

This Week in Health Care Reform: May 28, 2010

With health care reform legislation barely two months old, Americans continue to express dissatisfaction with the new law. As some state lawmakers push to opt out of the federal requirements, recent national polling continues to show Americans strongly favor the law's repeal.

As the health care reform debate continues to take shape this year, we encourage you and others to engage members of Congress by visiting the [Health Action Network](#).

Health Care Reform

WellPoint to Implement Key Provisions of the 'Breast Cancer Patient Protection Act':

WellPoint announced [Wednesday](#) that its affiliated health plans will unilaterally implement key provisions of the Breast Cancer Patient Protection Act introduced by Representative Rosa DeLauro. The new provisions include more transparent benefit language including clear explanations of benefits to members with breast cancer and standardized clinical guidelines for women recovering from mastectomy to offer a voluntary [48 hours](#) minimum in-hospital stay.

New Study Shows Not Enough Money in High-Risk Pools: A new report released Thursday reveals the new health care law does not allocate appropriate funds to cover the more than 5.6 million Americans with pre-existing conditions. The [analysis](#) by the Center for Studying Health System Change found that the \$5 billion earmarked for these high-risk insurance pools could cover as few as 200,000 people a year.

Large Companies Expect Health Care Costs to Rise: According to the benefits consultant company Towers Watson, most executives at the nation's largest companies believe that the health care reform law will raise costs, forcing them to reduce coverage to make up the difference. The benefits consultant company [surveyed](#) executives at 661 companies and found that 94 percent of them share this [belief](#). Eighty-eight percent of these executives plan to pass those [increases](#) on to their employees, while 74 percent anticipate reducing health care benefits and programs. Nearly 75 percent of respondents said they plan to continue offering subsidized coverage to active employees.

Administration Files Motion in Virginia Federal Court: On [Monday](#), Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius asked a federal judge in [Virginia](#) to dismiss the state's [lawsuit](#) alleging that Congress overstepped its constitutional bounds with the new health care reform law. This [action](#) is the first by an Administration [official](#) in response to the court challenges initiated by various states across the country.

Oklahoma Sends Measure to Secretary of State: On [Tuesday](#), members of the Oklahoma House of Representatives approved a joint resolution giving voters a chance to vote on a constitutional amendment allowing them to opt out of the new health care reform law. The [resolution](#), which would render any law unconstitutional that requires a

person, employer, or health care provider to participate in any health care system, has been sent to the Secretary of State to be placed on the November 2 [ballot](#).

Public Opinion

American's Demand for Repeal Skyrockets: According to a newly released Rasmussen [report](#), 63 percent of Americans now favor repealing the health care reform legislation. That number is up 7 points since last week and represents the largest increase in public support for repeal since the legislation became law in March of this year.

Americans Still Unhappy with Health Care Reform: According to a recent CBS News [poll](#), 47 percent of Americans still disapprove of the new health care reform law. Further, 36 percent of Americans think the law will hurt, rather than help them.

Looking Ahead

After a week-long Memorial Day recess, lawmakers return to Washington on June 7 to begin the final legislative push leading up to the November midterm elections.