

Health Care Reform Talking Points and Congressional Schedules

Over the August break, meet with Iowa's Congressional Delegation to thank them for their work to-date and encourage them to see the policy changes through the remainder of the legislative process. Once they return to Washington in September, it will be a race to the finish to complete health care reform and it is critical that hospitals remain engaged on this subject.

Key Messages

1. Congressman/Senator: Thank you for your leadership on health care system reform by working to find a solution to the geographic disparities that exist in Medicare payments that disproportionately affect state's like Iowa, and my hospital.

I would urge you to continue working to ensure that the deal struck in the House and the work that continues in the Senate maintains its integrity through the remainder of the legislative process as there are many from both parties that continue to oppose this proposal. Though this issue was a major bargaining chip to get the bill out of committee in the House, there is still a long road ahead – and many other opportunities for this language to be removed. Please work to ensure that this language remains intact in the final legislative package that will go to President Obama.

2. While working to formulate a Value Based Purchasing Proposal, please ensure that it includes:
 - A means to incent and measure efficiency (through a cost measurement in addition to the already proposed quality measurement.)
 - Incentives to encourage care coordination among providers
 - Aligned incentives across hospitals, physicians, and other providers.

Overall, a new value-based purchasing program should create a more rational payment methodology and move away from some of the well recognized inadequacies of the current payment system under Medicare. Without these rational changes to Medicare's payment methodology, the federal government will struggle to find ways to pay for those currently insured by Medicare.

SEN. GRASSLEY

August 27

Clay County Town Meeting

4:30-5:30 p.m.

Administration Building

Conference and Board Rooms

300 West 4th Street

Spencer

August 28

O'Brien County Town Meeting

8:00-9:00 a.m.

O'Brien County Courthouse

Assembly Room

155 South Hayes

Primghar

Greene County Town Meeting

3:00-4:00 p.m.

Greene County Community Center

Meeting Room

204 West Harrison

Jefferson

REP. BRALEY

August 31

10 a.m.

Ashford University

Durgin Center

400 North Bluff Blvd.

Clinton, IA

REP. LOEBSACK

August 29

10:30 a.m.
Washington
Public Library
120 East Main Street

1:00 p.m.
Fairfield
Fairfield Public Library
104 W. Adams St.

2:30 p.m.
Ottumwa
Ottumwa Public Library
102 W. Fourth

4:15 p.m.
Bloomfield
Davis County Hospital
509 N. Madison

September 5

11:30 a.m.
Keosauqua
Village Cup & Cakes
220 Main St.

1:45 p.m.
Centerville
Mercy Medical Center - Centerville
Conference Rooms A&B
1 St. Joseph Dr.

3:15 p.m.
Corydon
Wayne County Hospital
417 S. East St.

September 12

2:00 p.m.
Keokuk
Public Library Round Room
210 North 5th Street