



HEALTHCARE ROUND-UP



May 31, 2017

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[Senate Staff to Draft Health Bill During Recess](#)

The Hill

Senate Republican staff will be working on a draft version of the Senate's Obamacare repeal-and-replace legislation during the upcoming recess, according to multiple senators. "Over the break, initial legislation will be drafted and then we'll have more time, actually have a basis to discuss" specific policies, according to Sen. Ron Johnson (R-WI) "We've had the discussions. It's time to draft a bill, and we'll move forward on that when we get back."

[New Legislation Aims to Provide Coverage to Gig Workers](#)

Employee Benefits News

Individuals turn to the gig economy for extra cash or full-time flexibility, but are out of luck if they want to go on parental leave, receive workers' compensation or invest in tax withholding and tax-advantaged retirement savings. A [new bill](#) aims to change that. The Portable Benefits for Independent Workers Pilot Program Act, introduced by Sen. Mark Warner (D-Va.) and Rep. Suzan DelBene (D-Wash.), would establish a \$20 million grant pilot program at the U.S. Department of Labor. Under the proposal, states, local governments and non-profits would get \$15 million to design, implement and evaluate new programs to provide benefits or \$5 million to assess and improve existing models for portable



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perks for independent workers such as contractors, temps and self-employed workers.

Zenefits to Offer Level-Funded Health Plans

Employee Benefits News

Zenefits announced it is launching a level payment self-funded health plan in cooperation with Aetna for groups of two-to-50 lives. The insurance broker estimates premium savings on these plans may be up to 30 percent lower than what some small businesses may be paying currently. A level payment health plan is a way for small groups to be self-funded, but only works if the organization can prove its employee base is healthy, explains Joe Slater, partner and consulting actuary at Murrieta, Calif.-based consultancy Axene Health Partners LLC, who is not affiliated with Zenefits.

High-Deductible, Consumer-Driven Health Plans Keep Growing

BenefitsPro

The increased use of consumer-driven health plans with high deductibles are having the desired impact: when people consume more of the costs of their own healthcare, their decisions are increasingly being driven on how they can personally control the cost, according to the [2016 Consumer Engagement in Health Care Survey](#) by Employee Benefits Research Institute and Greenwald & Associates.

Employers See Greater Control of Healthcare Decisions with Benefits Marketplace

Employee Benefits News

Employees who choose their healthcare and other benefits from an online marketplace have a greater sense of control over their healthcare decisions, according to the 2017 Employer Survey Report conducted by Willis Towers Watson. Of the 202 employers surveyed in the annual Willis survey, 97 percent of employers said they were satisfied with their experience using a private marketplace and 98 percent of employers who used a market place the following year were satisfied with their overall experience. The private exchange vendor also found that 89 percent of respondents said that moving to the marketplace option “positively impacted their company culture.”

The Future of the ACA May be Uncertain, but HIPAA Is Here to Stay

J.D. Supra

While the future of the ACA and any potential replacement legislation is still in question, the Office for Civil Rights within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services has clarified through its recent actions that the HIPAA privacy, security, and breach notification rules contained at 45 C.F.R. Parts 160 and 164 (the “Administrative Simplification Rules”) are here to stay.