

MARCH 2008

Legislative Management Team (LMT) Report:

This Report includes 3 Sections:

1. Recently Introduced Bills – State
2. The LMT at Work
- 3.

1. Recently Introduced Bills: State

S-2655 (Vitale/Madden) Expands scope of claims subject to "Health Claims Authorization, Processing and Payment Act," and modifies certain claims procedures. (2006:A-3827)

S-2664 (Weinberg) Provides additional enforcement provisions under "Health Care Quality Act"; allows certain private causes of action for violations; expands administrative remedies; establishes enforcement fund. (2006:A-4149)

S-2670 (Weinberg) Requires managed care plans to pay certain health care claims based on assignment of benefits.

S-2693 (Adler) Creates "New Jersey Catastrophic Health Care Claims Reinsurance Program." (2006:A-3366; 2004:A-4264)

S-2704 (Codey/Weinberg) Requires health care providers to test pregnant women for HIV as part of routine prenatal care unless woman refuses testing, and requires testing of all newborns for HIV. (2006:A-4218)

A-4161 (Greenstein) Increases minimum loss ratio for individual and small employer-health benefits plans from 75% to 80%. (2006:S-540; 2004:S-2821)

A-4168 (Cohen) Revises basis for calculating charity care reimbursement; increases HMO premium assessment and group health insurance premium tax to support charity care.

A-4186 (Cohen/Conaway/Watson Coleman) Prohibits organized delivery systems from denying participation in network to imaging centers willing to meet terms of contract.

A-4218 (McKeon) Requires health care providers to test pregnant women for HIV as part of routine prenatal care unless woman refuses testing, and requires testing of all newborns for HIV. (2006:S-2704)

A-4219 (Cohen) Requires health insurers to provide benefits for magnetic resonance imaging for certain women at high risk for breast cancer.

A-4255 (Diegnan/ Stender / Whelan) Requires health insurers to provide benefits for Pap smears at least annually

2. THE LMT AT WORK

UPCOMING EVENTS AND FUNDRAISERS

Thursday, April 24th – NJHCQI “Perspectives on Health Care Reform: An International Assessment.”

ONGOING WORK

- 1) A few members of the LMT met with David Knowlton and Sarah McLallen to review the Vitale Blueprint for Healthcare Reform. It was a long meeting which resulted in our being asked to provide a few issue papers on some of the concerns we have with the blueprint.
- 2) Joseph Torella attended a breakfast given by PPAG with Senator Barbara Buono. Joe was able to get some “face to face” time with the Senator and they discussed some healthcare concerns in New Jersey.
- 2) NIAHU’s new Public Relations firm, Jaffe Communications out of Westfield, New Jersey holds a bi-weekly teleconference with members of the LMT and Media Committees in an effort to get our name out there in print media. Several of our members have done op-ed pieces and editorials.

2008 CAPITOL CONFERENCE RE-CAP

The NAHU Capitol Conference took place on February 4th – 6th at the JW Marriott in Washington D.C. The NJ delegation consisted of 22 volunteers comprised of Brokers, General Agents and Carriers.

The Monday morning opening session of a fascinating opening Ronald Reagan piece on socialized medicine. There was also a presentation of the effectiveness of wellness programs as a tool to reduce costs.

Afternoon breakout sessions consisted of 1 hour seminars on a variety of topics ranging from NAHU’s Healthy Access Plan to vital information concerning Connectors and /or Exchanges.

The main thrust of our visit each year is to get the opportunity to go to Capitol Hill and meet with our NJ delegation of legislators. We were fortunate to secure appointments with all of them or their legislative aides during the Tuesday and Wednesday visits. Our discussions focused on a few key issues which included Mental Health Parity, FSA rollover legislation, Health Information Technology, individual and employer mandates and LTC tax credits.

Please note that ALL of the presentations can be viewed or read by going on to the NAHU web site at www.nahu.org and clicking on “meetings” and then “Capitol Conference.”