



## HEALTHCARE ROUND-UP



August 25, 2017

### [How Small Businesses are Keeping Pace on Health Benefits, Costs](#)

*BenefitsPro*

Small employers are faring better than average when it comes to containing costs within their health insurance plans, but are also asking employees to shoulder more of the expenses, according to a new United Benefit Advisors' report, "[Small Businesses Keeping Pace with Nationwide Health Trends](#)." Among employers with less than 100 workers, employees pay \$3,557, with their employer picking up the balance of \$9,474. However, small businesses are passing nearly 6.6 percent more of the costs for single coverage and nearly 10 percent more of the costs of family coverage on to employees. And that number increases to 17.8 percent more and over 50 percent more, respectively, when small employers are compared to their largest counterparts.

### ['Voluntary' Workplace Wellness Programs Dealt Setback by U.S. Court](#)

*Stat*

A federal court threw out a rule allowing employers to call their workplace wellness programs "voluntary" when employees stand to lose thousands of dollars for not participating. The ruling, a summary judgment for the group that challenged the federal rule, orders the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) to come up with a "reasoned explanation" for deeming workplace wellness programs voluntary even if the programs impose steep penalties on workers who opt out, calling the absence of such an explanation when the EEOC issued its rule last year "a serious failing."

### [Obamacare: What's Next for the IRS?](#)

*Daily Tax Report*

Republicans' failed efforts to repeal the ACA ended months of speculation about what role the Internal Revenue Service would play in an overhauled healthcare system. The role remains the same: The



NEW PRODUCT  
NEW CARRIER



How is your HSA,  
HRA, FSA, and  
COBRA solution  
working for you?

Call to learn  
more today!

813.920.4704

wex Health  
Simplifying the Business  
of Healthcare



agency will continue enforcing and administering tax provisions of the law and move forward on guidance projects it may have avoided advancing during the months of tumult in Congress, health care attorneys told Bloomberg BNA.

## **What Damage to the Individual Markets Could Mean for Employers**

*Employee Benefits News*

While the White House agreed last week to make short-term payments on a key ACA subsidy for the month of August, ongoing uncertainty around the long-term health of the individual exchanges could impact employers.

## **Employees' Healthcare Costs Keep Rising**

*BenefitsPro*

The average U.S. employee will not be happy to hear this: they're likely to spend an average of \$5,200 in healthcare costs next year. That's according to a new analysis from [Aon](#), which points to both inflation in medical costs and increases in employees' cost share for their healthcare as causes.

## **Senate Committee to Hold Hearings on Stabilizing Health Insurance Market**

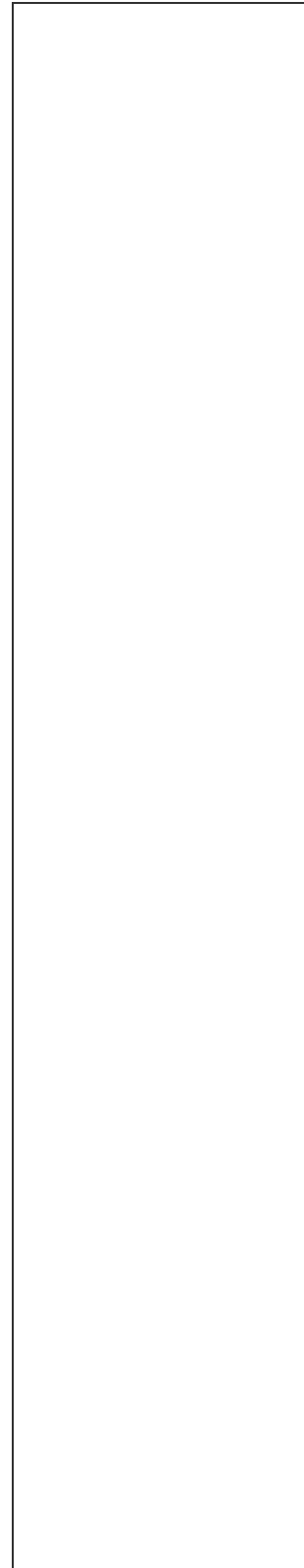
*USA Today*

Senators looking for ways to stabilize the individual health insurance market will hear from governors and state health insurance commissioners at hearings next month. The hearings, set for September 6-7, will focus on stabilizing premiums and helping people in the individual market in light of Congress' failure to repeal and replace the ACA.

## **Congress Facing Deadline to Renew Healthcare for Children**

*The Hill*

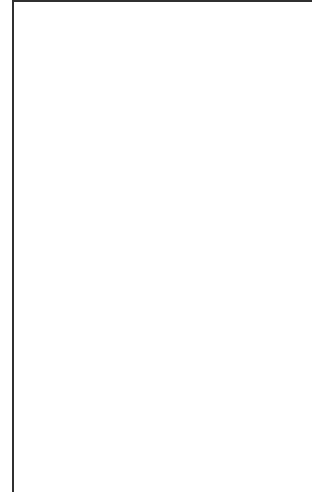
Congress is approaching a healthcare deadline with enormous stakes for millions of people, and this time it isn't about Obamacare. Federal funding for 9 million low and middle-income children is set to expire at the end of September.



## **Single Payer, Revived? California Lawmakers to Hold Hearings this Fall**

*San Jose Mercury News*

After the swift rise and sudden crash of California's single payer legislation, universal health care is back. Assembly Speaker Anthony Rendon, - who in June blocked Senate Bill 562 from advancing in his chamber - announced that a special committee would hold hearings on universal health care this fall, after the legislative session ends on Sept. 15. "It's not a question of debating whether we move toward health care for all - it's a matter of choosing how best and how soon," Rendon said. "The committee's work will help fill the void of due diligence that should have been done on SB 562 or any universal health care bill that so profoundly affects so many Californians."



**The National Association of Professional Employer Organizations**