires health insurers to cover well baby visits during the first two years of life. |
| : | |
| | 2002:S2095; 2000:A1692; 1998:A1939 |
| Related | |
| : | |
| Status: | 01/08/2002 - Assembly Health and Human Services Committee |
| | 01/08/2002 - Introduced and referred to Assembly Health and Human Services Committee. |
| History | |
| : | |
| | Support |
| Position: | |

Bill: A909

Edwards (D34)

Sponsor

s:

Prohibits HMO's from imposing certain restrictions regarding provision of health care services to enrollees.

Summary

:

2002:S962; 2000:A288; 2000:S899; 1998:A326;

Related 1998:S734; 1996:A2499

:

Status: 01/08/2002 - Assembly Health and Human Services Committee

01/08/2002 - Introduced and referred to Assembly

History Health and Human Services Committee.

:

Monitor

Position:

n:

Health Underwriters

Category:

y:

Bill: A915 Acs (ACS)

Edwards (D34); Weinberg (D37) +2

Sponso**rs:**

"New Jersey Health Care Consumer Information Act."

Summar**y:**

2002:S571; 2000:A2439; 2000:S575; 1998:S766

Relate**d:**

12/12/2002 - Substituted by another bill

Status**:**

01/08/2002 - Introduced and referred to Assembly

Histor

Health and Human Services Committee.

y:

12/09/2002 - Reported out of committee with committee substitute, referred to Assembly Banking and Insurance Committee. Reported out of committee, referred to Assembly Appropriations Committee. Reported out of committee, 2nd reading in Assembly. 12/12/2002 - Substituted by S-571 (SCS).

Monitor

Positi**on:**

Health Underwriters

Catego**ry:**

Bill: A1019

Connors, C. (R9); Moran (R9) +3

Sponsor**s:**

Requires that chiropractors and physicians be reimbursed at same rate under various health and accident plans.

Summary**:**

2000:A1883; 1998:A411; 1996:A2955

Related

:
Status: 01/08/2002 - Assembly Banking and Insurance Committee
 01/08/2002 - Introduced and referred to Assembly

History Banking and Insurance Committee.

:
 Oppose

Position:

Health Underwriters

Category:**y:****Bill: A1369**

Corodemus (R11)

Sponsor**s:**

Requires HMOs and small employer health benefits plans that cover routine foot care to permit podiatric physicians to provide such services.

Summary**:**

2000:A1205; 1998:A1400; 1996:A2905

Related

:
Status: 01/08/2002 - Assembly Health and Human Services Committee
 01/08/2002 - Introduced and referred to Assembly

History Health and Human Services Committee.

:
 Monitor

Position:**n:**

Bill: A1371

Corodemus (R11)

Sponsor**s:**

Defines routine foot care services under an insurance policy.

Summary**:**

2002:S2715; 2000:A1941; 2000:S787

Related**:****Status:** 01/08/2002 - Assembly Health and Human Services Committee

01/08/2002 - Introduced and referred to Assembly

History Health and Human Services Committee.**:**

Monitor

Position:**n:****Bill: A1392**

Doria (D31)

Sponsor**s:**

Revises operations of Individual Health Coverage and Small Employer Health Benefits programs.

Summary**:**

2000:A1606; 2000:S728; 1998:A3569; 1998:S2216

Related**:****Status:** 01/08/2002 - Assembly Banking and Insurance Committee

01/08/2002 - Introduced and referred to Assembly

History Banking and Insurance Committee.**:**

Health Underwriters

Category:**y:**

Bill: A1715

Friscia (D19)

Sponsor**s:**

Prohibits hospital from denying admission or

Summary services to patient based on patient's HMO
:
coverage, and requires HMO's to cover legitimate
emergency health care.

2002:S537; 2000:A131; 2000:S750; 1998:A3429

Related

:

Status: 02/04/2002 - Assembly Health and Human Services
Committee

02/04/2002 - Introduced and referred to Assembly

History Health and Human Services Committee.

:

Monitor

Positio**n:****Bill: A1778 Aca (1R)**

Weinberg (D37); Sarlo (D36) +4

Sponsor**s:**

"Health Care Claims Payment Responsibility Act."

Summary

:

2002:S486; 2000:A1656; 2000:S370; 1998:A2626;

Related 1998:S1455

:

Status: 11/25/2002 - Assembly Banking and Insurance
Committee

02/11/2002 - Introduced and referred to Assembly

History Health and Human Services Committee.

:

11/25/2002 - Reported out of committee with
committee amendments, referred to Assembly Banking
and Insurance Committee.

Monitor

Positio**n:**

Health Underwriters

Categor**y:**

Bill: A1890

Cohen (D20) +1

Sponsor**s:**

"Health and Dental Claims Authorization, Processing and Payment Act."

Summary**:****Status:** 02/21/2002 - Assembly Banking and Insurance Committee

02/21/2002 - Introduced and referred to Assembly

History Banking and Insurance Committee.**:**

Oppose

Position:**n:****Bill: A1897 AcaAa (2R)**

Weinberg (D37); Quigley (D32) +4

Sponsor**s:**

Provides procedures for payment to out-of-network dentists when covered person receives payment directly from dental insurer.

Summary**:**

2002:S1409; 2000:A2168; 2000:S1290; 1998:A1658;

Related 1998:S772; 1996:A2810; 1996:S1915**:****Status:** 06/30/2003 - Substituted by another bill

02/21/2002 - Introduced and referred to Assembly

History Banking and Insurance Committee.**:**

05/09/2002 - Reported out of committee with committee amendments, 2nd reading in Assembly.

06/23/2003 - Amended on Assembly floor, 2nd reading in Assembly (Weinberg).

06/30/2003 - Substituted by S-1409 (2R).

Monitor

Position:**n:**

Bill: A1933

Vandervalk (R39); Weinberg (D37) +7

Sponsor**s:**

Requires Medicaid coverage of HIV drug resistance testing.

Summary**:**

2002:A2444; 2002:S2256

Related**:****Status:** 10/21/2002 - Combined with another bill
02/28/2002 - Introduced and referred to Assembly**History** Health and Human Services Committee.**:** 10/21/2002 - Combined with A-2444.

Monitor

Position:**n:****Bill: A2356**

Bodine (R8); Chatzidakis (R8) +1

Sponsor**s:**

Creates commission to study ways to increase insurance competition in New Jersey.

Summary**:**

2002:S1539

Related**:****Status:** 05/16/2002 - Assembly Banking and Insurance
Committee
05/16/2002 - Introduced and referred to Assembly**History** Banking and Insurance Committee.**:**

Bill: A2357

Fisher (D3)

Sponsor**s:**

Requires HMO's to provide standing referrals for

Summary specialists to enrollees with chronic illnesses or
: conditions.**Status:** 05/16/2002 - Assembly Banking and Insurance
Committee

05/16/2002 - Introduced and referred to Assembly

History Banking and Insurance Committee.

:

Monitor

Positio**n:****Bill: A2444 AcsAca (ACS/1R)**

Roberts (D5); Greenwald (D6); Vandervalk (R39);

Sponsor Weinberg (D37) +10**s:**

Requires Medicaid coverage of HIV drug resistance

Summary testing.

:

2002:A1933; 2002:S2256

Related

:

Status: 05/08/2003 - Senate Budget and Appropriations
Committee

06/13/2002 - Introduced and referred to Assembly

History Health and Human Services Committee.: 10/21/2002 - Reported out of committee with
committee substitute, referred to Assembly
Appropriations Committee.12/09/2002 - Reported out of committee with
committee amendments, 2nd reading in Assembly.

03/03/2003 - Passed in Assembly 79-0-0.

03/10/2003 - Received in Senate and referred to
Senate Health, Human Services and Senior Citizens
Committee.05/08/2003 - Reported out of committee, 2nd reading
in Senate. Referred to Senate Budget and
Appropriations Committee.

Monitor

Positio**n:**

Bill: A2487 Acs (ACS)

Weinberg (D37); Johnson (D37); Previte (D6) +11

Sponso**rs:**

Revises statutory mental health coverage

Summar**y:**

requirements and requires all health insurers to cover alcohol and drug addiction treatment under same terms and conditions as for other diseases or illnesses.

2002:S1633

Relate**d:**

02/27/2003 - Assembly Appropriations Committee

Status

:

06/17/2002 - Introduced and referred to Assembly Health and Human Services Committee.

Histor**y:**

02/27/2003 - Reported out of committee with committee substitute, referred to Assembly Appropriations Committee.

Oppose

Positi**on:**

Bill: A2503

Wisniewski (D19) +2

Sponsor**s:**

Redirects \$125 million in payroll taxes from UI

Summary Fund to Health Care Subsidy Fund.**:**

2002:S1628

Related**:****Status:** 06/30/2002 - Bill or Resolution Signed by the Governor

06/06/2002 - Introduced and referred to Assembly

History Appropriations Committee. Reported out of committee, 2nd reading in Assembly.**:**

06/13/2002 - Passed in Assembly 45-33-0. Received in Senate and referred to Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee.

06/20/2002 - Reported out of committee, 2nd reading in Senate.

06/24/2002 - Substituted for S-1628. Passed in Senate and sent to Governor 37-0.

06/30/2002 - Signed by the Governor P.L.2002, c.29. Monitor

Position:**:**

Bill: A2759 Aca (1R)

Weinberg (D37); Ahearn (G38) +2

Sponsor**s:**

Provides in-network benefits to patient with disability for services provided by out-of-network provider under certain circumstance.

Summary**:**

2002:S1919

Related**:**

Status: 05/19/2003 - Senate Health, Human Services and Senior Citizens Committee
09/19/2002 - Introduced and referred to Assembly

History**:**

Health and Human Services Committee.
10/21/2002 - Reported out of committee with committee amendments, referred to Assembly Appropriations Committee.
03/10/2003 - Reported out of committee, 2nd reading in Assembly.
05/15/2003 - Passed in Assembly 77-0-0.
05/19/2003 - Received in Senate and referred to Senate Health, Human Services and Senior Citizens Committee.
Monitor

Position:**n:****Bill: A2926 Aca (1R)**

Cohen (D20) +1

Sponsor**s:**

Requires managed care carriers to provide certain physicians with fee schedules.

Summary**:**

2002:S317; 2000:A3952; 2000:S1735

Related**:**

Status: 06/16/2003 - 2nd reading in the Assembly
10/21/2002 - Introduced and referred to Assembly

History**:**

Health and Human Services Committee.
06/16/2003 - Reported out of committee with committee amendments, 2nd reading in Assembly.
Monitor

Position:**n:**

Bill: A3097

Vandervalk (R39)

Sponsor**s:**

Permits continued NJ FamilyCare eligibility for parent whose child turns 19 under certain circumstances.

Summary**:**

2002:S2104

Related**:**

Status: 12/16/2002 - Assembly Health and Human Services Committee

12/16/2002 - Introduced and referred to Assembly

History Health and Human Services Committee.

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Monitor

Position:**n:****Bill: A3137 Acs (ACS)**

Roberts (D5); Weinberg (D37); Vandervalk (R39) +3

Sponsor**s:**

Establishes the Mandated Health Benefits Advisory Commission.

Summary**:**

2002:S2275; 2000:A2479

Related**:**

Status: 06/23/2003 - Substituted by another bill

12/16/2002 - Introduced and referred to Assembly

History Health and Human Services Committee.

:

06/16/2003 - Reported out of committee with committee substitute, 2nd reading in Assembly.

06/23/2003 - Substituted by S-2275 (SCS).

Support

Position:**n:**

Bill: A3157 Aca (1R)

Weinberg (D37); Conaway (D7) +1

Sponsor**s:**

Establishes voluntary Statewide physician joint purchasing alliance.

Summary**:**

2002:S2266

Related**:****Status:** 06/30/2003 - Senate Health, Human Services and Senior Citizens Committee

01/14/2003 - Introduced and referred to Assembly

History Health and Human Services Committee.**:**

02/03/2003 - Reported out of committee with committee amendments, 2nd reading in Assembly.

06/30/2003 - Passed in Assembly 77-3-0. Received in Senate and referred to Senate Health, Human Services and Senior Citizens Committee.

Oppose

Position:**n:****Bill: A3289**

Burzichelli (D3); Fisher (D3); Johnson (D37) +3

Sponsor**s:**

Establishes New Jersey Rx Program to reduce prescription drug prices.

Summary**:**

2002:S2331

Related**:****Status:** 02/04/2003 - Assembly Health and Human Services Committee

02/04/2003 - Introduced and referred to Assembly

History Health and Human Services Committee.**:**

Monitor

Position:**n:**

Bill: A3318 AcaSca (2R)

Cohen (D20); Bateman (R16)

Sponsor**s:**

Clarifies certain rating provisions for small employers health benefits purchasing alliance policies.

Summary**:**

Status: 08/22/2003 - Bill or Resolution Signed by the Governor

02/10/2003 - Introduced and referred to Assembly

History**:**

Banking and Insurance Committee.

03/10/2003 - Reported out of committee with committee amendments, 2nd reading in Assembly.

03/13/2003 - Passed in Assembly 78-0-0.

03/17/2003 - Received in Senate and referred to Senate Commerce Committee.

05/15/2003 - Reported out of committee with committee amendments, 2nd reading in Senate.

06/23/2003 - Passed in Senate 38-0. Received in Assembly, 2nd reading in Assembly to concur with Senate amendments.

06/30/2003 - Passed in Assembly and sent to Governor 80-0-0.

08/22/2003 - Signed by the Governor P.L.2003, c.163.

Monitor

Position:**n:****Bill: A3371**

Stender (D22); Guear (D14) +1

Sponsor**s:**

Requires health insurers to provide health benefits coverage for treatment of pathological gambling.

Summary**:**

Status: 02/27/2003 - Assembly Banking and Insurance Committee

02/27/2003 - Introduced and referred to Assembly

History**:**

Banking and Insurance Committee.

Oppose

Position:**n:**

Bill: A3621

Weinberg (D37); Johnson (D37) +1

Sponsor**s:**

Establishes voluntary Statewide joint purchasing alliance for persons covered by individual health benefits plans.

Summary**:****Status:** 06/30/2003 - Senate Commerce Committee

05/19/2003 - Introduced and referred to Assembly

History Banking and Insurance Committee.**:**

06/05/2003 - Transferred to Assembly Health and Human Services Committee.

06/09/2003 - Reported out of committee, 2nd reading in Assembly.

06/30/2003 - Passed in Assembly 80-0-0. Received in Senate and referred to Senate Commerce Committee.

Oppose

Position:**n:****Bill: A3743**

Weinberg (D37); Watson Coleman (D15); McKeon (D27);

Sponsor Roberts (D5); Impreveduto (D32)**s:**

"Family Equality Act"; establishes domestic partnerships.

Summary**:****Status:** 06/05/2003 - Assembly Health and Human Services Committee

06/05/2003 - Introduced and referred to Assembly

History Health and Human Services Committee.**:**

11/07/2003 - Pension and Health Benefits Review

Scheduled: Commission, 10:00a, Division of Pensions and

Benefits, 50 West State Street, 1st Floor Boardroom, Trenton, NJ. (Rescheduled from 10/31/2003)

Monitor

Position:**n:**

Bill: A3797

Scalera (D36)

Sponsor**s:**

Provides for the regulation of long-term care insurance.

Summary**:**

2002:S2532

Related**:****Status:** 06/16/2003 - Assembly Banking and Insurance Committee

06/16/2003 - Introduced and referred to Assembly

History Banking and Insurance Committee.**:**

Support

Position**n:****Bill: S317**

Matheussen (R4)

Sponsor**s:**

Requires managed care carriers to provide certain physicians with fee schedules.

Summary**:**

2002:A2926; 2000:A3952; 2000:S1735

Related**:****Status:** 01/08/2002 - Senate Commerce Committee

01/08/2002 - Introduced and referred to Senate

History Commerce Committee.**:**

Monitor

Position**n:**

Bill: S486

Vitale (D19); Matheussen (R4) +16

Sponsors

:

Summary: "Health Care Claims Payment Responsibility Act."

Related: 2002:A1778; 2000:A1656; 2000:S370; 1998:A2626;
1998:S1455

Status: 01/08/2002 - Senate Commerce Committee

History: 01/08/2002 - Introduced and referred to Senate
Commerce Committee.
Monitor

Position

:

Health Underwriters

Category

:

Respectfully Submitted,

Jack Kalosy

NJ State Legislative Chair