



South Carolina Legislative Update for week ending March 8, 2013

As the House begins floor debate on the FY 13-14 state budget, Speaker Bobby Harrell (R- Charleston) instructed members to come prepared to convene for four to five hours starting Monday at 1pm. The House will likely convene Monday through Thursday, unless they are locked in debate on an issue. The Senate Medical Affairs Affordable Care Act Subcommittee heard from Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) Director Tony Keck for the second time on possible solutions to the Affordable Care Act and specifically Medicaid Expansion. Both the House and Senate will be on furlough March 25- April 1.

Access to Care: During the Senate Medical Affairs Affordable Care Act Subcommittee Thursday, members heard a second presentation from DHHS Director Tony Keck outlining possible solutions to the Affordable Care Act and specifically Medicaid expansion. While addressing the Ways and Means adopted Alternative Plan, Keck said the healthcare business model needs to change and that South Carolina should be on target for dismantling the Certificate of Need Program ("CON"). He stated, "We are not quite there yet with payment reform," and went on to suggest CON keeps competition at bay resulting in high costs. Keck also said medical malpractice is driving a lot of physicians and hospitals to do more medical procedures than they should and that the General Assembly needs to consider tort reform to remedy this issue. The meeting closed with Senator Martin asking staff to start drafting thoughts from all of the Subcommittee hearings as a starting point for draft legislation.

H. 3355 Prohibiting South Carolina from Expanding Medicaid is still in the House Ways and Means Committee awaiting a subcommittee hearing.

H.3096 Enact the Healthcare Freedom Act, has passed the House and currently resides in the Senate Banking and Insurance Committee awaiting a subcommittee hearing.

Tobacco Control and Smoke Free: ACS CAN South Carolina is working to protect \$5 million for Tobacco Prevention and Cessation that was created by the 2010 cigarette tax fund. The \$5 million is now being threatened by a proviso to the budget that allocates \$2 million from the Tobacco Prevention and Cessation Fund to funding for breast and cervical and colorectal cancer screenings.

Breast and Cervical Funding: The proposed budget reads that, "Of the cigarette tax surplus funds received by the Department of Health and Environment Control, \$ 1 million must be used by the Best Chance Network breast cancer screenings...". We will continue to advocate for \$2 million from other sources for the program. The Best Chance Network has not been funded at the state level since 2010.

For more information, please visit: www.acscan.org/southcarolina or contact Nancy Cheney, Government Relations Director: 803.750.1693 or nancy.cheney@cancer.org

Colorectal Cancer: The proposed budget allocates funding for colorectal cancer awareness and protection initiatives. The proposed \$1 million in funding would come directly from the cigarette tax surplus funds received by the Department of Health and Environment Control. ACS CAN South Carolina continues to advocate for funding for colorectal cancer screenings in the amount of at least \$500,000 while protecting the Tobacco Prevention and Cessation Fund.

Raffle Law in South Carolina: S.213 and S.239 Allow Charitable Raffles/Constitutional Amendment will be considered by the House Judiciary Constitutional Laws Subcommittee on Monday, March 11 at 10:00 a.m.

Nutrition and Physical Activity: We continue to monitor activity on Nutrition and Physical Activity while working with coalition partners such as Eat Smart, Move More South Carolina and the South Carolina Medical Association Childhood Obesity Task Force.