

Federal Landscape: Outlook

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*CT, Covering Kids Coalition
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Community Catalyst

National, non-profit consumer advocacy organization founded in 1998 with the belief that affordable quality health care should be accessible to everyone.

Working in more than 40 states, Community Catalyst has built a consumer health advocacy movement from the ground up.

Our goal is to ensure consumers have an organized voice and a seat at the table wherever decisions about health and health care are made: in communities, courtrooms, statehouses and on Capitol Hill.

Key Federal Issues Related to Health

- 1. Tax Bill 2.0, Budget & SCOTUS**
- 2. Opioid Package**
- 3. Farm Bill**
- 4. Public Charge**
- 5. Private Insurance/ACA**
- 6. Medicaid and Waivers**
- 7. Lawsuits**

Tax Bill 2.0, Budget & SCOTUS

- **Tax Bill 2.0**

- Passes House 220 to 191. Three Democrats joined the Republicans to support the \$2.8 trillion package and 10 Republicans opposed the bill.

- **Budget – continuing resolution**

- Extends funding for the Federal gov't through 12/7 at current levels

- **SCOTUS**

- FBI investigation into Brett Kavanaugh continues this week with anticipated report on Friday.

Opioid Package

- Package is reconciled – moving to Senate and set for a vote soon, passed House
- Includes some trauma-informed care elements
- Budget neutral package

Farm Bill Update

- **House bill overview**
 - Work requirements for SNAP
- **Senate bill emerges**
 - Bipartisan approach strips work requirements

Public Charge

- **Forthcoming (unofficial rule)**
 - Once it hits federal register, we will have 60 days to comment
- **Public Charge**
 - Unofficial rule adds Medicaid and an income test to list of public programs considered for a public charge test
- **Administration to hold families indefinitely**
 - Comments to Homeland Security by November 6

Join the Protecting Immigrant Families

Private Insurance

- **Short-Term Plans & Association Plans**
 - Finalized rule allowing these plans
- **Preexisting Conditions**
 - DOJ refuses to defend ACA protection and this is now a campaign issue in many states
- **1557 or Anti-Discrimination Provision**
 - Anticipated changes

Medicaid/Waivers

- **Work Requirements**
 - A number of states made application to impose work requirements on some Medicaid enrollees
 - Arkansas dropped over 4,000 people
- **Kentucky Waiver**
 - Expect in the coming days

Lawsuits

- **Maryland**

- Attorney General of MD leading lawsuit against HHS, Trump Admin and IRS claiming efforts to sabotage damage the state.

- **Texas**

- Pre-existing conditions lawsuit – demands the ACA is struck down because no individual mandate.

Questions?

