



National Association of State
Auditors, Comptrollers and Treasurers

WASHINGTON UPDATE

444 N. Capitol Street NW, Suite 234 ♦ Washington, DC 20001 September 16, 2013

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House Subcommittee Examines Affordable Care Act Implementation Status

As Congress reconvened after its summer recess, the House Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Health held a hearing last Tuesday on the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA). Entitled “PPACA Pulse Check,” the hearing examined readiness and implementation issues that states and contractors are experiencing, as open enrollment in the PPACA exchanges begins October 1, 2013, with coverage effective January 1, 2014. The contractors are assisting with activities such as information technology buildup, eligibility verification, and developing procedures for the receipt and the processing of paper applications.

In a pre-hearing assessment, the subcommittee noted that as October 1 approaches, missed deadlines, delays, and untimely guidance on proposed information reporting requirements could affect areas such as the accuracy of eligibility assessments and integration with existing state programs.

Although most of the hearing focused on status updates of the ACA implementation contractors, it did also feature testimony from state representative Antoinette Kraus, executive director of the Pennsylvania Health Access Network. She informed the Subcommittee that:

“Pennsylvania was the 48th state to submit our plan to integrate our IT systems and submitted it after the deadline had passed. We had to have HHS step in

and review rate hikes above 10 %, until we finally addressed the issue – enacting legislation that fails to adequately protect small business owners and individuals buying coverage in the small group market from unjustified, excessive rate increases. We defaulted on designing an Essential Health Benefits package that would best meet the unique needs of families in our state. All of these decisions have slowed down our ability to best implement the Affordable Care Act in Pennsylvania.”

Hearing video and testimony from the panelists can be found at <http://energycommerce.house.gov/hearing/ppaca-pulse-check-part-2>.

The Week Ahead: Money Market Funds, Financial Transparency

Although there are only nine legislative days on the schedule for Congress during September, several important hearings are in the queue this week:

On Wednesday, the House Financial Services Capital Markets and Government Sponsored Enterprises Subcommittee will hold a hearing on the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission’s proposed rules governing money market mutual funds. (<http://financialservices.house.gov/calendar/eventsingle.aspx?EventID=349276>)

Also on Wednesday, the Senate Budget Committee will hold a hearing entitled “Enhancing Accountability and Increasing Financial Transparency.” This hearing will feature Stanley Czerwinski, di-

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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

rector for strategic issues at the U.S. Government Accountability Office.

(www.budget.senate.gov/democratic/index.cfm/committeehearings)

Wednesday's busy queue also includes the House Oversight and Government Reform's Economic Growth, Job Creation and Regulatory Affairs Subcommittee hearing entitled "Federal Implementation of Obamacare: Concerns of State Governments." No witnesses have been named at this time. (<http://oversight.house.gov/hearings/>)

Thursday features more discussion on health insurance, with the House Energy and Commerce Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee holding a hearing entitled "Two Weeks Until Enrollment: Question for CCIIO (Center for Consumer Information and Insurance Oversight)." A webcast of the hearing will be available at <http://energycommerce.house.gov/>.