



## Heads Up!

December 2008

### **Dear NAHU State and Local Legislative Chairs,**

Attached you will find a legislative report for December that discusses some key developments in the health care reform debating taking place throughout the country as everyone prepares for the 111<sup>th</sup> session of Congress and the new administration.

### **President-Elect Obama's Call to Action on Health Reform**

President-Elect Obama and DHHS Secretary Designee Daschle have invited people around the nation to hold health care community discussions in their homes, churches, or even a local coffee shop, anytime from December 15 to 31

<http://change.gov/page/s/hcdiscussion>. NAHU has been calling our membership to volunteer to moderate these health care discussions and submit their discussion results to the Obama administration.

Many members have asked NAHU if they can schedule their health care discussions for a later date, since this is an extremely busy time of year for most people. The following is the repose the Obama administration has provided to volunteer moderators regarding this question.

*We are trying to schedule all of the Health Care Community Discussions between December 15 and 31 to allow time for the Health Policy Transition Team to prepare a report for the President-elect. The feedback page will be live through the first weeks of January, so you can still submit information about your Health Care Community Discussion until then.*

Remember, chapters could organize events, or individual members could host them separately or both. NAHU has developed talking points for you to use in your discussions as well as a sample advisory you can use to notify local media about your event and we have attached copies to this newsletter. If you do host an event, please also let NAHU know by sending an email to Danielle Jaffee at [djaffee@nahu.org](mailto:djaffee@nahu.org).

### **Submit Health Care Ideas to the New Administration Directly**

In addition to the health care discussions, the presidential transition team is asking all Americans to share their views on health care reform through the transition website <http://change.gov/page/s/healthcare>. If you don't have time to host a health care discussion or participate in one someone else is hosting, please take a few minutes and simply submit your healthcare reform priorities to the new administration through their website.

**Capitol Conference 2009: March 30<sup>th</sup>- April 1<sup>st</sup>**

*“One Mission, One Voice: Working Together for the Future of American Healthcare”*

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!

**Preparing for January**

As you know, the Government Affairs Staff at NAHU has been busy over the last few weeks with lots of meetings on the hill, talking to staffers and Congressman on both sides of the aisle, as well as many of our coalitions and other organizations prominent in the health care policy world. But along with our work, we need your help to. Remember, knowing our member's grass-top connections is key to acting quickly when health care ideas come to the forefront. So please take the time to go to our forum: <http://capwiz.com/nahu/lrm/feedback.tt> and pass it along to your chapter members, and enter your grass-top relationships.

Further, keeping our membership involved in the health care debate is pivotal and to be as effective as possible in our grassroots work we need to make sure we have up-to-date address information for all our members. As you know, when signing up for NAHU most members register with their work address, but many of our members work in a different congressional district than they live in. Therefore, to make our grassroots communication as effective as possible, we need member's home addresses. Please encourage all of your members to log-on to the website and update their home address, or collect a list of home address at your next meeting and email ([djaffee@nahu.org](mailto:djaffee@nahu.org)), fax it (703-841-7797 to at attention of Danielle Jaffee), or mail it to...

Danielle Jaffee  
22200 North 14<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 450  
Arlington, VA 22201

**Value of the Agent Briefings**

In October NAHU board members did a Capitol Hill briefing for about 100 Congressional staff members regarding the valuable role agents, brokers and consultants play in the health care delivery system. Our Wisconsin chapter as scheduled a similar meeting for state legislators and their staff in January. NAHU encourages all of our state and local chapters to consider holding similar briefings for policymakers in their areas. Slides you can adapt for your chapter's use are attached.

### **New Legislative Tracking is Here!**

Our new legislative tracking system has launched on the website! The new comprehensive legislative tracking website is open to all our members, without having to log-in to the site. Now it is easy for our members to follow both state and federal legislation that NAHU is tracking. As we approach the new Congressional session and as states resume their legislative sessions, we encourage all our members to use this as a tool to help keep on top of the health care debate at all levels.

All members can go to <http://www.trendtrack.com/texis/app/viewrpt?event=48dba2fdab> to track and review legislation of interest to health insurance agents and brokers pending in all states and in Congress.

### **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 throughout the year. Thanks to your participation and great questions our training calls have been a huge success!

Don't forget to mark your calendars for the first Legislative Training call of the New Year on Wednesday, January 14<sup>th</sup> at 1pm EST. The PowerPoint presentation and call-in information will be emailed out to you the week of the call.

### **Happy Holidays**

The Government Affairs Staff at NAHU wishes all of its members a happy and healthy holiday season! Happy New Year and we'll see you in 2009!