



South Carolina Legislative Update for week ending March 1, 2013

As we begin the month of March, the House Ways and Means committee finished discussion on the proposed \$22.3 billion State Government Budget. The Senate Medical Affairs Affordable Care Act Subcommittee heard from supporters and opponents of Medicaid Expansion again this week. HHS Director Tony Keck prepares to present possible solutions to Medicaid Expansion at the final meeting of the committee this Thursday.

Access to Care: On Thursday, the Senate Medical Affairs Affordable Care Act Subcommittee heard testimony from: Ed Haislmaier, The Heritage Foundation – opposed to Medicaid expansion; Frank Knapp, SC Small Business Chamber of Commerce – supportive of Medicaid expansion; Lynn Bailey, Health Economist – supportive of Medicaid expansion; Advocate from Vision Consulting – supportive of Medicaid expansion advocating for those who are currently uninsurable.

The Subcommittee's final meeting will be held next Thursday, March 7 at 9:00 a.m. to hear testimony for the second time from Tony Keck, Director of the Department of Health and Human Services. Subcommittee Chairman Shane Martin (R – Spartanburg) previously noted that Director Keck's testimony at this meeting will focus on possible solutions.

The proposed budget that will be presented to the Full House on March 11 does not include an expansion in eligibility for the state's Medicaid Program as allowed by the federal "Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act" of 2010. Instead, the proposed budget includes a new comprehensive Medicaid Accountability and Quality Improvement Initiative to be undertaken by the state Department of Health and Human Services upon approval by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS).

H. 3355 Prohibiting South Carolina from Expanding Medicaid is still in the House Ways and Means Committee awaiting a subcommittee hearing.

H.3096 Enact the Healthcare Freedom Act, currently resides in the Senate Banking and Insurance Committee awaiting a subcommittee hearing.

Tobacco Control and Smoke Free: ACS CAN South Carolina is working to protect \$5 million for Tobacco Prevention and Cessation that was created by the 2010 cigarette tax fund. The \$5 million is now being threatened by a proviso to the budget that allocates \$2 million from the Tobacco Prevention and Cessation Fund to funding for breast and cervical and colorectal cancer screenings.

The House Judiciary General Laws Subcommittee will meet on Wednesday, March 6 at 9am to discuss H. 3538, Alternative Nicotine Products Such as Electronic Cigarettes. This bill relates to the sale or purchase of nicotine products

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by minors and would include alternative nicotine products in the purview of the statute. ACS CAN South Carolina does not have a position on the bill at this time.

Breast and Cervical Funding: The proposed budget reads that, “Of the cigarette tax surplus funds received by the Department of Health and Environment Control, \$ 1 million must be used by the Best Chance Network breast cancer screenings...”. We will continue to advocate for \$2 million from other sources for the program. The Best Chance Network has not been funded at the state level since 2010.

S.422 was introduced this week by Senator Lourie (D- Richland). The bill would require supplemental coverage for breast ultrasound screenings when a mammogram demonstrates heterogeneous or dense breast tissue and to require a mammography report, including specific information, be provided to a patient who receives this ultrasound screening. The bill was read the first time and referred to the Committee on Banking and Insurance. The American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network remains neutral on this bill.

Colorectal Cancer: The proposed budget allocates funding for colorectal cancer awareness and protection initiatives. The proposed \$1 million in funding would come directly from the cigarette tax surplus funds received by the Department of Health and Environment Control. ACS CAN South Carolina continues to advocate for funding for colorectal cancer screenings in the amount of at least \$500,000 while protecting the Tobacco Prevention and Cessation Fund.

Raffle Law in South Carolina: S.213 and S.239 Allow Charitable Raffles/Constitutional Amendment will be considered by the House Judiciary Constitutional Laws Subcommittee on Monday, March 11 at 10:00 a.m.

Nutrition and Physical Activity: The proposed budget charges The Department of Health and Human Services with the task of coordinating a multi-agency initiative to combat obesity in the state.

H. 3727 was introduced by Representative Sellers (D- Bamberg) relating to snacks sold for student consumption in schools. The bill would regulate what items could be sold, the portion size of items, and would also exclude fundraisers from the nutritional requirements. The bill was referred to the Committee on Education and Public Works.