

December 2007

Legislative Management Team (LMT) Report:

This Report includes 3 Sections:

1. Recently Introduced Bills – Federal
2. The LMT at Work
3. The LMT 2007 – 2008 Sub-Committees
4. CAPITOL CONFERENCE 2008

1. Federal Legislation

- The House 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.

2. THE LMT AT WORK

UPCOMING EVENTS

LMT Meeting will take place on Wednesday, January 16th, 2008 at 10:00 AM. The meeting will take place at the Health Net offices in Matawan, NJ.

ONGOING WORK

1) 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.

2) The LMT continues to monitor Federal & State legislation and we hope to be doing more State Operation Shouts in 2008.

3) Doug Lubenow & Dave Mordo will be meeting with the Government Affairs Department of Horizon BCBS on Tuesday, December 18th, 2007 to discuss the relationship between BCBS and the Broker Community. We will also be discussing some of the proposed legislation coming out of Trenton and its impact on our relationship. Horizon BCBS has always been very supportive of the NJAHU and we expect that will continue.

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 haven't already registered for Capitol Conference 2008 please make sure you do as soon as possible. Early Bird registration ends on December 14th, 2007 and the JW Marriott is filling up fast. You can register by logging on to www.nahu.org.

