

This Week in Health Care Reform: June 4, 2010

As lawmakers complete a week-long recess in their home states, Administration officials move forward on implementing certain provisions of the health care reform legislation. Recent national polling shows a majority of Americans strongly favor a repeal of the law.

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

Young Adults Might Not Be Covered Ahead of Schedule: [WellPoint's](#) affiliated health plans and other insurers began extending medical coverage for qualifying graduating [students](#) on June 1, well in advance of the September 23 deadline. However, many [employers](#) plan to wait to provide the extended [coverage](#) until they are legally required to do so, with an effective date of January 2011 for most employers.

Senate Fails to Extend Bill for Doctors: House Democratic [leaders](#) scaled back health care related language from the jobs bill and passed the bill prior to leaving for the Memorial Day recess. In the [package](#), doctors who treat Medicare patients would see a 2.2 percent increase for the remainder of this year and a 1 percent payment increase in 2011. Extensions of [COBRA](#) subsidies and additional Medicaid funding for states were removed from the bill. Lawmakers in the Senate will vote on the bill when they return from recess next week.

Florida Judge Denies Government's Motion: Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen [Sebelius](#) asked a federal judge in Florida for a one-month extension to respond to the joint lawsuit filed by the Attorneys Generals of 20 states who challenged the constitutionality of the new health care reform law. U.S. District Judge Roger [Vinson](#) denied the Administration's request for an extension and instructed HHS officials to respond by the June 16 deadline.

Public Opinion

Americans Want Repeal of Health Care Reform: A recently released [Rasmussen report](#) suggests that Americans are strongly in favor of repealing President Obama's health care reform law. Sixty percent of those polled favor repeal, while 62 percent believe the new legislation will increase the budget deficit.

Majority of Americans Unhappy with Reform: According to a new Quinnipiac University [poll](#), 51 percent of Americans are unhappy with the new health care reform legislation and 70 percent are "dissatisfied" or "very dissatisfied" with the way things are going for the nation.

Looking Ahead

Lawmakers return to Washington on Monday ahead of a contentious primary runoff between Sen. Blanche Lincoln (D-AR) and Lt. Gov. Bill Halter (D-AR) with health care reform at the center of the debate. The winner of Tuesday's Democratic nomination will face Rep. John Boozman (R-AR) in the November elections.