



Date: March 16, 2004
To: NJ State NAHU Board
From: Jack Kalosy, HIA, NJ State Legislative Chair

Telephone: 732-643-7340
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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

- A-2580 ("**Maxi COBRA**") a very liberal version of the "**mini COBRA**" statutory extension was introduced by Assemblywoman Weinberg the bill provides for continued health benefits coverage for certain persons covered under small employer health benefits plans in certain circumstances. 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. We **strongly oppose** the "**Maxi COBRA**" assembly version of the extension of benefits. Senator Singer had introduced a Senate version (introduced S-963 on March 8th) that was in line with what our association had requested. We strongly **support** the Senate version of the "**mini-COBRA**".
- A-2261 a bill that would require health benefits coverage for annual **mammograms** for women under 40 under certain circumstances. This bill, which we **support**, was released by the Assembly Appropriations Committee by a vote of 13-0 and is now at second reading in the Assembly.
- A-336 (Weinberg), a bill which would provide **in-network benefits** to a patient with a disability for services provided by out-of-network provider under certain circumstance, was released from the Assembly Health Committee on Monday with a vote of 10-0. It is now at second reading in the Assembly awaiting a floor vote. The association is **monitoring** this bill.

The bill is meant to cover unique situations where a disabled person (such as a woman who uses a wheel chair) may need to go to a specific office because her normal "in network" doctor does not have the needed equipment (such as a mammogram that does not require the patient to stand).

- 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.
- Assembly Health Committee Chair, Weinberg introduced a bill (The bill A-1913 passed by a vote of 77-2) that establishes the "New Jersey Study **Commission on Expanding Health Care Coverage**" in the Department of Health and Senior Services. (Assembly Bill 1986 will have 29 members on the commission)

The legislation defines its desirable health care system as one which:

- Is affordable to individuals, families, businesses and taxpayers, and removes financial barriers to needed health care;
- Is as cost-efficient as practicable by expending the maximum amount available on direct patient care;
- provides comprehensive benefits that include benefits for mental health and long-term care services;
- promotes prevention and early intervention;

- includes parity for mental health and other services;
 - eliminates disparities in access to quality health care;
 - addresses the needs of people with special health care needs and underserved populations in both urban and rural areas;
 - promotes health care quality and better health outcomes;
 - addresses the need to have an adequate number of qualified health care providers to guarantee timely access to quality health care;
 - provides adequate and timely payments in order to guarantee access to health care providers;
 - fosters a strong network of health care facilities, including safety net providers;
 - ensures continuity of coverage and care;
 - maximizes consumer choice of health care providers; and
 - Is easy for patients and health care providers to use and reduces the volume of paperwork from its current level.
- The “Adopt a Legislator” Program is being implemented by Dave Mordo. Please contact Dave and volunteer to work with your State or Federal Legislator.

3. Legislative Meeting Reports:

- Our “Storming the Statehouse” event was a great success. The Legislative event took place on February 23, 2004 at Thomas Edison State College in Trenton, NJ. Some of the top leadership in the Assembly and Senate attended our meeting. We had Assembly Majority Leader Roberts, Senator Vitale (Senate Health Committee Chair), Senator Singer (Senate Health Committee member), Assemblyman Conaway (Assembly Health Committee member), and Freshman Assemblyman Baroni. All five legislators delivered their opinions on the state of health care in NJ. They were then given our legislative agenda. It is clear that the legislature has begun to recognize the value of meeting with us on Health related issues. Jessica Waltman, the National NAHU’s Director of Health Policy was also in attendance. I want to recognize the **hard work and strong commitment** that, our lobbyists, Russ and Paul Bent have delivered to this organization. Thank you both for all of your help and guidance.

With such important issues facing our association I had hoped we would have had a better member turnout for this event. We had less than 30 NJAHU members in attendance, it is imperative that we have more membership involvement in these events in order to show our strength to the legislature.

- We have three members of our association that sit 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.

4. Important Legislative Issues to address this Quarter

- 3.5:1 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).
- Add Medicaid and “Family Care” as valid waivers under the NJ SEH plans.

5. Event planning

- Capitol Conference - Dave Mordo needs a firm commitment from members planning on attending this year’s. Please begin scheduling your meetings with your Representatives for the afternoon on either March 29th or March 30th, 2004. When your meetings are set please email Dave Mordo (davemordo@aol.com) with the details. We are still trying to get appointments with several Congressional representatives. Through the hard work and persistence of Dave

Mordo, the Vice Chair of the NJ Legislative tem, we have appointments with most of our federal legislators.

**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
 Sponsors:
 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
 Position:
 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.

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

:

5

Bill: **A333**

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

Sponsors:

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 Services Committee.

Monitor

Position:

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)

Sponsor
 s:
 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

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

7

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

:

Bill: **A1104**

Corodemus (R11)

Sponsor

s:

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.

:

Monitor

Position

n:

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

8

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

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 and Insurance Committee.

:

Monitor

Position:

n:

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

Comments:

s:

9

Bill: **A1574**

Pou (D35); Steele (D35)

Sponsors:

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 and Insurance Committee.

Monitor

Position:

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

Sponsors:

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 Services Committee.

Monitor

Position:

Bill: **A1883**
Oliver (D34)

Sponsor
s:

Prohibits hospital from denying admission or services to patient based
Summary 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.

:
Monitor

Positio
n:

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:

11

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:

12

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
:

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

17

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

:

19

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:

20

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

21

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

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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

:

22

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.

23

Bill: **S1308**
Buono (D18)

Sponsors:

Requires health insurers to cover Lyme disease.

Summary

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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.

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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: **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