



## News from Congress:

**03/26/2019** – The Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP) Committee [held a hearing](#) regarding the 21st Century Cures Act, as well as a proposed rule by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) and the Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology that would require [patient's access to their electronic health](#) information be available at no cost. There have been concerns from community stakeholders that the 60 days for the proposed rule needs to be extended to ensure a secure transition to sharing this type of information and to test the new systems that would be required for them.

**03/27/2019** – The House Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Health released several bills in a [package](#) to address different parts of the Affordable Care Act and changes made by the administration to different state health insurance offerings. This includes [legislation to](#): expand ACA subsidies for both patient premiums and out-of-pocket expenses, provide funding to states to set up state run insurance marketplaces, and reserve the administration's expanding flexibility for short-term, limited duration insurance plans among others.

## From the Administration:

**03/25/2019** – Last week the Department of Justice [reversed its decision](#) in a filing to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth

Circuit regarding the constitutionality of ACA. [Read more](#) about the DOJ's recent filing.

**04/27/2019** – DOJ and the Drug Enforcement Administration are organizing a National Drug Take Back Day on April 27. [Learn more](#) about collection sights near you.

## From the States:

**03/25/2019** – New Jersey Governor Phil Murphy announced a plan to switch New Jersey's [federal health insurance exchange to a state-based exchange](#). New Jersey and other states have started to look at making the switch to have more flexibility in enrollment periods, more control over health insurance plans provided, and the ability to provide additional assistance for individuals enrolling in the marketplace.

**03/29/2019** – CMS has approved Utah's Medicaid expansion request. The plan, which is different than the [initiative passed last year by Utah voters](#), will expand eligibility up to 100% of poverty instead of the 138% that is under the ACA's Medicaid expansion requirements and will cap enrollment if expansion costs grow too high. The approved legislation has Utah paying for the expanded coverage but the state plans to submit another request to get enhanced federal funding and not pick up all costs on their own.

# Funding Announcements:

**04/22/2019** – Funding applications for The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's (SAMSHA) [Minority AIDS Initiative](#)—Substance Use Disorder Treatment for Racial/Ethnic Minority Populations at High Risk for HIV/AIDS—are due April 22, 2019.

**03/06/2019** – Funding applications for SAMSHA's [First Responders-Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act](#) to provide training and resources for opioid reversal drugs are due May 6, 2019.

## Spotlight On:

**03/04/2019** – NCSL's Human Services Program published a comprehensive report on "[Early Care and Education 2018 State Legislative Action Report](#)."

**04/01/2019** – NCSL's Health Program recently published two LegisBriefs on "[Value-Based to Address Drug Costs](#)" and "[Counteracting Surprise Medical Billing](#)."

**04/01/2019** – Registration for NCSL's 2019 Legislative Summit in Nashville, Tenn. is now open! [Register](#) now and check out the [Health and Human Services Track](#).

**For more information on NCSL's Health and Human Services Standing Committee State-Federal Affairs activities, please visit [our website](#), or email [Haley Nicholson](#) or [Margaret Wile](#).**