



Heads Up

August 2008

Dear NAHU State and Local Legislative Chairs,

Legislative Report

Attached you will find the Washington Update for September. As you know Congress is out of session until September 8th and many state legislatures are out of session. During the August recess we have focused a lot of efforts on briefing congressional staff on issues like the SCHIP reauthorization, the reauthorization of the TAA Health Care tax Credit, and broad health insurance market reform proposals pending before the Congress. Also, NAHU will have a presence at both the Republican and Democratic presidential nominating conventions, so expect a full report on our activities in both next month's newsletter and the October HIU. Once Congress is back in session health care issues could see action include health information technology measures and mental health parity.

In District Meetings

We hope you and your chapter took advantage of the extended recess that brought your legislators back to their home districts in August and scheduled meetings in-district to discuss the value of the agent <http://capwiz.com/nahu/lrm/feedback.tt?event=10981>. Remember if you did meet with your Congressman's office click here to report on your meeting <http://capwiz.com/nahu/lrm/feedback.tt?event=11521>, or have a meeting scheduled for their next recess in late September, let us know by going to <http://capwiz.com/nahu/lrm/feedback.tt?event=10981&mode=appointment> and entering your information.

Legislative Training Calls

Our first two legislative training calls took place in August and we had lots of great member participation! Thank you to all legislative chairs that participated on the calls. The first call on August 18th gave a brief overview of some Federal and State issues that NAHU is focusing on, our positions on the issues, and where they stood just prior to Congress' recess. We will hold a call like this focusing on state and federal issues of note every single month on the second Wednesday of the month at 1:00pm EST, so the next one is September 10th at 1pm EST. You will get a reminder and the monthly call slides via email each month, so watch your inbox! Participating in these calls gives your

chapter 25 points a call (maximum of 75 points total) for the chapter legislative excellence award.

We also held our first General Legislative Training call giving Legislative Chairs a brief overview of their responsibilities and resources available to them on August 21, and we will repeat this overview training one more time on September 18 at 1:00 pm EST. Participating in one of these training calls gives your chapter 25 bonus points for the legislative excellence award.

If you missed a call, don't worry. Both the slides and recordings of all of the training teleconferences can be found on the Legislative Tools section of our website.

Website

Check out the new and improved Legislative Tools section of our website. The page has been fully updated with new information and resource. You can now find training call information, links to the State Legislative Tracking database, briefing notes, and various charts on top health care issues.

We have also created a new Legislative Highlights page that will have charts, analysis, white papers, etc. on some of the top health care topics. The page is a work-in-progress and will be updated frequently, so be sure to visit it often to keep up-to-date on health care legislative issues.

We encourage all Legislative Chairs to take full advantage of the information.

State Legislative Defense Fund

NAHU understands that government affairs efforts are one of the most significant expenses for a chapter, and that on occasion political events in a state may require chapters to spend an extraordinary amount of money on legislative matters. To help chapters with urgent financial needs in regards to legislative situations, the NAHU Board created the State Legislative Defense Fund.

If you are interested in applying for SLDF money for your state please contact your NAHU State Affairs Director and go to the Legislative Tools page to find out more information and access the application and checklist.