



South Carolina Legislative Update for week ending April 26, 2013

Debate continues on Medicaid Expansion. The Senate Finance Budget Committee ran out of time and was not able to hear the full presentation from Tony Keck, Director of the Department of Health and Environmental Control. Director Keck is scheduled to appear before the Committee on Tuesday, April 30th to answer questions from the Committee.

Access to Care: *The House voted not to expand Medicaid. The Senate is not expected to vote favorable for expansion. The Governor has said that she would veto any bills that passed.*

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.

H. 3355 Prohibiting South Carolina from Expanding Medicaid currently resides in the House Ways and Means Committee awaiting a subcommittee hearing. *This bill is likely stalled for the year.*

H. 3101 Nullification of the Affordable Care Act/Fine was debated extensively and numerous amendments were tabled. The bill received second reading on Thursday. One amendment was adopted which adds political subdivisions to the language. Representative Bakari Sellers (D – Bamberg) noted this bill would cost \$41.2 million dollars to implement. The bill will be up for third reading consideration next Tuesday, April 30th.

H. 3983 Rural Emergency Care which would provide rural counties with free emergency hospital care and allows closed rural hospital to regain licensure as freestanding emergency health care facilities under certain circumstances received a second hearing this week.

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. ACS CAN SC is currently working with the Senate on a proviso to the budget.

S. 566 Taxation on little cigars, roll your own, and pipe tobacco resides in the Committee on Finance.

H. 3538 Youth Smoking, Includes alternative nicotine products (e-cigarettes) in the statute relating to the sale or purchase of tobacco products by minors will be heard by the Full Senate Judiciary Committee Tuesday, April 30th.

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. ACS CAN South Carolina is currently working with the Senate to create a proviso that would provide funding to the budget for BCN.

H. 3236 Cervical Cancer Prevention Act introduced by Rep. Sellers (D- Bamberg) would allow DHEC to offer the cervical cancer vaccination series to any students entering the seventh grade in any public or private school on a voluntary basis. The bill resides in the House awaiting a second reading.

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. ACS CAN South Carolina is currently working with the Senate to create a proviso that would provide funding to the budget for screenings.

Raffle Law in South Carolina: S.213 and S.239 Allow Charitable Raffles/Constitutional Amendment was signed into law on April 23rd by Governor Haley. South Carolinians have the ability to vote on the law during the 2014 election.

Nutrition and Physical Activity: The Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), charged with coordinating a multi-agency initiative to combat obesity in the state met for an update last week. The Governor and DHHS Director would like to regulate what foods Supplemental Nutritional Aid Program (SNAP) recipients can purchase with the allotted amount given monthly.