

From: Soura, Christian
To: keck@scdhhs.gov <keck@scdhhs.gov>
Date: 2/14/2013 8:32:27 AM
Subject: FW: Wall Street Journal: SC Health Reform Fits Like a Glove

Your book title would make for a pretty good Warren Zevon song.

CLS

Christian L. Soura
Deputy Chief of Staff

(803) 543-0792
ChristianSoura@gov.sc.gov

From: Bryan Kost [<mailto:kostbr@scdhhs.gov>]
Sent: Thursday, February 14, 2013 7:07 AM
To: paulpatrick@schouse.gov; tim rogers; Soura, Christian; Pitts, Ted
Subject: Re: Wall Street Journal: SC Health Reform Fits Like a Glove

Epilogue: US Sec of State Nikki Haley, Congressman Brian White, and Canadian Ambassador Murrell Smith all played key roles too, of course.

Bryan Kost, SCDHHS.
Phone: 803-898-2865.
Mobile: 803-260-1285.
Email: kostbr@scdhhs.gov

On Feb 14, 2013, at 6:52 AM, "Bryan Kost" <kostbr@scdhhs.gov> wrote:

imagine

Dateline: [January 1, 2020](#)

By Joey Holleman, WSJ health reporter

Three years since becoming the first state to obtain major waivers from key mandates of the 2010 Affordable Care Act (ACA), South Carolina's own "ACA" (Alternative Care Approach) has proven that Washington's one-size-fits-all approach really did need a tailor.

As Congressional leaders wrestle with yet another round of federal cuts to ACA - and states that expanded Medicaid under the original option brace for more cost-shifting (with the requisite state-federal lawsuits to follow, again) the Palmetto State continues to provide access to quality care, streamline the state's health delivery system, and - to the envy of those "premature expansion states" - enjoy a sixth year of black ink.

Apparently South Carolina has hit what ten years ago was considered an elusive health care "sweet spot" - and is now settled into a sustainable program that is still adding targeted populations and services and even increasing provider rates.

In other states, Medicaid populations, services, and rates have only seen cuts. Following the 2018 Healthcare Stabilization Act (2018 HSA), states that had committed to the early ACA Medicaid expansion scheme were granted the flexibility to take down their Medicaid programs, as enrollment and benefit package mandates were relaxed. (Perhaps not ironically, current IOM Chief and former US HHS Secretary Tony Keck, who led the effort to pass 2018 HSA, was the Medicaid director in South Carolina back when the state first made waves in 2014, unveiling SC ACA as the alternative to Medicaid expansion.)

"I have to hand it to them - they had it right. Expansion before reform was the wrong approach," said Kathleen Sebelius, President Obama's HHS Director who granted South Carolina the 2017 waiver to pursue state-based reform.

After Sebelius' green light, seven more states eventually adopted South Carolina's approach, and by 2019 North Carolina and Georgia, South Carolina's neighbors, were among these states managing health care reform under their own "ACAs." Today, 14 states have submitted such ACA waiver requests.

For Keck, whose 2018 best seller "How Health Care Will Kill Us All" still falls off the shelves, it all makes sense.

"The 2010 ACA approach tried to give, or force, everyone to use something they may not have needed, barely worked, and was unaffordable," Keck explains.

"We have hopefully designed something that actually offers people the care they need, works for those who need it, and is affordable for all of us who have to pay for it."

Tailor-made.

Bryan Kost, SCDHHS.
Phone: [803-898-2865](tel:803-898-2865).
Mobile: [803-260-1285](tel:803-260-1285).
Email: kostbr@scdhhs.gov

Bryan Kost, SCDHHS.
Phone: [803-898-2865](tel:803-898-2865).
Mobile: [803-260-1285](tel:803-260-1285).
Email: kostbr@scdhhs.gov

Bryan Kost, SCDHHS.
Phone: [803-898-2865](tel:803-898-2865).
Mobile: [803-260-1285](tel:803-260-1285).
Email: kostbr@scdhhs.gov

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