



WASHINGTON UPDATE

444 N. Capitol Street NW, Suite 234 ♦ Washington, DC 20001 June 17, 2013

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

President

MARTIN J. BENISON
Comptroller
Massachusetts

First Vice President

JAMES B. LEWIS
State Treasurer
New Mexico

Second Vice President

WILLIAM G. HOLLAND
Auditor General
Illinois

Secretary

CALVIN McKELVOGUE
Chief Operating Officer
State Accounting Enterprise
Iowa

Treasurer

RICHARD K. ELLIS
State Treasurer
Utah Office of the State Treasurer

Immediate Past President

RONALD L. JONES
Chief Examiner
Alabama

House Subcommittee Looks at Medicaid Reform

Last Wednesday the House Energy and Commerce Health Subcommittee held a hearing entitled "*The Need for Medicaid Reform: A State Perspective*". The hearing featured state testimony from Tony Keck, the South Carolina Director of the Department of Health and Human Services. In his remarks, Mr. Keck painted a telling picture of the Medicaid program as not one of shared responsibility between the federal and state governments, but of an unbalanced and burdensome drag on providing quality health care. Mr. Keck testified that "*Medicaid currently treats states more like sub-contractors operating at a discount than partners contributing over 40 percent of the bill. Deviations from the norm require state plan amendments and special waivers, which may give the illusion of accountability, but promote neither quick and effective local solutions nor...Despite federal efforts to manage expenditures through maintenance of effort requirements, limiting state revenue maximizing strategies, and focusing on fraud and abuse, Medicaid spending grows as access to health services suffers....*"

The hearing also promoted a recently-released report by House Energy and Commerce Committee Chairman Fred Upton (R-MI) and Senate Finance Committee Ranking Member Orrin Hatch (R-UT) entitled "*Making Medicaid Work*". The report outlines ways to modernize the Medicaid program in two

areas: 1) equipping states to implement patient-centered reforms and 2) implementing fiscal discipline in the program.

The full hearing can be viewed at: <http://energycommerce.house.gov/hearing/need-medicaid-reform-state-perspectiv>

The "*Making Medicaid Work*" report can be found at: <http://energycommerce.house.gov/sites/republi-cans.energycommerce.house.gov/files/analysis/20130501Medicaid.pdf>

MSRB Releases an Educational Video Describing the Role of MSRB

The Municipal Securities Rulemaking Board (MSRB) recently released an educational video that describes the MSRB and explains their expanded role in the municipal securities market. The video, entitled "*The Municipal Bond Market and the MSRB*" not only provides a background on the municipal finance market but also describes how the MSRB was created by Congress to protect investors, as well as state and local governments under the new requirements in the Dodd-Frank Act. The video is the first in a series of educational videos MSRB plans to make available as part of its digital strategy to promote municipal market education.

The video can be viewed at: <http://msrb.org/Videos-About-the->

WASHINGTON UPDATE *(page 2)*

444 N. Capitol Street NW, Suite 234 ♦ Washington, DC 20001 June 17, 2013

WASHINGTON STAFF

TANYA GRAYSON
Administrative Assistant/
Website Coordinator
tgrayson@nasact.org

NEAL HUTCHKO
Policy Analyst
Nhutchko@nasact.org

CORNELIA CHEBINOU
Washington Director
cchebinou@nasact.org

NASACT Washington Office

444 N. Capitol Street NW
Suite 234
Washington, DC 20001

p: (202) 624-5451
f: (202) 624-5473

[MSRB.aspx](#)

The Week Ahead: Reinventing Government

On Tuesday, the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee will hold a hearing exploring the aspects of “reinventing government”. According to the hearing announcement, *“Making the federal government more efficient and effective is critical to controlling federal spending and creating a healthier and more secure economy. This hearing will explore processes to reorganizing and reinventing government.”*

The hearing will be available for viewing at:

<http://oversight.house.gov/hearing/reinventing-government/>