

Republican Study Committee
Health Care Working Group Newsletter
May 9, 2012

Recent Health Care News, Reports, & Studies

Employers To Drop Health Care Coverage due to Obamacare. New surveys released by the [Ways and Means Committee](#) and [Energy and Commerce Committee](#) further underscore that Obamacare incentivizes employers to dump millions of their employees into health exchanges and save themselves billions even after paying a financial penalty for not offering federal government-approved health insurance.

Voters in Three Swing States Want the Supreme Court to Entirely Strike Down Obamacare. A recent Quinnipiac University [poll](#) shows that voters in Florida, Ohio, and Pennsylvania want the Supreme Court to overturn Obamacare. The survey asked, “The Supreme Court has heard a challenge to the health care law. Do you want the Supreme Court to uphold the health care law or to overturn it?” By a tally of 51-38, 51-37, and 46-43, respectively, voters responded that the court should overturn it.

Obamacare Lawsuit Outcome Analysis. The Heritage Foundation’s Robert Alt and Ed Haislmaier published an [analysis](#) of the legal and health care policy implications of the potential Obamacare Supreme Court decisions expected to be handed down in late June.

Medicare Fraud Schemes Uncovered. Officials at the Departments of Justice and Health and Human Services [announced](#) last week that 107 people have been charged for allegedly defrauding the Medicare program of \$452 million in false (and unrelated) billing claims. The bulk of the charges are against doctors and nurses in seven U.S. cities accused of billing Medicare for services that were never provided or were medically inappropriate.

Momentum for Medicare Premium Support. Last Friday, the Ways and Means Subcommittee on Health held a hearing on the bipartisan support for reforming Medicare with the adoption of a premium support system. One of the witnesses, former Clinton OMB Director Alice Rivlin, stated in a recent policy [paper](#) that although traditional Medicare must be protected, reforms must include “...equivalent private choices on a well-regulated exchange and provide premium support that protects low-income seniors and cap the federal contribution at a rate that does not strangle the program.”

Health Care Committee Updates

The Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Health marked up four Food and Drug Administration user fee program authorizations. Two of these programs are scheduled to expire at the end of the fiscal year (Prescription Drug User Fee Act and the Medical Device User Fee Act), while two new user fee programs are being created (Generic Drug User Fee and Biosimilar User Fee). Background info about the markup can be found [here](#). The full Committee has scheduled its markup for this Thursday with floor action expected soon. **Note**—the RSC is planning to host a staff briefing on this bill sometime on May 23rd. Further information will be forthcoming.

The House Ways and Means Health Subcommittee held a hearing this morning on Medicare’s Competitive Bidding program for durable medical equipment, prosthetics, orthotics, and supplies.

For more information, please contact Joe Murray with the RSC at x6-0678 or John Martin with Dr. Roe at x5-6356