



## Improving Health System Performance: Professional Legislative Staff Seminar

### Suggested Resources

#### Welcome: “A High Performing Health Care System.”

**The Health Innovations Database** – NCSL’s one-of-a-kind database covers what state legislatures are enacting that changes Medicaid, private and commercial health insurance, access, health exchanges and other state action on health reforms. NCSL identifies **more than 1,000 recently enacted laws** and resolutions from 2015-18. [www.ncsl.org/default.aspx?tabid=28925](http://www.ncsl.org/default.aspx?tabid=28925)

#### State Health System Performance: What We Know and Why It Matters

**“2018 Scorecard on State Health System Performance.”** *The Commonwealth Fund* by David C. Radley, Douglas McCarthy, and Susan L. Hayes. May 3, 2018. <https://www.commonwealthfund.org/publications/fund-reports/2018/may/2018-scorecard-state-health-system-performance>.

#### Medicaid: Innovations in Coverage, Delivery and Financing

##### NCSL Resources

**Ten Strategies for Improving Medicaid** – NCSL report on a wide array of strategies that state Medicaid programs are adopting to reduce spending, improve care outcomes and quality, and provide states with a return on their health investments. <http://www.ncsl.org/research/health/10-state-strategies-for-improving-medicaid.aspx>

**Medicaid** – NCSL Medicaid resource page. <http://www.ncsl.org/research/health/medicaid-home-page.aspx>

#### Addressing the High Cost of Complex, Chronic Conditions

##### NCSL Resources

**“Targeting High-Need, High-Cost Patients Can Save Money.”** Half of medical expenditures in the U.S. can be attributed to about 5 percent of the nation’s patients—those with high health care needs. *NCSL (blog)* by Richard Cauchi. December 19, 2017. <http://www.ncsl.org/blog/2016/12/19/targeting-high-need-high-cost-patients-can-save-money.aspx>

**“Prescription for America’s Opioid Addiction.”** NCSL deep dive report. <http://www.ncsl.org/bookstore/state-legislatures-magazine/opioid-deep-dive-state-policy-updates.aspx>

##### Related Expert Sources & Opinions

**“The Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act 10th Anniversary.”** Learn more about parity progress and areas for improvement through the resources at this website. You will also find state report cards evaluating state mental health and addiction parity statutes. <https://www.paritytrack.org/mhpaea-10th-anniversary/>

**“Pain in the Nation: The Drug, Alcohol and Suicide Crises and the Need for a National Resilience Strategy.”** This report examines current trends and evidence-based and expert-recommended policies, practices and programs to take a more comprehensive approach to counter these crises. *Trust for America’s Health and Well Being Trust* by Segal, Miller et al. November 2017. <http://www.paininthenation.org/assets/pdfs/TFAH-2017-PainNationRpt.pdf>

## Exploring Strategies to Fix the Private Health Insurance Market

### NCSL Resources

**Health Exchanges or Marketplaces: State Actions to Address Health Insurance Exchanges** – NCSL report on state activities. Updated October 2018. [www.ncsl.org/default.aspx?tabid=21388](http://www.ncsl.org/default.aspx?tabid=21388)

**Health Insurance: Premiums and Increases** – Read a comparison of individual and family premiums. Data is disseminated nationally and by state. Compiled by NCSL staff. Updated October 2018. [www.ncsl.org/Default.aspx?tabid=14514](http://www.ncsl.org/Default.aspx?tabid=14514)

**Section 1332 Waivers** – NCSL report on state roles and legislation for 2015-2018 shows 35 states with filed bills and 19 states with signed laws, but only four states with fully approved or operational waivers. Updated September 2018. <http://www.ncsl.org/default.aspx?tabid=30219>

**“Insuring the Health Insurers – Reinsurance Explained.”** Some states have begun to expand use of the complex mechanism of reinsurance to help fortify their exchanges and health insurance markets. *NCSL (blog)* by Colleen Becker. May 7, 2018. <http://www.ncsl.org/blog/2018/05/07/insuring-the-health-insurers-reinsurance-explained.aspx>

**“Association Health Plans: Pre-Empting States for 2018?”** The Trump administration has issued details through proposed rules. *NCSL (blog)* by Colleen Becker and Richard Cauchi. March 1, 2018. <http://www.ncsl.org/blog/2018/03/01/association-health-plans-pre-empting-states-for-2018.aspx>

### Related Expert Sources & Opinions

#### **Interactive: What Is Your State Doing to Affect Access to Adequate Health Insurance?**

<https://www.commonwealthfund.org/publications/interactive/2018/sep/what-your-state-doing-affect-access-adequate-health-insurance>.

**“Lawsuit Threatens Affordable Care Act Preexisting Condition Protections But Impact Will Depend on Where You Live,”** *To the Point (blog)*, *The Commonwealth Fund* by Sabrina Corlette, Maanasa Kona, and Justin Giovannelli. Aug. 29, 2018. Available at: <https://www.commonwealthfund.org/blog/2018/lawsuit-ACA-preexisting-condition-protections-where-you-live>.

#### **Fact-Checking the President: Has He Saved or Sabotaged Obamacare?**

“Even as President Trump boasts that he has ‘eliminated the core of Obamacare,’ his health secretary is taking credit for making the law work better than ever. What gives? Alex M. Azar II, the secretary of health and human services, says the president’s actions tell the real story. *New York Times* by Robert Pear, October 6, 2018. <https://www.nytimes.com/2018/10/06/us/politics/obamacare-trump-fact-check.html>

**"Trump Administration Court Filing Threatens Coverage for Preexisting Conditions,"** *To the Point (blog), The Commonwealth Fund* by Timothy Stoltzfus Jost, June 8, 2018. <https://www.commonwealthfund.org/blog/2018/trump-administration-court-filing-threatens-coverage-preexisting-conditions>.

**"How Would State-Based Individual Mandates Affect Health Insurance Coverage and Premium Costs?"** *The Commonwealth Fund* by Linda J. Blumberg, Matthew Buettgens, and John Holahan, July 2018. <https://www.commonwealthfund.org/publications/fund-reports/2018/jul/state-based-individual-mandate>.

**"Premium Tax Credits Are the Individual Market's Stabilizing Force,"** *To the Point (blog), The Commonwealth Fund* by Sara R. Collins and Munira Z. Gunja Aug. 15, 2018. <https://www.commonwealthfund.org/blog/2018/premium-tax-credits-are-individual-markets-stabilizing-force>.

## Prescription Drugs: What Can States Do?

### NCSL Resources

**Prescription Drug Legislation Database** - This NCSL resource allows policymakers to view **more than 3,600 filed bills** and resolutions. It also highlights **700 signed laws** according to specific topics such as pharmaceutical patient access and affordability, specialty pharmaceuticals, compounding pharmacy regulation, Medicaid and health insurance coverage and reimbursement, and the right-to-try investigational drugs for the terminally ill.

<http://www.ncsl.org/research/health/prescription-drug-statenet-database.aspx>

**"Recent Approaches and Innovations in State Prescription Drug Laws."** This NCSL report describes laws from Arizona, California, Connecticut, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Nevada, New York, Oregon, Tennessee and Vermont. <http://www.ncsl.org/research/health/rx-costs.aspx>

**"State Remedies for Costly Prescription Drugs."** Physicians and other prescribers write at least 4.45 billion prescriptions per year in the United States. While these medications improve patients' quality of life and even save them, some policymakers are concerned about the costs of certain drugs. *NCSL LegisBrief* by Richard Cauchi. August 2018.

[http://www.ncsl.org/Portals/1/Documents/legisbriefs/2018/August/prescriptionDrugs\\_Aug2018\\_29\\_v07.pdf](http://www.ncsl.org/Portals/1/Documents/legisbriefs/2018/August/prescriptionDrugs_Aug2018_29_v07.pdf)

**"Prohibiting PBM 'Gag Clauses' that Restrict Pharmacists from Disclosing Price Options: Recent State Legislation 2016-2018."** NCSL report on 'gag clause' prohibitions in contracts restricting pharmacists' ability to disclose lowest out-of-pocket clauses to patients. Updated August 2018.

[http://www.ncsl.org/Portals/1/Documents/Health/Pharmacist\\_Gag\\_clauses-2018-14523.pdf](http://www.ncsl.org/Portals/1/Documents/Health/Pharmacist_Gag_clauses-2018-14523.pdf)

**"Prescription Drugs Costs – Standing Front and Center."** Analysis of the administration's "America's Patients First" blueprint which looks at ways to increase affordable prescription drug access for all Americans. *NCSL (blog)* by Haley Nicholson. July 2, 2018. <http://www.ncsl.org/blog/2018/07/02/prescription-drug-costs-standing-front-and-center.aspx>

### Related Expert Sources & Opinions

**"Public Health Crises and Pharmaceutical Interventions: Improving Access While Ensuring Fiscal Sustainability."** *The National Governors Association* by Kate Johnson, Sandra Wilkniss, and Hemi Tewarson. August 2018.

<https://www.nga.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/Public-Health-Crises-and-Pharmaceutical-Interventions.pdf>

**"America's Patients First."** *The Trump Administration Blueprint to Lower Drug Prices and Reduce Out-of-Pocket Costs*. May 2018. <https://www.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/AmericanPatientsFirst.pdf>