

**From:** Bryan Kost <kostbr@scdhhs.gov>  
**To:** Bryan Kostkostbr@scdhhs.gov  
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**Subject:** Health Reform Stories

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**1-U.S. counties' health rankings: Health care *services* not driving force behind health care *outcomes***

"Access to quality health care, however, accounts for only 20 percent of a county's ranking. The physical environment is weighed the most heavily in the rankings"

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=2013303200026>

**2-How provider price transparency can help reform the health care marketplace**

"In an effort to increase price transparency, many states have enacted legislation with provisions for public reporting of pricing and quality information across providers and, in some cases, specific to certain payers operating in that state"

<http://www.hci3.org/content/transparency-metrics-transformation>

**3-SC's failing grade on price transparency highlights need for action**

"It's more important than ever for consumers to have the necessary quality and price information they need to make the best decisions about their health care purchases"

<https://www.scdhhs.gov/press-release/south-carolina%E2%80%99s-failing-grade-health-care-pricing-transparency-shows-need-action>

**4-DeMint: Medicaid expansion wrong for SC**

"For every problem, there is a solution which is simple, clean and wrong"

<http://www.thestate.com/2013/03/24/2689308/demint-medicare-expansion-wrong.html>

**5-SC hospital leaders set up online Medicaid expansion petition**

<http://www.thestate.com/2013/03/21/2686798/hospital-leaders-set-up-medicare.html>

**6-More than 83% of South Carolinians have health insurance, though high costs of the employer-sponsored, insurance-based model increasingly threatens access**

"One of the causes for the increase of uninsured people in South Carolina in recent years is the decrease in employer-based coverage"

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/article/20130324/OPINION/303240008/Guest-column-S-C-will-show-its-integrity-Medicare-debate?odyssey=mod|newswell|text|Opinion|s>

**7-SC panel approves bill opposing ACA**

<http://m.wbtv.com/autojuice?targetUrl=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.wbtv.com%2Fstory%2F21731481%2Fsc-panel-approves-bill-opposing-federal-law>

**8-Health care among sectors predicted to fuel SC employment growth**

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/proart/20130324/business/303240016/south-carolina-jobs-expected-increase?sf10809451=1&pagerestricted=1>

**9-SC Medicaid agency holding public forums to identify regs harmful to businesses, employers**

<https://www.scdhhs.gov/press-release/medicare-agency-hold-public-forums>

**10-Greenville Health Board Chair: National debt threatens country, health care system sustainability**

"The effects will run through every facet of everyday life — including access to, and the cost of, our health care"

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=2013303240009>

**11-SC lawmakers turn to technology to solve SC health problems**

<http://www.thestate.com/2013/03/21/2685961/technology-to-solve-sc-health.html>

## **12-MUSC reaching out to keep rural residents healthy**

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20130325/PC1002/130329615/1021/musc-x2019-s-long-distance-checkup>

## **13-White House encouraging states to increase overall costs through Medicaid premium subsidy expansion option, Arkansas style**

“private insurance will often be more costly than Medicaid ... higher federal costs would fuel demands in Congress for cutbacks in Medicaid”

[http://www.nytimes.com/2013/03/22/us/politics/states-urged-to-expand-medicaid-with-private-insurance.html?emc=tnt&tntemail0=y&\\_r=1&](http://www.nytimes.com/2013/03/22/us/politics/states-urged-to-expand-medicaid-with-private-insurance.html?emc=tnt&tntemail0=y&_r=1&)

## **14-Sebelius: GOP governors will eventually expand Medicaid**

<http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/politics/2013/03/21/health-care-law-third-anniversary-medicaid-expansion-sebelius/2006485/>

... waking up from the dream ...

## **15-Tight deadlines, lagging funds, economic realities force ACA hedging**

“this week the administration cautioned officials to be careful about suggesting that the law would drive down costs”

[http://www.nytimes.com/2013/03/23/us/politics/deadlines-and-lagging-funds-bedevil-obama-health-care-law.html?nl=todaysheadlines&emc=edit\\_th\\_20130323](http://www.nytimes.com/2013/03/23/us/politics/deadlines-and-lagging-funds-bedevil-obama-health-care-law.html?nl=todaysheadlines&emc=edit_th_20130323)

... expensive mandates for businesses ...

## **16-ACA turns three years old; small businesses say it's one expensive toddler**

“59 percent of small business owners think that health-care costs will go up in the next few years, and one-third say that the employer mandate will affect their plans to hire new employees”

<http://smallbusiness.foxbusiness.com/finance-accounting/2013/03/22/obamacare-at-age-three-still-baffling-smbs/>

... eroding funding sources ...

## **17-ACA's medical device tax may get repealed**

<http://www.foxnews.com/politics/2013/03/22/bi-partisan-push-to-repeal-medical-device-tax-gaining-traction-in-senate/?test=latestnews>

... health care stimulus, minus reform ...

## **18-Nation's hospitals to gain \$300B, a 23% increase, if all states adopt ACA's Medicaid expansion**

<http://www.beckershospitalreview.com/racs-/-icd-9-/-icd-10/medicaid-expansion-for-all-states-would-pay-hospitals-2939b-more-by-2022.htm>

## **19-Federalism at work: States to negotiate toward more focused ACA solutions**

"We don't want to do it the Washington way. We want to do it the Florida way"

<http://www.thestate.com/2013/03/24/2691896/gops-no-on-medicaid-becomes-lets.html>

## **20-States balk at enforcing health law's insurance mandates**

“policy experts note they have little experience enforcing health insurance laws and few resources in states to do it”

<http://capsules.kaiserhealthnews.org/index.php/2013/03/some-states-balk-at-enforcing-health-laws-insurance-protections/>

## **21-How the fifty nifty United States can control costs and work toward targeted health solutions instead of adopting an expensive, one-size-fits-all strategy**

“Collectively, states can shield all employers and at least 12 million taxpayers from the law's new taxes, and still reduce federal deficits by \$1.7 trillion, simply by refusing to establish Exchanges or expand Medicaid”

<http://www.cato.org/publications/white-paper/50-vetoes-how-states-can-stop-obama-health-care-law>

## **22-Indiana governor wants Healthy Indiana Plan instead of straight Medicaid expansion**

[http://www.northjersey.com/news/health/199218261\\_Healthy\\_Indiana\\_Plan\\_gets\\_mixed\\_reviews\\_at\\_hearing.html](http://www.northjersey.com/news/health/199218261_Healthy_Indiana_Plan_gets_mixed_reviews_at_hearing.html)

## **23-Maine to expand Medicaid if HHS gives 10-years' 100% FMAP, plus more flexibility**

<http://www.forbes.com/sites/aroy/2013/03/21/maine-to-hhs-10-years-of-100-medicaid-certainty-a-global-waiver-please/>

**24-Florida plan would take Medicaid expansion with increased cost sharing requirements**

<http://www.miamiherald.com/2013/03/21/3299185/senate-republicans-pitch-medicaid.html>

**25-Michigan legislature not supporting Medicaid expansion**

<http://detroit.cbslocal.com/2013/03/24/medicaid-expansion-in-trouble-in-mich-legislature/>

**26-North Carolina governor: Medicaid is too expensive already**

<http://www.wral.com/mccrory-s-budget-likely-to-target-education-medicaid/12242964/>

**27-Wisconsin governor: Don't expand Medicaid, get current program under control first**

[http://www.necn.com/03/20/13/Democrats-speak-out-against-Wis-Medicaid/landing\\_health.html?&apID=682ac7232f1b4144a1e99e80ae780506](http://www.necn.com/03/20/13/Democrats-speak-out-against-Wis-Medicaid/landing_health.html?&apID=682ac7232f1b4144a1e99e80ae780506)

**28-Texas considers Medicaid block grant vs. expansion**

<http://www.texastribune.org/2013/03/20/group-presents-plan-reform-medicaid-block-grant/>

**29-Kansas leaders consider state-based approach to addressing health issues, vs. permanent Medicaid expansion**

“The public needs to understand that core spending stems from bad habits -- smoking, poor nutrition or not wearing a seat belt”

<http://medcitynews.com/2013/03/kansas-legislators-mull-no-medicaid-expansion-and-a-hospital-pushes-back/>

**30-Arkansas defends Medicaid expansion plan, via insurance exchanges, as cost neutral**

<http://www.forbes.com/sites/aroy/2013/03/19/arkansas-replacing-medicaid-expansion-with-obamacares-exchanges-could-require-no-additional-federal-costs-at-all/>

**31-Iowa senate to vote on Medicaid expansion**

<http://www.sfgate.com/news/article/Iowa-Senate-to-vote-on-Medicaid-expansion-4381545.php>

**32-Idaho to wait on Medicaid expansion debate until next year**

<http://www.kboi2.com/news/local/Lawmakers-wont-be-tackling-Medicaid-in-2013-session-199618951.html>

**33-Missouri GOP not keen on Medicaid expansion**

<http://www.kansascity.com/2013/03/21/4135572/medicaid-expansion-is-still-a.html>

**34-Arizona GOP split on Medicaid expansion**

<http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2013/03/24/arizona-gop-split-medicaid-expansion/2015755/>

**35-New Hampshire House keeps Medicaid expansion on the table**

<http://www.seacoastonline.com/articles/20130321-NEWS-303210412>

**36-... ditto Tennessee governor**

[http://www.bizjournals.com/memphis/blog/morning\\_call/2013/03/haslam-opposes-ban-on-medicaid-expansion.html](http://www.bizjournals.com/memphis/blog/morning_call/2013/03/haslam-opposes-ban-on-medicaid-expansion.html)

**37-Montana Medicaid expansion likely not happening**

[http://helenair.com/news/legislature/medicaid-expansion-bills-stall-out-in-committee/article\\_99ab6714-91b5-11e2-9f7d-0019bb2963f4.html](http://helenair.com/news/legislature/medicaid-expansion-bills-stall-out-in-committee/article_99ab6714-91b5-11e2-9f7d-0019bb2963f4.html)

**38-Democrats in Mississippi want to expand Medicaid ...**

<http://www.jacksonfreepress.com/news/2013/mar/19/medicaid-status-could-affect-state-finances/>

**39-... even though Mississippi Medicaid is about to expire**

[http://www.hattiesburgamerican.com/article/20130319/NEWS01/303190013/Medicaid-top-agenda?nclick\\_check=1](http://www.hattiesburgamerican.com/article/20130319/NEWS01/303190013/Medicaid-top-agenda?nclick_check=1)

#### **40-Alabama considering Medicaid overhaul**

[http://www.montgomeryadvertiser.com/article/20130320/NEWS02/303190022/Medicaid-proposal-gets-cautious-reaction?nclick\\_check=1](http://www.montgomeryadvertiser.com/article/20130320/NEWS02/303190022/Medicaid-proposal-gets-cautious-reaction?nclick_check=1)

#### **41-Federal audit into New York Medicaid billing casts shadow on state budget**

<http://news.yahoo.com/analysis-medicare-dispute-casts-doubt-over-yorks-budget-185059418.html>

#### **42-SCOTUS says NC overreached when it seized Medicaid money**

<http://www.charlotteobserver.com/2013/03/22/3933512/n-c-overreached-when-it-seized.html>

#### **43-Alzheimer's among seniors: 1 in 3**

[http://health.clevelandclinic.org/2013/03/one-third-of-seniors-die-with-alzheimers-disease/?utm\\_campaign=cc+tweets&utm\\_medium=social&utm\\_source=twitter&utm\\_content=130320+seniors+Alzheimers&dynid=twitter-\\_-cc+tweets-\\_-social-\\_-social-\\_-130320+seniors+Alzheimers](http://health.clevelandclinic.org/2013/03/one-third-of-seniors-die-with-alzheimers-disease/?utm_campaign=cc+tweets&utm_medium=social&utm_source=twitter&utm_content=130320+seniors+Alzheimers&dynid=twitter-_-cc+tweets-_-social-_-social-_-130320+seniors+Alzheimers)

#### **44-Kids with autism: 1 in 50**

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/03/21/us-usa-autism-idUSBRE92K00C20130321>

... you've often wondered but were too embarrassed to ask and admit that you didn't know ...

#### **How does the United Arab Emirates handle the health care marketplace?**

"UAE is a typical hybrid public-private insurance model. By regulation, UAE nationals and citizens of other GCC countries receive free inpatient and outpatient healthcare at government hospitals and clinics, fully funded by the state. However, UAE nationals can also opt to purchase private medical insurance coverage through state-subsidized premiums"

<http://www.healthcarenetwork.com/?p=6663>

... you've often wondered but were too embarrassed to ask and admit that you didn't know, pt. II ...

#### **How do international medical graduates affect the American medical delivery system?**

<http://www.ama-assn.org/resources/doc/img/international-medical-graduates-in-american-medicine.pdf>

... hang him! ...

#### **Punxsutawney Phil the famous groundhog indicted over errant early spring forecast**

"you try discerning your shadow amidst the throngs, through thick fur, and the lingering haze of post-day parties"

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/article/20130324/LIFE/130322013/Video-Punxsutawney-Phil-indicted-over-early-spring-forecast>

Bryan Kost  
Deputy Chief of Staff  
SCDHHS  
803.429.3201 - cell  
803.898.2865 - desk

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