



Heads Up

January 2009

Dear NAHU State and Local Legislative Chairs,

Attached you will find a legislative report for this month that discusses the top health care policy issues facing the 111th Congress and the new Administration during their first month in session.

Check you the New B2B! A Community Specifically for Legislative Chairs Is Coming Soon!

Over the past year, NAHU has been building its new Community platform which includes an overhaul of the existing [B2B eGroups, Resource Library, Glossary and Directory](#). We encourage you to take a look around at some of the new features and functionality that has been built into this community platform. The new B2B eGroups have many new features but the overall look and feel should be somewhat familiar.

There already is an eGroup for all members that specifically focuses on legislative issues, and many of you are already monitoring that forum. In a few weeks, the eGroup platform is going to be expanded. In addition to the general legislative eGroup, there will be a new eGroup created with membership limited to just NAHU national, regional, state and local legislative chairs, as well as the NAHU Government Relations staff. We think it will be a great way for legislative chairs around the country to share information and experiences. Look for more information about the new legislative chair eGroup in the next *Head's Up* newsletter.

We Need Your Help!

As you may have noticed over the last few weeks, NAHU has been issuing a lot of Operation Shout requests. We need the help of all our members as important health care legislation comes before Congress and the state legislatures, so expect even more requests in the coming weeks. Beyond your personal participation in these calls to action, as legislative chairs we need you to educate the members of your chapter as to why responding to Operation Shout! alerts is very important. Operation Shouts! are an important grassroots tool for NAHU and they help us stay active in the health care debate. We are known in the health policy community as being an organization that can turn out thousands of grassroots responses on an almost immediate basis, and we are very proud of that reputation. So please be sure to keep a lookout for Code Blue emails from

NAHU that help keep you informed about new developments in Washington, as well as keeping you engaged in the process.

Also, we want to extend a sincere thank you to everyone that participated in the SCHIP Operation Shouts! We had over 2,000 messages sent to Congress in 1 day regarding the House SCHIP vote, as well as an additional 800 messages sent to Senate Finance Committee members. When we were fighting an amendment threat to strip the SCHIP bill of its premium assistance provisions, our quick grassroots response to committee members really made a difference. Please continue to stay involved in our grassroots efforts and encourage your members to do the same. The more responses we have, the stronger our voice!

President's Triple Crown Challenge

NAHU President Scott Leavitt is asking every member of NAHU to take the challenge of achieving the Triple Crown award by May 31. As legislative chairs, it is very important that you help bring this message to the members of your chapter. In next four months, there are four steps NAHU members can take to meet that challenge:

1. **Contribute \$150 or more to HUPAC.** If every member contributes just \$150 to HUPAC we can have \$3 million dollars in HUPAC, allowing us to pool our dollars together in support of candidates who can support our causes.
2. **Recruit two new members.** That would bring us over 40,000 new members and would bring our membership to 60,000. There has never been a more important time for them to join NAHU and help us get our message across, and the more members we have, the more effectively we can do that.
3. **Send three Operations Shouts!** That would mean that members of Congress and state legislators would receive 60,000 emails from NAHU members addressing issues that most concern our industry. Our legislative success is based heavily on our ability to show legislators how important issues are to our membership, and when health care issues come to the forefront of the political debate, it is vital to our legislative efforts that elected officials know where our members stand.

It has never been more important for all of us to do a little more than we have done before. Just imagine how much we can “Educate America” about our message by having all of us achieve the “Triple Crown” together. Visit the President's Triple Crown [webpage](#) or send an [email](#) for more details.

Operation Welcome!

As we mentioned in last month's legislative training call, we are encouraging all of our chapters and our members to take advantage of the new legislative session to build relationships with new legislators, and re-establish relationships with old legislators. The Operation Welcome! (<http://www.nahu.org/legislative/tools/operationwelcome.cfm>) website is full of information, tips, and resources for helping your chapter reach out to the legislature and develop strong grassroots efforts.

Links to brochures, sample presentations, events on the hill ideas, and much, much, more! Be sure to check-out the new site and encourage your Chapter's and their leaderships to do the same!

Website Updates

Have you checked out our new legislative tracking tool? At the end of last year, NAHU launched its new legislative tracking tool from Trend Track. Now you can search for key health care legislation throughout the country. Make sure to take advantage of the new tool now that your state legislators are in session!

<http://www.trendtrack.com/texis/app/viewrpt2/+temDgxe4uD5?event=48dba2fdab&run=y>

Keep your eyes open for the new additions and updates to the rest of our Legislative Advocacy section of the website. The Highlights page has all of NAHU's new position papers on the individual market and COBRA recommendations, as well as several new charts the Government Affairs staff has put together on subsidies and state reforms. We're also in the process of updating our issues pages with the most up-to-date developments and analysis, so stay tuned!

Capitol Conference 2009: March 30th - April 1st

"One Mission, One Voice: Working Together for the Future of American Health Care"

Registration for Capitol Conference 2009 has begun! Make sure to register early and online at <http://www.nahu.org/meetings/capitol/2009/>.

The schedule is being put together and invitations are being sent out. The three day conference is sure to be packed full of interesting speakers and panel discussions. With health care being one of the top issues in the next session of Congress, Capitol Conference is your chance to meet with your Congressman in DC and express the value of the agent and NAHU's position on some of the top health care issues. So encourage all your state and local members to register!

Also, you can now buy your tickets to the HUPAC fundraiser online at www.hupac.org. This year's event will be a cocktail reception at the Capitol Hill restaurant, Sonoma on the evening of Tuesday, March 31. Several key Members of Congress will be in attendance to mingle with NAHU members and accept HUPAC contributions.

To buy tickets, NAHU members can login to the HUPAC website by using you email address as the login and then your HUPAC password. If you have not been on the HUPAC site previously and set up or changed your password, your password will also be your email address. Once you log in, click on upcoming events.

Legislative Training Call Reminder

Thank you again to all our State and Local legislative chairs that have been taking part in our Legislative Training Calls. Please keep participating and asking great questions!

Don't forget to mark your calendars for our next training call on Wednesday, February 11th at 1pm EST. The PowerPoint presentation and call-in information will be emailed out to you the week of the call.