



Legislative Committee Update

As I am sure you are aware, health care reform is on our doorstep - even if the final shape is not yet known. Both the United States House and Senate have passed separate bills that are being reconciled into a final single version.

During the reconciliation process discrepancies such as the public option, abortion coverage, and individual state payoffs are being addressed one by one. Although the Senate has more clout and any final bill is more likely to reflect the original Senate bill than the one from the House, individual legislators have taken specific stands on what each believes "must" be included in a finished product in order to give it support. Keeping everyone on board should prove to be an arduous task, and on top of all of this, new protests as to the constitutionality of the reform are being vocalized.

The forced purchase of any product through a mandate is argued by many conservatives and libertarians to be overstepping the bounds of government. There is also a question of states' rights if such measures are passed down from the federal level.

As the representatives of the New Mexico Association of Health Underwriters, we are coordinating with the regional and national Association leadership to create a unified front while entrenched within the debate.

The efforts required by the Legislative Committee have included meetings with local media sources, legislators, and government officials, as well as educational material production and distribution, participation in legislative hearings at the capitol, and the formulation and recommendation of new policy.

In addition, we are responsible for the fundraising needed to afford these measures. In this specific responsibility we have not yet succeeded. In order to continue to keep our lobbyist, and in order to continue representing you, we need your help. Every dollar you give goes directly to Committee expenditures and therefore makes an enormous difference. Please see details on contributing below.

Please also note that we are fast approaching the February 4th date of our annual Day on the Hill event in Santa Fe. This breakfast and panel discussion will give you a chance to directly speak with New Mexico legislators and ask any questions you may have about health care reform. As our Day on the Hill was completely full last year, it is recommended that you register as soon as possible. Please see the attached registration form and information about reserving a room at the hotel for the night before. Thank you for your continued commitment.

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Please consider making a difference in the new year by contributing today.

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