

November 12, 2009

Over the weekend, the House narrowly passed the Affordable Health Care for America Act, or H.R. 3962, by a vote of 220-215.

Several important provisions of the bill are noted below:

- Provides affordable health insurance coverage to 36 million Americans who are either completely uninsured or severely underinsured.
- Prohibits insurance companies from denying coverage to anyone with a pre-existing condition or charging higher premiums based on gender or medical history.
- Expands Medicaid coverage to all individuals and families with incomes below 150 percent of FPL (Federal poverty level).
- Broadens crucial Medicaid benefits and cost-sharing protections to approximately 15 million low-income Americans who are uninsured.
- Offers financial assistance to those with low and modest incomes so insurance coverage is affordable.
- Beginning in 2011, significant investments will be made to make sure more Americans will have access to doctors and a primary care medical home.
- More funding will expand the reach of Community Health Centers to 20 million new patients over the next 5 years.
- Includes funding to provide scholarship and loan repayment assistance to primary care clinicians who agree to serve in underserved-communities which will protect and improve public health.
- A new public plan would be available through an insurance exchange and would be administered by the secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services.

For your information, the Indiana House delegation voted along party lines. Thank you to everyone who contacted their House Representative to ask for his support. Please do not forget to thank your Member of Congress who voted yes: Rep. Baron Hill, Rep. Peter Visclosky, Rep. Andre Carson, Rep. Brad Ellsworth and Rep. Joe Donnelly.

Now the Senate must pass its own version of health care legislation, and it is uncertain whether a bill would pass this year. The public option could be a source of debate if it is included in the Senate version. If a Senate bill gets passed, it would go through a conference committee to merge both proposals into an approved version.

We will continue to provide updates as necessary. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Thanks,

Kelly

Kelly Kaufman, MPA
Policy Analyst
Indiana Primary Health Care Association
1006 E. Washington Street, Suite 200
Indianapolis, IN 46202
317-630-0845, ext. 102
317-630-0849 (fax)
kkaufman@indianapca.org