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CBO Score Released on Senate Draft Health Reform Bill



On June 22, the Senate released an [amended version](#) of its draft health reform bill, the Better Care Reconciliation Act of 2017, with additional provisions to promote continuous health coverage. This marks the most recent action the chamber has taken in efforts to complement the House of Representatives' movement in passing the American Health Care Act ([H.R. 1628](#)) on May 4.

What is the projected national impact of the Senate's draft bill? According to the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) [analysis](#) released on June 26, the proposal would leave 15 million more individuals uninsured in 2018 and 22 million more individuals uninsured in ten years. The CBO also reported the bill would reduce federal deficits by \$321 billion over the next decade. Senate Republican leadership has announced they will delay voting on the bill until after the July 4 recess to allow more time for negotiations.

AACN has sent [action alerts](#) to its Grassroots Network members to urge their Senators to “put patients first” in health reform. AACN asks Congress to allow for careful consideration to ensure patients' access to care remains at the center of any proposals. **To date, 856 messages have been sent, reaching 90 offices. [Take action](#) to help us reach all 100 Senators.** Visit AACN's [health reform webpage](#).

Department of Education Seeks Input on Regulatory Relief



In compliance with the Trump Administration [executive order](#) to alleviate unnecessary regulatory burden, the Department of Education issued a [request for public suggestions](#) on regulations to be eliminated or pared back last Thursday. The executive order called for federal agencies to create Regulatory Reform Task Forces to evaluate existing regulations and make recommendations on which ones to repeal, replace, or modify. The [first progress report](#) was published by the task force and identified more than 150 regulations and 1,772 items of policy-related guidance to be reviewed. Given the magnitude of its regulatory scope, the Department of Education is now seeking public comment to inform its task force's evaluation of existing regulations and guidance that have policy impact, specifically regarding regulatory provisions that members of the public find costly or unnecessarily burdensome. Comments in response to the notice must be submitted no later than August 21.

HRSA Announces Funding Opportunities to Address Mental Health and Opioid Abuse Services



The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) announced \$195 million in [available funding](#) to expand substance abuse and mental health services at community health centers nationwide, including treatment, prevention, and awareness of opioid abuse. Applications for the Access Increases for Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services award are due July 26. Additionally, the Federal Office of Rural Health Policy (FORHP) is making [\\$3 million available](#) to expand opioid-related healthcare services in rural communities. Applications for the FORHP program are due July 21.