



## HSA Update



Volume 5: August 4, 2010

*Welcome to the HSA Update, keeping you up-to-date on the Health Savings Account marketplace with bi-weekly analysis and review of public policy, market innovations, and technology advances in the HSA arena.*

### ■ **Fidelity Investment: Employers Embrace HDHPs**

Fidelity Investments® released the results from a survey it conducted of employers to determine how health care reform has impacted employers' approach to benefit strategies. The survey was conducted from June 10 -30 and covered 459 employers of various sizes.

#### **Key Findings:**

- 55% of large employers chose HDHP as the “most attractive” plan design going forward.
- 49% of small employers expect “significant Increases” in health care costs because of reform, while only 25% of large employers anticipate a significant increase.
- 20% of employers are considering no longer offering health care benefits.

[Learn more about this survey.](#)

### ■ **Rep. Paulsen Introduces Patients Freedom to Choose Act**

Representative Eric Paulsen's (R-MN) Patients Freedom to Choose Act would repeal two provisions of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA) that directly impact HSAs and FSAs.

Under the PPACA, beginning on January 1, 2011, individuals would no longer be able to use their HSAs and FSAs to purchase over the counter drugs and starting in 2013, FSA contributions would be limited to \$2,500. Both of these provisions would be repealed under the Patients Freedom to Choose Act.

Republican Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison (TX) has introduced companion legislation in the Senate.

[Read Rep. Paulsen's statement.](#)

### ■ **Missouri Votes to Block Fed Mandate to Purchase Health Insurance**

A key provision of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA) requires people to have health insurance or pay fines by 2014.

Last night, Missouri voters approved a proposition, The Missouri Health Care Freedom, Proposition C, which blocks the federal government from requiring people to purchase health insurance and banned the government from punishing those that do not purchase health insurance.

Prior to being placed on the August 3 ballot, the proposal passed in the Missouri House and Senate with bi-partisan support.

The proposition is modeled after the American Legislative Exchange Council's (ALEC) Freedom of Choice in Health Care Act, which has now been introduced or announced in 42 states.

ALEC's Freedom of Choice in Health Care Act has been enacted in statute form by Virginia, Idaho, Arizona, Georgia, and Louisiana, and constitutional amendments will appear on the November ballot in

Oklahoma, Arizona, and Florida. Active citizen initiatives are also underway in Colorado and Mississippi.

[View a map of states with ALEC legislation.](#)

#### ■ **ABA Schedules Series of Telephone Briefings on Regulatory Reform**

ABA is hosting a series of telephone briefings aimed at helping bankers understand the major changes included in the Dodd-Frank regulatory reform bill (H.R. 4173). The first five briefings will examine broad issues that will affect the industry:

- "Safety and Soundness Regulations: What Will They Mean for Bank Capital, Liquidity, Deposit Insurance -- and Investors?" -- Thursday, July 22
- "Consumer Requirements: How Will They Impact Banks" -- Friday, July 23
- "Savings Associations, Thrift Holding Companies and Mutual Banks: Who Regulates and When?" -- Monday, July 26
- "Bank Activities: Changes in the Rules and Who Writes Them" -- Tuesday, July 27
- "Impact on Housing Finance" -- Wednesday, July 28

A second series, which will begin in August, will focus on more targeted areas, including:

- "The Impact on Wealth Management and Institutional Trust" -- Wednesday, August 11
- "Systemic Regulation: What Will Change and Who Will Be Impacted" -- Wednesday, August 18

Each briefing will run from 2 to 4 p.m. EDT. Discounts are available for those who purchase multiple briefings. [Read more or register.](#) For more information on the reform bill, including an in-depth summary, visit [www.aba.com/RegReform](http://www.aba.com/RegReform).

## **HSA Council members receive a 20% discount off sponsorships and attendee fees for the CDHC Solutions Forum**

Not an HSA Council member? Learn how membership can help you expand you HSA business. To find out more about membership benefits, please contact [Renee Galbraith](#).

Current HSA Council members, please contact [Renee Galbraith](#) for your discount code.

The HSA Council offers several membership levels, one of which is sure to meet the needs of your company. Take advantage of this opportunity to join the leading voice in Washington committed to educating Congress and protecting and expanding the use of HSAs!

 <b>FORUM</b> A single day of Innovative Health & Benefits Management Conference Produced by CDHC Solutions and EmployersWeb.com		
<a href="#">Register</a>	<a href="#">Agenda</a>	<a href="#">Speakers</a>
Change is coming with this year's Health Care Law and you need to be ready for it. Find out what the experts are saying about how these changes will affect you, your company and the bottom line.		
<b>Scheduled Speakers</b>  <b>Ron Bachman</b> Sr. Fellow Center for Health Transformation		

Scheduled speakers include the #1 health care compliance attorney in the U.S., the former Health Care Advisor to both President Bush and Vice President Cheney and CIGNA's expert on Health Care Consumerism.

With health care being the biggest expenditure for many businesses today, you cannot afford to miss this innovative Health & Benefits Management Conference.

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HSA Update is edited by Kevin McKechnie, ABIA executive director, and Renee Galbraith, health policy manager. Please visit our Web site for daily news updates, in-depth legislative analysis, and resources for implementing HSAs. [www.hsacouncil.com](http://www.hsacouncil.com)

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