



Date: April 22, 2004
To: NJ State NAHU Board
From: Jack Kalosy, HIA, NJ State Legislative Chair

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Subject: March Legislative Report

- 1 Details on the PAC
 - We need additional Fundraisers for the PAC.
 - The HIAPAC lapel pins have been delivered and are ready for distribution. If you have donated more than \$100 to the PAC you are entitled to a pin. The North Jersey Chapter paid for the 300 pins.
- 2 Current Legislative Environment
 - Senator Singer's Mini-COBRA (S-963) bill has passed through the Senate. We have been pushing for this bill for two years now. The assembly version (A-2117) is sponsored by Assemblyman Neil Cohen and is expected to be heard in the Banking and Insurance Committee in May. We strongly **support** these versions of the "**mini-COBRA**".
 - Senator Singer has agreed to sponsor a bill that would allow 3.5:1 rate ratios in the Individual and SEH markets! This important bill is currently in OLS being drafted, when it is complete Senator Singer will be sending it to us for our review.
 - A-1914 (Weinberg) passed the assembly by a vote of 72-6-1. This bill would require small employer health insurance carriers to offer coverage for treatment of **infertility**. The association is currently **monitoring** this bill. The next stop is the Senate. There currently is no Assembly version of this bill.
 - We have sent a letter opposing a bill that would allow agents to be sued under the Consumer Fraud Act. The bill, Assembly Bill 2088, sponsored by Assemblyman Wilfredo Caraballo, would subject insurance brokers and agents to the possibility of being sued under the state's Consumer Fraud Act for deceptive advertising.
 - Please take a moment to take part in the "Adopt a Legislator" program. You can do so by agreeing to keep a legislator educated on our key issues. The "Adopt a Legislator" Program is being run by Dave Mordo. Please contact Dave and volunteer to work with your State or Federal Legislator.
3. Legislative Meeting Reports:
 - We had three members of our association that sat on the three Governors Task Forces on Healthcare. Tom Daniels, our State President, Dutch Vanderhoof, Our Northern Jersey Legislative Chair and Eileen Shrem, member of the Monmouth Ocean Chapter. The reports of all three Task Forces have been sent to the Governor.
4. Important Legislative Issues to address this Quarter
 - 3.5:1 rate ratios for the Individual and Group 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).
 - Add Medicaid and "Family Care" as valid waivers under the NJ SEH plans.
5. Event planning
 - NAHU's 2004 capitol conference was a big success. Senator Larry Craig (R-ID), Congresswomen Kay Granger (R-TX), Heather Wilson (R-NM), and Nancy Johnson

(R-CT) spoke to NAHU members along with Congressman Mike Rogers (R-MI), Center for Medicare Studies (CMS) Administrator Mark McClellan, and Dr. Rex Cowdry from the White House. In addition, panelists Scott Krienke from Assurant Health and David Saltzman from Humana spoke about successes to date in consumer directed health care models. Panelists Joel White from the House Ways and Means Committee, Steve Northrup from the office of Senator Enzi (R-WY), and Phil Lebherz from LISI talked about the direction of Congress and movement on the uninsured. Breakout sessions included discussions on tax credits, grassroots and grass tops, long-term care partnerships, and how the media impacts the political process. A comprehensive list of speakers for both the general sessions and breakout sessions can be found under the meetings section of the NAHU website, www.nahu.org. We had great meetings with almost every one of our NJ Legislators down in Washington, DC. The three issues we focused on were the Uninsured, Long Term Care Partnerships and Association Health Plans (AHP's). We greatly appreciate the participation of the NAHU members who attended this year. Thanks for your dedication and commitment.

6. SEH Board Meeting Minutes (AKA Joan's Fusco's Corner) from the April 21, 2004 meeting.

"A producer, Bruce Pesko, asked Ward to address the Board and was heard. He wanted to comment about the exorbitant rate increases and suggested a cap. Ward responded that the Board had no authority to make such changes and that Mr. Pesko would have to go through his legislators. Dutch Vanderhoof suggested he send Ward a letter that Ward could forward to parties at the DoBI and legislators. Mr. Pesko also wanted to comment on what he feels are unwarranted questions from the compliance depts. of various carriers. He did not mention any carrier by name. His examples were: being asked why the spouse had a different surname and clarification of the exact dates of hire if the NJ cert said 1992. He felt the carriers were going beyond their authority and holding up groups unnecessarily.

Legislation:

A2163 is a Federal bill pending called Small Employer Health Benefits. It would give authority to provide purchasing cooperatives for employers with less than 100 employees, requires employers pay 60% contribution to premium and provide refundable tax credits. This bill would allow access to the Federal employee Health plans.

I'll try and get the bill and share.

H.S.A.'s - recommended site is www.treas.gov, then go to press then to releases. Ellen recommends reading the 3/30/2004 guidance release which addresses what would be acceptable for wellness / preventive coverage. She said that based on the release, NJ could not issue an H.S.A. to ***any insured*** individual or group and the legal impediment is that in NJ we have first dollar / no deductible coverage for Lead Poisoning Screening and Treatment .

Jack Kalosy said the NAHU contacted Treasury who says it would be ok if the value of the benefit was "small" but since treatment of Lead Poisoning is not inexpensive, NJ is knocked out of the box for H.S.A.'s. This is the case w/ NJ and 7 other states. The NAHU has asked the state legislators to change the Lead Screening mandate to permit H.S.A.s.

The waiver already exists for Rx. You may recall that MSA's did not allow copay Rx plans for this very reason and the only Rx benefit allowed were those that went to deductible and coinsurance.

A1914 which would require IVF, In Vitro Fertilization, would be an offering (rider). This has passed the Assembly. No Senate number yet.

S963 / A2117 to expand NJ Continuation timeframes and to extend to dependents passed Senate. We'll see if McGreevey signs.

A2580 NJ Cobra to extend COBRA to Domestic Partners and to extend to indefinite timeframes. So, once someone is on a group plan, they could remain forever on the group plan.

S.E.H. Readoption: effective 10/1/2004

Legal committee questions:

Can the old contracts be grandfathered ?

Legal committee says the carrier can withdraw the old plan and non renew. Otherwise the obligation exists to continue if the group still exists. If no one is insured on the old plans w/ the carrier, they can just stop marketing.

What should happen w/ the Optional Benefit Rider filings ? (e.g. coinsured charge limits, HCP riders) These do not exist eff 10/1/2004 w/ MOOP (max out of pocket concept). Considering Guaranteed Renewability, is the carrier obligated to continue ? Legal is waiting for guidance from CMS (Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services) and the DoBI. We can expect a bulletin outlining.

Problem is we need the answer soon otherwise we'll be quoting on old forms. Carrier withdrawal timeframe is 90 day notice and 30 for approval from the DoBI.

Optional Benefit Rider Filing:

Oxford on the cutting edge as they filed considering the 10/1 changes.

They filed to continue the higher copay for PT and offering up to 90 visits.

Limited dental.

Limited vision / eyeglasses

Expand deductible to include \$200 (new form minimum is \$250)

Expand copay to include \$25 w/ \$250 HCP rider.

I asked Ward to clarify that the health benefit option was not available to common law heterosexual w/ the Domestic Partnership Bill and he did.

My concern was having carriers not have this information until after cases had already been issued and priced.

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

Health Underwriters (2004-2005)

Bill: A162
 Sponsors: Oliver (D34)
 Summary: Revises operations of Individual Health Coverage and Small Employer Health Benefits programs.
 Related: 2002:A1392; 2000:A1606; 2000:S728; 1998:A3569; 1998:S2216
 Status: 01/13/2004 - Assembly Financial Institutions and Insurance Committee
 History: 01/13/2004 - Introduced and referred to Assembly Financial Institutions and Insurance Committee.
 Priority: Support if Amended

Bill: A237
 Gregg (R24); O'Toole (R40) +9
 Sponsor
 s:
 Summary: Allows certain self-employed business owners to deduct their own pension plan contributions from gross income under the gross income tax.
 : 2002:A1593; 2002:S367; 2000:A3395; 2000:S1666; 2000:S1823
 Related
 :
 Status: 01/13/2004 - Assembly Commerce and Economic Development
 01/13/2004 - Introduced and referred to Assembly Commerce and Economic
 History Development.
 :
 Monitor
 Positio
 n:
 Notes: 2-16-04 Monitor per Dave Mordo

Bill: A296
 Vandervalk (R39); Cohen (D20)
 Sponsors
 :
 Summary: Revises health wellness insurance benefits.
 Related: 2004:S1300; 2002:A2412; 2002:S1746
 Status: 01/13/2004 - Assembly Financial Institutions and Insurance Committee
 History: 01/13/2004 - Introduced and referred to Assembly Financial Institutions and Insurance Committee.
 Oppose
 Position
 :
 Notes: 3-17-04 Oppose per Jack Kalosy on the grounds that it increases benefits and removes the maximum on preventive care.

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Bill: **A302**

Sponsors: Vandervalk (R39)

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

Related: 2004:S425; 2002:A3097; 2002:S2104

Status: 01/13/2004 - Assembly Health and Human Services Committee

History: 01/13/2004 - Introduced and referred to Assembly Health and Human Services Committee.

Position: Monitor

Bill: **A326**

Weinberg (D37); Quigley (D32) +3

Sponsors

:

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

Related: 2002:A1897; 2002:S1409; 2000:A2168; 2000:S1290; 1998:A1658; 1998:S772; 1996:A2810; 1996:S1915

Status: 01/22/2004 - Withdrawn from the files

History: 01/13/2004 - Introduced and referred to Assembly Financial Institutions and Insurance Committee.

01/22/2004 - Withdrawn from the files.

Monitor

Position

:

Bill: **A333**

Weinberg (D37); Johnson (D37); Previte (D6) +8

Sponsor

s:

Summary: Revises statutory mental health coverage 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:A2487; 2002:S1633

Related

:

Status: 01/13/2004 - Assembly Health and Human Services Committee

01/13/2004 - Introduced and referred to Assembly Health and Human

History Services Committee.

:

Monitor

Positio

n:

Bill: A336

Weinberg (D37); Quigley (D32); Manzo (D31) +3

Sponsors

:

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

Related: 2002:A2759; 2002:S1919

Status: 03/11/2004 - Passed in the Assembly

History: 01/13/2004 - Introduced and referred to Assembly Health and Human Services Committee.

02/09/2004 - Reported out of committee, 2nd reading in Assembly.

03/11/2004 - Passed in Assembly 79-0-0.

Support

Position

:

Bill: A340

Sponsors: Weinberg (D37); Conaway (D7) +1

Summary: Establishes voluntary Statewide physician joint purchasing alliance.

Related: 2002:A3157; 2002:S2266

Status: 01/13/2004 - Assembly Health and Human Services Committee

History: 01/13/2004 - Introduced and referred to Assembly Health and Human Services Committee.

Position: Oppose

Bill: A637

Sponsors: Stender (D22)

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

Related: 2002:A3371

Status: 01/13/2004 - Assembly Financial Institutions and Insurance Committee

History: 01/13/2004 - Introduced and referred to Assembly Financial Institutions and Insurance Committee.

Position: Oppose

Priority: Oppose Actively

Bill: A717

Sponsors: Bodine (R8); Chatzidakis (R8)

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

Related: 2002:A2356; 2002:S1539

Status: 01/13/2004 - Assembly Financial Institutions and Insurance Committee

History: 01/13/2004 - Introduced and referred to Assembly Financial Institutions and Insurance Committee.

Bill: **A912**

Connors, C. (R9); Rumpf (R9)

Sponsors:

Requires health insurers to cover Lyme disease.

Summary

:

2004:S1308; 2002:A984; 2002:A1328; 2000:A690; 2000:A994; 2000:S626;
 Related 1998:A392; 1998:S915; 1996:A1004; 1996:S861; 1994:A849; 1994:S271;
 : 1992:A2553; 1992:S1297

Status: 01/13/2004 - Assembly Health and Human Services Committee

01/13/2004 - Introduced and referred to Assembly Health and Human

History Services Committee.

:

Oppose

Position:

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Notes: 3-17-04 Oppose per Dave Mordo on the grounds that it allows coverage for "experimental" treatment which could be costly

Bill: **A947**

Rumpf (R9); Connors, C. (R9) +4

Sponsors

:

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

Related: 2002:A1019; 2002:S2815; 2000:A1883; 1998:A411; 1996:A2955

Status: 01/13/2004 - Assembly Financial Institutions and Insurance Committee

History: 01/13/2004 - Introduced and referred to Assembly Financial Institutions and Insurance Committee.

Oppose

Position

:

8

Bill: **A1104**

Corodemus (R11)

Sponsors:

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

2002:A1369; 2000:A1205; 1998:A1400; 1996:A2905

Related

Status: 01/13/2004 - Assembly Health and Human Services Committee
01/13/2004 - Introduced and referred to Assembly Health and Human

History: Services Committee.

Position: Monitor

Position:

Bill: **A1106**

Sponsors: Corodemus (R11)

Summary: Defines routine foot care services under an insurance policy.

Related: 2004:S692; 2002:A1371; 2002:S2715; 2000:A1941; 2000:S787

Status: 01/13/2004 - Assembly Health and Human Services Committee

History: 01/13/2004 - Introduced and referred to Assembly Health and Human Services Committee.

Position: Monitor

Bill: **A1520**

Sponsors: Conaway (D7)

Summary: Requires health insurers to cover costs of tobacco use cessation services.

Related: 2002:A3855

Status: 01/13/2004 - Assembly Financial Institutions and Insurance Committee

History: 01/13/2004 - Introduced and referred to Assembly Financial Institutions and Insurance Committee.

Position: Oppose

Notes: 2-16-04 Oppose per Dave Mordo

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Bill: **A1522**
Conaway (D7)

Sponsor
s:

Summary Prevents managed care plan from denying coverage for certain health
: care services provided to covered person solely because covered person
: did not present referral to provider who performed services.
2002:A3913

Related

:
Status: 01/13/2004 - Assembly Financial Institutions and Insurance Committee
01/13/2004 - Introduced and referred to Assembly Financial Institutions
History and Insurance Committee.

:
Monitor

Positio

n:
12-14-03 Added as monitor per Dave Mordo.

Comment
s:

Bill: **A1574**
Pou (D35); Steele (D35)

Sponsor
s:

Summary Requires health insurers, Medicaid and NJ FamilyCare to provide
: coverage for comprehensive program of pediatric feeding and swallowing
: services.
2004:S528; 2002:A3146; 2002:S2200

Related

:
Status: 01/13/2004 - Assembly Financial Institutions and Insurance Committee
01/13/2004 - Introduced and referred to Assembly Financial Institutions
History and Insurance Committee.

:
Monitor

Positio

n:

10

Bill: **A1593**

Sponsors: Burzichelli (D3); Fisher (D3); Johnson (D37); Cohen (D20) +3

Summary: Establishes New Jersey Rx Program to reduce prescription drug prices.

Related: 2004:S590; 2002:A3873; 2002:S2752

Status: 01/13/2004 - Assembly Health and Human Services Committee

History: 01/13/2004 - Introduced and referred to Assembly Health and Human Services Committee.

Position: Monitor

Comments: 11-28-03 Added as monitor per Dennis Cuccinelli.

12-13-03 Added as monitor per Dave Mordo.

Bill: **A1834**

Green (D22); Cryan (D20) +14

Sponsor
s:

Summary: Requires health care facilities to report certain information about their health care staff to their respective professional boards or DHSS.

2004:S649; 2002:A4054; 2002:S2851

Related

Status: 01/22/2004 - Assembly Health and Human Services Committee
01/22/2004 - Introduced and referred to Assembly Health and Human

History Services Committee.

Position: Monitor

Position:

Bill: **A1883**

Oliver (D34)

Sponsor
s:

Summary: Prohibits hospital from denying admission or services to patient based on patient's HMO coverage, and requires HMO's to cover legitimate emergency health care.

2002:A1715; 2002:S537; 2000:A131; 2000:S750; 1998:A3429

Related

Status: 01/22/2004 - Assembly Financial Institutions and Insurance Committee
01/22/2004 - Introduced and referred to Assembly Financial Institutions

History and Insurance Committee.

Position: Monitor

Position:

Bill: A1911 Aca (1R)

Weinberg (D37); Manzo (D31) +1

Sponsor
s:Requires health care providers to offer parents of infants option to
Summary screen for disorders for which State does not require screening.

:

2004:S840; 2002:A3875

Related

:

Status: 03/01/2004 - 2nd reading in the Senate

01/22/2004 - Introduced and referred to Assembly Health and Human

History Services Committee. Reported out of committee with committee

:

amendments, 2nd reading in Assembly.

02/05/2004 - Passed in Assembly 76-0-0.

02/09/2004 - Received in Senate and referred to Senate Health, Human
Services and Senior Citizens Committee.

03/01/2004 - Reported out of committee, 2nd reading in Senate.

03/22/2004 - Senate, 10:00a Select Committees; 2:00p Voting Session.

Schedul

ed:

Monitor

Positio

n:

1-22-04 Added per Dave Mordo.

Comment

s:

12

Bill: **A1913 AcaAaAaAa (4R)**

Weinberg (D37); Vandervalk (R39); Gordon (D38) +1

Sponsor
s:

Establishes Health Care Professional Regulation Study Commission and
Summary requires certain State professional licensing boards to take certain
: actions.
2002:A3985

Related

:
Status: 03/15/2004 - Passed in the Assembly
01/22/2004 - Introduced and referred to Assembly Health and Human
History Services Committee. Reported out of committee with committee
: amendments, 2nd reading in Assembly.
02/05/2004 - Amended on Assembly floor, 2nd reading in Assembly
(Weinberg).
02/23/2004 - Amended on Assembly floor, 2nd reading in Assembly
(Weinberg).
03/11/2004 - Amended on Assembly floor, 2nd reading in Assembly
(Weinberg).
03/15/2004 - Passed in Assembly 77-2-0.
Monitor

Positio
n:

1-22-04 Added per Dave Mordo.

Comment
s:

Bill: **A1914 Aca (1R)**

Weinberg (D37); Cohen (D20); Previte (D6)

Sponsor
s:

Requires small employer health insurance carriers to offer coverage for
Summary treatment of infertility.

:
Status: 03/15/2004 - Passed in the Assembly
01/22/2004 - Introduced and referred to Assembly Health and Human
History Services Committee. Reported out of committee with committee
: amendments, referred to Assembly Financial Institutions and Insurance
Committee.
02/09/2004 - Reported out of committee, 2nd reading in Assembly.
03/15/2004 - Passed in Assembly 72-6-1.
Monitor

Positio
n:

13

Bill: **A1954**

Van Drew (D1)

Sponsors

:

Summary: Prohibits insurer offering managed care plan from denying participation in its network to a health care provider willing to meet its contract terms.

Related: 2002:A3878

Status: 01/26/2004 - Assembly Financial Institutions and Insurance Committee

History: 01/26/2004 - Introduced and referred to Assembly Financial Institutions and Insurance Committee.

Monitor

Position

:

12-14-03 Added as monitor per Dave Mordo.

Comments

:

Bill: **A1986 Aca (1R)**

Sponsors: Weinberg (D37); Gordon (D38); Manzo (D31); Cohen (D20) +1

Summary: Establishes "New Jersey Health Care Access Study Commission."

Status: 03/11/2004 - Passed in the Assembly

History: 01/26/2004 - Introduced and referred to Assembly Health and Human Services Committee.

02/09/2004 - Reported out of committee with committee amendments, 2nd reading in Assembly.

03/11/2004 - Passed in Assembly 74-5-0.

Position: Oppose

Notes: 2-16-04 Oppose per Dave Mordo

Bill: **A2006**

Weinberg (D37)

Sponsors

:

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

Related: 2002:A3621

Status: 01/26/2004 - Assembly Financial Institutions and Insurance Committee

History: 01/26/2004 - Introduced and referred to Assembly Financial Institutions and Insurance Committee.

Oppose

Position

:

Notes: Oppose per Jack Kalosy on 6-10-03

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Bill: **A2014**
Cryan (D20)

Sponsors

:

Summary: Requires health insurance coverage for hair headpieces for patients receiving chemotherapy treatment for cancer.

Related: 2004:S508; 2002:A637; 2002:S392; 2000:A3280; 2000:S1741

Status: 02/05/2004 - Assembly Financial Institutions and Insurance Committee

History: 02/05/2004 - Introduced and referred to Assembly Financial Institutions and Insurance Committee.

Oppose

Position

:

Notes: 2-16-04 Oppose per Dave Mordo

Bill: **A2116**

Sponsors: Cohen (D20)

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

Related: 2004:S1314; 2002:A2926; 2002:S317; 2000:A3952; 2000:S1735

Status: 02/09/2004 - Assembly Financial Institutions and Insurance Committee

History: 02/09/2004 - Introduced and referred to Assembly Financial Institutions and Insurance Committee.

Position: Monitor

Bill: **A2117**

Cohen (D20)

Sponsors

:

Summary: Provides for continued health benefits coverage for certain persons covered under small employer health benefits plans in certain circumstances.

Related: 2004:S963; 2002:A3968; 2002:S2073

Status: 02/09/2004 - Assembly Financial Institutions and Insurance Committee

History: 02/09/2004 - Introduced and referred to Assembly Financial Institutions and Insurance Committee.

Support

Position

:

Notes: 2-16-04 Change position from monitor to support per Dave Mordo
12-14-03 Monitor per Dave Mordo.

Comments

:

15

Bill: **A2162**
Sponsors: Gusciora (D15); Manzo (D31)
Summary: Requires health insurers to cover Hepatitis B vaccination costs.
Related: 2004:S686; 2002:A300; 2002:S498; 2000:A3530; 2000:S2413
Status: 02/09/2004 - Assembly Financial Institutions and Insurance Committee
History: 02/09/2004 - Introduced and referred to Assembly Financial Institutions and Insurance Committee.
Position: Oppose
Notes: 2-16-04 Oppose per Dave Mordo

Bill: **A2168**
Sponsors: Diegnan (D18); Vas (D19); Manzo (D31) +1
Summary: Requires insurance coverage for magnetic resonance imaging for women at high risk for breast cancer.
Related: 2002:A4051
Status: 02/09/2004 - Assembly Financial Institutions and Insurance Committee
History: 02/09/2004 - Introduced and referred to Assembly Financial Institutions and Insurance Committee.
Position: Support
Notes: 2-16-04 Change position from monitor to support per Dave Mordo

Bill: **A2214 Aca (1R)**
Sponsors: Weinberg (D37); Manzo (D31); Gordon (D38) +1
Summary: "Patient Safety Act"; establishes medical error reporting system.
Related: 2004:S557; 2002:A3983; 2002:S2793
Status: 03/15/2004 - Substituted by another bill
History: 02/09/2004 - Introduced and referred to Assembly Health and Human Services Committee.
03/04/2004 - Reported out of committee with committee amendments, 2nd reading in Assembly.
03/15/2004 - Substituted by S-557 (SCS/1R).
Position: Support
Notes: 2-16-04 Support per Dave Mordo

Bill: **A2220**
Sponsors: Dancer (R30); Malone (R30)
Summary: Requires health insurers to provide coverage for hearing aids.
Related: 2004:S218; 2002:A2276; 2002:S864
Status: 02/09/2004 - Assembly Financial Institutions and Insurance Committee
History: 02/09/2004 - Introduced and referred to Assembly Financial Institutions and Insurance Committee.
Position: Monitor
Notes: 2-16-04 Support per Dave Mordo
2-19-04 Change to monitor per Jack Kalosy

Bill: A2260

Sponsors: Wisniewski (D19); Conaway (D7) +1

Summary: Requires health insurers to cover well baby visits during the first two years of life.

Related: 2004:S688; 2002:A374; 2002:S2095; 2000:A1692; 1998:A1939

Status: 02/09/2004 - Assembly Financial Institutions and Insurance Committee

History: 02/09/2004 - Introduced and referred to Assembly Financial Institutions and Insurance Committee.

Position: Support

Bill: A2261

Sponsors: Voss (D38); Greenstein (D14); Weinberg (D37); Roberts (D5); Cohen (D20) +10

:

Summary: Requires health benefits coverage for annual mammograms for women under 40 under certain circumstances.

Status: 03/11/2004 - Passed in the Assembly

History: 02/09/2004 - Introduced and referred to Assembly Financial Institutions and Insurance Committee.

02/26/2004 - Reported out of committee, referred to Assembly Appropriations Committee.

03/04/2004 - Reported out of committee, 2nd reading in Assembly.

03/11/2004 - Passed in Assembly 79-0-0.

Support

Position

:

Notes: 2-16-04 Support per Dave Mordo

Bill: A2292

Sponsors: Conaway (D7)

Summary: Authorizes insurance coverage in a divorce action to continue regardless of whether custody is at issue.

Related: 2002:A3912

Status: 02/09/2004 - Assembly Financial Institutions and Insurance Committee

History: 02/09/2004 - Introduced and referred to Assembly Financial Institutions and Insurance Committee.

Position: Monitor

Comments: 12-14-03 Added as monitor per Dave Mordo.

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Bill: **A2580**

Weinberg (D37); Johnson (D37)

Sponsors:

Establishes NJ-COBRA and provides for continuation of coverage in small employer and larger group health plans for unlimited period of time to qualified persons.

Status: 03/15/2004 - Assembly Financial Institutions and Insurance Committee
03/15/2004 - Introduced and referred to Assembly Financial Institutions and Insurance Committee.

Position: Oppose

Priority: Oppose Actively

Notes: 3-17-04 Oppose actively per Jack Kalosy.

Bill: **S218**

Sponsors: Singer (R30); Vitale (D19) +3

Summary: Requires health insurers to provide coverage for hearing aids.

Related: 2004:A2220; 2002:A2276; 2002:S864

Status: 01/13/2004 - Senate Commerce Committee

History: 01/13/2004 - Introduced and referred to Senate Commerce Committee.

Position: Support

Notes: 2-16-04 Support per Dave Mordo

Bill: **S370**

Sponsors: Turner (D15); Bucco (R25) +3

Summary: Provides for regulation of certain call center communications by Division of Consumer Affairs.

Related: 2004:A840; 2002:A3529; 2002:S2611

Status: 01/13/2004 - Senate Commerce Committee

History: 01/13/2004 - Introduced and referred to Senate Commerce Committee.

Position: Oppose

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Bill: **S425**
Littell (R24)

Sponsors
:

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

Related: 2004:A302; 2002:A3097; 2002:S2104

Status: 01/13/2004 - Senate Health, Human Services and Senior Citizens Committee

History: 01/13/2004 - Introduced and referred to Senate Health, Human Services and Senior Citizens Committee.
Monitor

Position
:

Bill: **S508**
Sacco (D32); Karcher (D12) +3

Sponsors
:

Summary: Requires health insurance coverage for hair headpieces for patients receiving chemotherapy treatment for cancer.

Related: 2004:A2014; 2002:A637; 2002:S392; 2000:A3280; 2000:S1741

Status: 01/13/2004 - Senate Commerce Committee

History: 01/13/2004 - Introduced and referred to Senate Commerce Committee.
Oppose

Position
:

Notes: 2-16-04 Oppose per Dave Mordo

Bill: **S528**
Girgenti (D35); Bucco (R25) +1

Sponsor
s:

Summary: Requires health insurers, Medicaid and NJ FamilyCare to provide coverage for comprehensive program of pediatric feeding and swallowing services.

2004:A1574; 2002:A3146; 2002:S2200

Related
:

Status: 01/13/2004 - Senate Health, Human Services and Senior Citizens Committee

History: 01/13/2004 - Introduced and referred to Senate Health, Human Services and Senior Citizens Committee.

:
Monitor

Position
n:

Bill: S536

Vitale (D19) +14

Sponsors

:

Summary: "Health Care Claims Payment Responsibility Act."

Related: 2002:A1778; 2002:S486; 2000:A1656; 2000:S370; 1998:A2626; 1998:S1455

Status: 01/13/2004 - Senate Health, Human Services and Senior Citizens
CommitteeHistory: 01/13/2004 - Introduced and referred to Senate Health, Human Services
and Senior Citizens Committee.

Monitor

Position

:

Bill: S552

Vitale (D19); Singer (R30)

Sponsors

:

Summary: Requires Medicaid coverage of HIV drug resistance testing.

Related: 2002:A1933; 2002:A2444; 2002:S2256

Status: 01/26/2004 - Withdrawn from the files

History: 01/13/2004 - Introduced and referred to Senate Health, Human Services
and Senior Citizens Committee.

01/26/2004 - Withdrawn from the files.

Monitor

Position

:

20

Bill: **S557 ScsAca (SCS/1R)**

Vitale (D19); Girgenti (D35); Weinberg (D37); Manzo (D31); Gordon
Sponsors (D38) +6

:

Summary: "Patient Safety Act"; establishes medical error reporting system.

Related: 2004:A2214; 2002:A3983; 2002:S2793

Status: 03/15/2004 - Passed in the Assembly

History: 01/13/2004 - Introduced and referred to Senate Health, Human Services
and Senior Citizens Committee.

01/26/2004 - Reported out of committee with committee substitute, 2nd
reading in Senate.

02/23/2004 - Passed in Senate 39-0. Received in Assembly and referred
to Assembly Health and Human Services Committee.

03/04/2004 - Reported out of committee with committee amendments, 2nd
reading in Assembly.

03/15/2004 - Substituted for A-2214 (1R). Passed in Assembly 78-0-1.
Support

Position

:

Notes: 2-16-04 Support per Dave Mordo

Bill: **S649**

Kavanaugh (R16)

Sponsor

s:

Summary: Requires health care facilities to report certain information about
their health care staff to their respective professional boards or
DHSS.

2004:A1834; 2002:A4054; 2002:S2851

Related

:

Status: 01/26/2004 - Senate Health, Human Services and Senior Citizens
Committee

History: 01/26/2004 - Introduced and referred to Senate Health, Human Services
and Senior Citizens Committee.

:

Monitor

Position

n:

21

Bill: **S686**
Vitale (D19)

Sponsors
:

Summary: Requires health insurers to cover Hepatitis B vaccination costs.

Related: 2004:A2162; 2002:A300; 2002:S498; 2000:A3530; 2000:S2413

Status: 01/26/2004 - Senate Health, Human Services and Senior Citizens
Committee

History: 01/26/2004 - Introduced and referred to Senate Health, Human Services
and Senior Citizens Committee.
Oppose

Position
:

Notes: 2-16-04 Oppose per Dave Mordo

Bill: **S688**
Vitale (D19)

Sponsors
:

Summary: Requires health insurers to cover well baby visits during the first
two years of life.

Related: 2004:A2260; 2002:A374; 2002:S2095; 2000:A1692; 1998:A1939

Status: 01/26/2004 - Senate Health, Human Services and Senior Citizens
Committee

History: 01/26/2004 - Introduced and referred to Senate Health, Human Services
and Senior Citizens Committee.
Support

Position
:

Bill: **S862**
Codey (D27); Karcher (D12) +3

Sponsors
:

Summary: Requires insurers to cover mammograms for women under 40 under certain
circumstances.

Status: 02/09/2004 - Senate Health, Human Services and Senior Citizens
Committee

History: 02/09/2004 - Introduced and referred to Senate Health, Human Services
and Senior Citizens Committee.
Support

Position
:

Notes: 2-16-04 Support per Dave Mordo

22

Bill: **S882**
Turner (D15)

Sponsors

:

Summary: Prohibits HMO from imposing certain restrictions regarding provision of health care services to enrollees.

Related: 2002:A909; 2002:S962; 2000:A288; 2000:S899; 1998:A326; 1998:S734; 1996:A2499

Status: 02/09/2004 - Senate Health, Human Services and Senior Citizens Committee

History: 02/09/2004 - Introduced and referred to Senate Health, Human Services and Senior Citizens Committee.
Monitor

Position

:

Bill: **S963**
Singer (R30)

Sponsors

:

Summary: Provides for continued health benefits coverage for certain persons covered under small employer health benefits plans in certain circumstances.

Related: 2004:A2117; 2002:A3968; 2002:S2073

Status: 03/08/2004 - 2nd reading in the Senate

History: 02/09/2004 - Introduced and referred to Senate Commerce Committee.

03/08/2004 - Reported out of committee, 2nd reading in Senate.

03/22/2004 - Senate, 10:00a Select Committees; 2:00p Voting Session.

Schedule

d:

Support

Position

:

12-14-03 Monitor per Dave Mordo.

Comments

:

23

Bill: **S1202**

Bucco (R25)

Sponsors

:

Summary: Requires health insurers to provide coverage for prosthetic appliances obtained from any licensed prosthetist.

Related: 2002:S262; 2000:S1692

Status: 02/24/2004 - Senate Commerce Committee

History: 02/24/2004 - Introduced and referred to Senate Commerce Committee.
Monitor

Position

:

Notes: 3-2-04 Monitor per Jack Kalosy

Bill: **S1300**

Buono (D18); Vitale (D19)

Sponsors

:

Summary: Revises health wellness insurance benefits.

Related: 2004:A296; 2002:A2412; 2002:S1746

Status: 03/08/2004 - Senate Health, Human Services and Senior Citizens
Committee

History: 03/08/2004 - Introduced and referred to Senate Health, Human Services
and Senior Citizens Committee.

Oppose

Position

:

Notes: 3-17-04 Oppose per Jack Kalosy on the grounds that it increases
benefits and removes the maximum on preventive care.

24

Bill: **S1308**
Buono (D18)

Sponsors:

Requires health insurers to cover Lyme disease.

Summary

:

2004:A912; 2002:A984; 2002:A1328; 2000:A690; 2000:A994; 2000:S626;
Related 1998:A392; 1998:S915; 1996:A1004; 1996:S861; 1994:A849; 1994:S271;
: 1992:A2553; 1992:S1297

Status: 03/08/2004 - Senate Health, Human Services and Senior Citizens
Committee

History: 03/08/2004 - Introduced and referred to Senate Health, Human Services
and Senior Citizens Committee.

:

Oppose

Position:

:

Notes: 3-17-04 Oppose per Dave Mordo on the grounds that it allows coverage
for "experimental" treatment which could be costly.

Bill: **S1314**

Sponsors: Buono (D18)

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

Related: 2004:A2116; 2002:A2926; 2002:S317; 2000:A3952; 2000:S1735

Status: 03/08/2004 - Senate Commerce Committee

History: 03/08/2004 - Introduced and referred to Senate Commerce Committee.

Position: Monitor

Respectfully Submitted,

Jack Kalosy

NJ State Legislative Chair