

From: NASHP News <Newsletter@nashp.org>

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Subject: NASHP News: New Opioid Legislation in NY and RI, Sixth Circuit Declines to Expand ERISA, Consumer Tools Map, and more

Newsletter

July 12, 2016

[New York and Rhode Island Become Latest Two States to Pass Opioid Legislation](#)

Last month, [New York](#) and [Rhode Island](#) joined the growing number of states that have passed legislation aimed at addressing the nation's increasing opioid epidemic. Amongst other provisions, both states codified limitations on opioid prescribing and took steps to increase access to substance use disorder treatment. [Learn more](#) about all the recent legislation passed to combat this epidemic.

[Update: Sixth Circuit Declines to Expand ERISA; State Assessments on Self Funded Insurers Upheld](#)

In March, the Supreme Court instructed the 6th Circuit to take a second look at a recent decision where the lower court held a one-percent tax used by Michigan on all paid carrier claims for health care services did not violate ERISA. The Supreme Court order asked the 6th Circuit to consider whether the highest court's decision in *Gobeille*, in which a requirement on Vermont's self funded plans to submit claims data for state APCDs was blocked by ERISA, affected the Michigan assessment.

In a decision released earlier this month, the 6th Circuit held that the Michigan tax was not preempted by ERISA. The court said that unlike the *Gobeille* case, the Michigan assessment does not impose additional burdens or interfere with uniform plan administration. [Read the full blog](#) .

[State Exchange Consumer Tools Chart and Map](#)

This new map and accompanying comparison chart takes a deep dive into the anonymous shopping features available on SBM websites during the 2015-16 open enrollment period. Prior to this open enrollment period, many State-based health insurance marketplaces

(SBMs) sought to improve the experiences of consumers coming to their marketplace. These enhancements are intended to improve both the consumer experience on the exchange website as well as the individual's ability to choose the health plan that is best for them and their family. Many of the changes to shopping tools made for this enrollment season were fueled by a shifting understanding of how consumers comprehend and value these factors. [View the map and chart here.](#)

State Insurance Exchange Roundup

- **White House urges states to resist ObamaCare hikes:** The Federal government [announced](#) that it would be offering \$22 million in funding to boost state-level rate reviews of premium increases in order to “hold insurance companies accountable for unjustified hikes.”
 - **State and Feds push to enroll young people in insurance** : U.S. Department of Health and Human Services [announced](#) it was escalating its efforts to enroll young people in health insurance by, among other things, offering discounts to users of the ride sharing service Lyft who travel to open enrollment events and hosting an upcoming White House National Millennial Health Summit. The states are doing their part as well, in the same article Andrea Ravitz from [Access Health CT](#) touches on their plans to court young users for 2017, including partnering with concert and event promoter Live Nation.
 - **DC Health Link's Executive Director responds to NY Times article on Premium hikes for marketplace plans:** Mila Kofman's [letter to the editor](#) emphasizes customer shopping as a tool for saving as well as DC's strong age mix and low rates.
 - **MNsure CEO touts the importance of brokers in state tour:** Allison O'Toole is traveling around the state to [promote](#) the importance of consumers seeking help and becoming educated when making enrollment decisions. “Consumers are getting help,” O'Toole said. “The philosophy that we are partnering with trusted community partners makes a huge difference all over the state.”
 - **Illinois Co-op sues Feds over health law payments:** A struggling Illinois health insurance co-op is [suing](#) the federal government, claiming it is being shortchanged \$72.8 million in promised risk-corridor payments under the Affordable Care Act. At least four other insurance companies in Oregon, Pennsylvania, and North Carolina have filed similar lawsuits.
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Rising Star Nominations Now Open

Help NASHP recognize new state health policy professionals working for state governments by submitting a nomination for our Rising Star award. The award strives to promote the accomplishments of those working in the field with seven years experience or less who have demonstrated exceptional leadership, innovation, and commitment to promoting good state health

policy.

The award will be presented at the upcoming Annual Health Policy Conference October 17-19 in Pittsburgh. Recipient of the 2016 Rising Star award will receive an all expense paid trip to the conference.

Nominations for the award will be accepted [here](#) and can only be made by current state government employees.

All nominations are due by August 12, 2016. For complete information on the Rising Star Award visit our [website](#).

Webinar: Advancing Health through Accountable Communities: A Conversation with States

Accountable Communities for Health (ACHs) are surfacing as a promising state strategy to integrate and align state health care delivery system transformation with community-based interventions. This webinar will feature speakers from California, Minnesota, Vermont, and Washington State, who will share their states' experiences developing and implementing ACHs as a key strategy for advancing population health within broader delivery system reforms. More information on state ACH programs and a cross-state analysis of core state ACH components are available in NASHP's recent report, [State Levers to Advance Accountable Communities for Health](#). July 14th from 12:30-2:00pm.

[Register Now](#)

The Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Services (CMS), the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) are pleased to announce the launch of a new joint initiative: the HIV Health Improvement Affinity Group.

The HIV Health Improvement Affinity Group will bring together state public health and Medicaid and Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) agencies to collaboratively improve health outcomes for Medicaid and CHIP enrollees living with HIV by identifying opportunities to strengthen the [HIV care continuum](#) among these populations. Participating state public health and Medicaid/CHIP programs will have an opportunity to learn about and share best and promising approaches with their state peers to improve viral load suppression among people living with HIV who are enrolled in Medicaid and CHIP. State teams will also receive direct technical assistance that:

1. Supports improved HIV-related outcomes among Medicaid and CHIP enrollees; and

2. Builds stronger relationships among state Medicaid/CHIP programs, state public health departments, and other partners (e.g., primary care associations (PCAs), federally qualified health centers (FQHCs), local health departments, and other relevant public and private entities).

For more information about the HIV Health Improvement Affinity Group and the application process, please visit [this site](#) or email MedicaidCHIPPrevention@cms.hhs.gov .

Open Position: Project Director - Chronic & Vulnerable Populations Team

The National Academy for State Health Policy is seeking an individual to join our growing Chronic and Vulnerable Populations (CVP) policy team as a Project Director. The Project Director will lead day-to-day operations for at least one major initiative for NASHP, and will join additional project teams as a senior team member. The primary focus of this work will be on state healthcare delivery system reforms that improve care delivery for chronically ill and vulnerable populations. [For more information or to see more health policy jobs](#)

Open Position: Policy Associate - Child & Family Health Policy Team

NASHP is looking for a Policy Associate to join the Child and Family Policy Team. The Policy Associate will work on a range of policy issues particularly in the areas of women's health, infant mortality reduction, and adolescent health. The Policy Associate is an integral member of the policy team, assisting with projects relevant to state government officials, conducting policy research and analysis, and assisting with project development and management. [For more information or to see more health policy jobs](#)

National Academy for State Health Policy

The National Academy for State Health Policy (NASHP) is an independent academy of state health policymakers who are dedicated to helping states achieve excellence in health policy and practice. A non-profit and non-partisan organization, NASHP provides a forum for constructive work across branches and agencies of state government on critical health policy issues. For more information visit www.nashp.org.

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