



South Carolina Legislative Update for week ending March 15, 2013

The House of Representatives began debate of the FY 2013-14 state budget Monday afternoon and worked late into the night on Tuesday after a day of testimony on Medicaid expansion. Budget highlights include \$80M for the Republican Alternative Plan to Medicaid expansion. The budget legislation 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 redirection of Medicaid spending under 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).

Access to Care: The House voted on Tuesday not to accept Medicaid Expansion. Several members of the Senate Finance Committee have indicated that some form of Medicaid expansion may be a part of the Senate version of the budget. However, even if the budget were to ultimately pass the General Assembly containing such a provision, Governor Haley has publically stated she will veto any effort to expand Medicaid. A veto override in the House is unlikely with Republican members making up a large majority of the body.

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

H.3096 Enact the Healthcare Freedom Act, has passed the House and 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 budget passed by the House requires \$1 million must be used for the Best Chance Network and \$1 million must be used for Colorectal Cancer Awareness/Protection initiatives by the Department of Health and Environmental Control.

Breast and Cervical Funding: ACS CAN South Carolina will continue to advocate for \$2 million from sources other than the Tobacco Prevention and Cessation fund. The Best Chance Network has not been funded at the state level since 2010.

Colorectal Cancer: 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 was given a

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favorable report on Monday by the The House Judiciary Constitutional Laws Subcommittee. Both bills are on the full Judiciary agenda for Tuesday, March 19th.

Nutrition and Physical Activity: The Department of Health and Human Services is charged with coordinating a multi-agency initiative to combat obesity in the state. ACS CAN South Carolina continues to monitor activity on Nutrition and Physical Activity while working with coalition partners such as Eat Smart, Move More South Carolina and the South Carolina Medical Association Childhood Obesity Task Force.

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