

HEALTH CARE

FEBRUARY 2008



GREATER
O'HARE
ASSOCIATION

ISSUES FOR 2008

ELECTIONS
HEALTH CARE
TAXES
EDUCATION/
WORKFORCE
TRANSPORTATION
TELECOM/
TECHNOLOGY

IMPORTANT DATES

FEBRUARY 20

LUNCH WITH
CONGRESSMAN ROSKAM
11:30 AM - 1:30 PM
BELVEDERE BANQUETS

FEBRUARY 27

BUSINESS AFTER HOURS
5:00 PM - 7:00 PM
CHARLIE'S CHARHOUSE

MARCH 8

SPECIAL ELECTION
14TH CONGRESSIONAL

GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS TEAM:

Greater O'Hare Association
Governmental Affairs Team is
focused on educating and
activating the business
community.

Through our dual mission of
educating and activating we
can unify our voice to be
heard by legislators and
community leaders.

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ATTORNEY GENERAL MADIGAN STEPS INTO HEALTH CARE FIGHT

Last November, after the Governor's proposed health care expansion failed to win legislative approval, Blagojevich presented his plan to the Joint Commission on Administrative Rules (JCAR), hoping to implement the program without adhering to the legislative process. Not surprisingly, JCAR voted to block implementation of the proposed rules, but the Governor decided to move ahead anyway. Before the Department of Healthcare and Family Services can dive headfirst into one of the nation's costliest health care expansions, however, the courts will have to settle the question of whether Blagojevich overstepped his

constitutional boundaries after several members of the business community brought suit against the administration.

Now, Attorney General Lisa Madigan is stepping in, arguing on behalf of JCAR's constitutional authority. According to the Attorney General, the fight has become less about expanding health care and more about the constitutional integrity of the issue. Regardless of the outcome, the battle over government-subsidized health care expansion in Illinois appears far from over.

To read more about the lawsuit and the concerns of some health officials over the practicality of implementing expanding health care, please read the following stories:

["Madigan to Defend JCAR in Court"](http://www.sj-r.com)
www.sj-r.com

["Commentary: Governor's Napoleon Complex Advanced"](http://www.chicagotribune.com)
www.chicagotribune.com

["State Health Plan Bothers Official"](http://www.sj-r.com)
www.sj-r.com

ILLINOIS HOSPITAL REPORTS SUFFER DELAYS

When Illinois first passed two laws over four years ago that would compare and publicize state hospital safety records, it was hailed as the first in the nation to take such bold steps. Now, the Hospital Report Card that will document hospital-acquired infections and nursing staff levels, the Consumer Guide that will compare hospital performances on 30 leading medical procedures, and the Adverse Events Report that will

record egregious hospital errors are all bogged down by delay and what many claim to be a lack of administrative leadership.

The original sponsors of the laws and backers of the studies blame Blagojevich's limited focus on expanding health care as one of the reasons for the lack of resources and priority given to the hospital safety project. In the meantime,

many patient advocate groups and hospitals alike are anxious to get the projects off the ground in order to enhance the overall quality of health care available to Illinoisans.

To read more about these delays, please click on the following:

["Hospital Safety Reports Past Due"](http://www.chicagotribune.com)
www.chicagotribune.com

2008 PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES ON HEALTH CARE

Health care reform has remained a predominant issue in the 2008 Presidential Election and both Republicans and Democrats alike have outlined some very definitive ideas about how they believe that reform should be achieved. The following information taken from the [Kaiser Family Foundation](http://www.kaiserfamilyfoundation.org) attempts to summarize the presidential candidates' plans for health care reform.

REPUBLICAN CANDIDATES



John McCain

GOAL: Provide access to affordable health care for all by paying only for quality health care, having insurance choices that are diverse and responsive to individual need, and encouraging personal responsibility.

APPROACH: Remove the favorable tax treatment of employer-sponsored insurance and provide a tax credit to all individuals and families to increase incentives for insurance coverage; promote insurance competition; and contain costs through payment changes to providers, tort reform and other measures.

Mike Huckabee

GOAL: A "complete overhaul of our health care system," to create a health system favoring market-based, consumer-based policies.

APPROACH: Use tax deductions and tax credits to encourage people to buy private health insurance and encourage market-based solutions to problems of cost and access.

DEMOCRAT CANDIDATES



Hillary Clinton

GOAL: Affordable and high quality universal coverage through a mix of private and public insurance.

APPROACH: Every American required to have coverage, with income-related tax subsidies available to make coverage affordable. Private and public plan options would be available to individuals through a new Health Choices Menu operated through the Federal Employee Health Benefits Program (FEHBP). Coverage through employers and public programs like Medicare continues.

Barack Obama

GOAL: Affordable and high quality universal coverage through a mix of private and expanded public insurance.

APPROACH: Require all children to have health insurance, and employers to offer employee health benefits or contribute to the cost of the new public program. Create a new public plan, and expand Medicaid and SCHIP. Create the National Health Insurance Exchange through which small businesses and individuals without access to other public programs or employer-based coverage could enroll in the new public plan or in approved private plans.

*** Note: the above information is provided as informational purpose and is not a statement of support or endorsement of any candidate or political party.*

We encourage you to visit the Kaiser Family foundation website and read through the information concerning the multiple facets of Health Care reform.



HEALTH CARE

STATE SENATE: 2007 ILLINOIS HEALTH CARE LEGISLATION

SB0005: Governor's Illinois Covered Plan (formerly Health Care For All)

This shell bill was amended to be the Governor's Illinois Covered healthcare plan. The program purports to make health care available to all Illinoisans at a cost of more than \$2 billion. There is a potentially disastrous impact on health insurance market in Illinois and possible phase-in to state-run single payer system where the market cannot effectively compete with government-sponsored health care plans. (last action 12/3/07)



SB0092: Health Choice—Employer Mandate to Offer

Requires certain employers to offer, but not contribute to the cost of health insurance policies to their employees. Offers an income tax deduction to employers who offer health care for the first time. Makes other changes to primarily the small group market. (last action 2/8/07)

Public Health Committee

Chair: Susan Garrett

Vice-Chair: William Delgado

Democratic Members:

Mattie Hunter, Kimberly Lightford, Iris Martinez, Kwame Raoul, Jeffrey Schoenberg

Minority Spokesperson: Carole Pankau

Republican Members:

Bill Brady, Christine Radogno, Dale Righter

STATE HOUSE: 2007 ILLINOIS HEALTH CARE LEGISLATION

HB1987: Market-based Coverage Expansion Bill seeks to expand health insurance coverage options in the marketplace; focuses on allowing insurers to offer more innovative products, greater pricing flexibility. Also establishes new employer tax credit to help businesses struggling to afford employee coverage. Committee: Insurance Last Action: 5/25/07

HB677: BLBS Health Insurance Choice

Requires certain small employer carriers to offer insurance choice policies to employees of eligible employers, and requires eligible employers to facilitate insurers offering the coverage. Committee: Insurance Last Action: 5/25/07

Insurance Committee

Chair: Frank Mautino

Vice-Chair: Karen Yarbrough

Republican Spokesperson: JoAnn Osmond

Members:

Mark Beaubien Jr., Maria Antonia Berrios, John Bradley, Richard Bradley, Dan Brady, Marlow Colvin, Kenneth Dunkin, Joe Dunn, Jim Durkin, Sara Feigenholtz, Kurt Granberg, Lou Lang, Bill Mitchell, Ruth Munson, Robert Rita, Chapin Rose, Ron Stephens

HB1006: Medicaid-Managed Care Amends the Children's Health Insurance Program Act. Provides that on and after July 1, 2008 the Department of Healthcare will implement a capitated managed care system and shall pay a fixed amount per individual per month to a third-party entity to manage the program of health care benefits and assume the risk associated. Committee: Insurance Last Action: 5/25/07

HB1628: Insurance—All Kids Health Amends the covering ALL KIDS Health Insurance Act. Provides that there shall be no co-payment or coinsurance required for any services. Committee: Insurance Last Action: 10/17/07 Public Act 95-0650 Effective 6/1/08

BEST PRACTICES TO LOWER HEALTH CARE COSTS

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce, in collaboration with Partnership for Prevention, released a report that shows how employers can reduce overall health care costs by incorporating employee health prevention and wellness programs into their business.

"By incorporating wellness, prevention and chronic disease management into their traditional health plans, employers are quickly recognizing results such as fewer sick days, greater worker productivity, and lower health insurance costs," said Johnson. "The Chamber urges CEOs, business owners and other decision makers to adopt new strategies to contain health care costs and increase productivity."

For years, employers have attempted to control the rising cost of health care and are realizing the importance of focusing not only on the cost of the plan, but also the health status of employees in the plan. *Leading by Example: Leading Practices for Employee Health Management* is a new resource guide that profiles businesses who have successfully implemented health and wellness programs and how these programs help them contain health care costs, improve productivity and boost employee satisfaction.

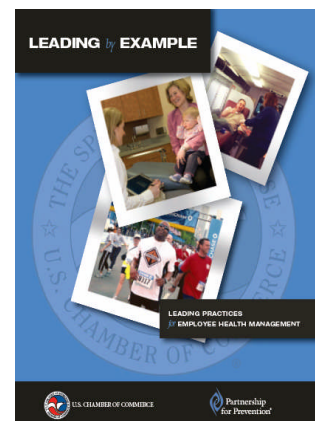
A key way to lower health care costs is improving employee health. Regardless of company size, all employers can realize the benefits of in-

corporating wellness and prevention into the workplace.

"By providing real examples and strategies from employers of every size, this report will serve as powerful tool for businesses to learn from each other and incorporate new practices," said Randy Johnson, Chamber Vice President of Labor, Immigration & Employee Benefits.

For more information on the Partnership for Prevention business wellness programs, please visit the website www.prevent.org

Greater O'Hare Association of Industry and Commerce is an active member in good standing of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce.



Leading by Example: Leading Practices for Employee Health Management
(click the picture for the pdf of the report)