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Week in Review

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As a service to the clients and friends of Governmental Policy Group, Inc. and RH Resources we would like to extend the following weekly update of events happening around Capitol Square.

ADDICTION/SUBSTANCE ABUSE

Gov. John Kasich's administration is hesitating to declare an emergency following the recent announcement that President Donald Trump's administration has begun taking steps to declare the opioid epidemic a national emergency. Kasich's Press Secretary Jon Keeling indicated that until more details are made clear, declaring an emergency is not a substantive gesture.

AFFORDABLE CARE ACT

A recent report issued by the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) and the Joint Committee on Taxation (JCT) suggests that if the Trump administration eliminates health insurance cost-sharing reductions (CSRs) put in place by the Affordable Care Act (ACA), the change would spark an increase of premium tax credits, resulting in relatively stable net premiums for enrollees and a projected \$194 billion federal deficit increase over the next 10 years. However, gross premiums (calculated before the tax credit) would rise 20 percent on average according to the CBO, which

could spell trouble for consumers who have to front that cost and for insurers who may leave the ACA marketplace.

ATTORNEY GENERAL

Ohio Attorney General Mike DeWine announced that Ohio has agreed in principle to join the United States and other states to settle allegations against Mylan Inc. and its wholly-owned subsidiary, Mylan Specialty L.P. The settlement will resolve allegations that Mylan knowingly underpaid rebates owed to the Medicaid program for the drugs EpiPen and EpiPen Jr. dispensed to Medicaid beneficiaries. As part of the settlement, Ohio will receive \$19.6 million in restitution and other recovery.

BALLOT ISSUES

The Ohio Ballot Board unanimously adopted the ballot language for both issues on the November ballot after proponents and opponents of Issue 2 held talks and agreed to how voters will see the Drug Price Relief Act on the November ballot. Secretary of State Jon Husted, who chairs the ballot board, said his office brought both sides of Issue 2 together for mediation to work out the ballot language, the first time both sides of a contentious ballot issue agreed in advance to do so since the ballot board was formed.

FY18-19 BUDGET

Ohioans will likely be getting letters in the mail next year allowing them to request an absentee ballot for the 2018 gubernatorial election after the General Assembly retained language in the final version of the budget, HB 49 (R. Smith), the biennial budget, that allows the secretary of state's office to go through the Controlling Board to send the requests. Budget language also limited it to the November 2018 general election.

BUSINESS/CORPORATE

Facebook announced Tuesday that it will be building a new data center in the New Albany International Business Park, part of a \$750 million capital investment that the head of JobsOhio called the second largest in the state since the private economic development arm of the state was formed.

EDUCATION

The State Board of Education's Executive Committee convened briefly Wednesday morning to consider performance evaluations submitted by board members of State Superintendent Paolo DeMaria and voted to recommend he receive a standard compensation raise and a bonus for his work. If approved by the full board at its September meeting, DeMaria will receive a 2.5 percent raise, the standard raise rate for the Department of Education, bringing his annual salary to \$184,496, alongside a \$20,000 bonus.

New bipartisan legislation introduced this week would define a school resource officer in the Ohio Revised Code, as well as their qualifications and responsibilities. HB 318 (Patterson-LaTourette) has its roots in the 2012 Chardon High School shooting, where T.J. Lane killed three of his former

classmates. Rep. John Patterson (D-Jefferson) said Frank Hall, a coach at the school, helped save lives by chasing Lane out of the school. Since then, Hall has created the Coach Hall Foundation, which has advocated for the use of school resource officers, law enforcement officers who perform a number of duties at schools, in every school in Ohio.

Rick Teeters, the superintendent of the Electronic Classroom of Tomorrow (ECOT), will resign next month, according to the *Columbus Dispatch*. Teeters is leaving ECOT to spend more time with his family, a spokesman told the newspaper.

ELECTIONS 2018

Nan Whaley's gubernatorial bid received the endorsement of two Columbus City Council members Thursday at a news conference when Liz Brown and Jaiza Page praised her work as mayor of Dayton.

The following endorsements were made over the week:

- The Ohio Academy of Family Physicians endorsed Issue 2, the Drug Price Relief Act.
- U.S. Rep. Tim Ryan (D-Niles) endorsed Kathleen Clyde for secretary of state.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY/STATEHOUSE

Ohio Senate President Larry Obhof (R-Medina) said he anticipates "a few" budget override votes will be held during the Senate's Tuesday session while others may come back in September. "Some of them, if they need to be aired out more or we think there's room for compromise with the administration in a different way, we might hold a few for September," Obhof said.

The House Speaker's Task Force on Education and Poverty hosted two presentations at its meeting Thursday where members learned about the interaction between health policy and education, as well as how communities of different socioeconomic backgrounds can engage to fight poverty. Task force members were joined by Amy Bush Stevens and Becky Carroll from the Health Policy Institute of Ohio (HPIO) in addition to Philip DeVol, author and developer of the Bridges Out of Poverty community program.

GOVERNOR

Appointments made during the week include the following:

- John W. "Jack" Hershey of Upper Arlington (Franklin County) to the Midwestern Higher Education Compact Commission for a term beginning Aug. 11, 2017, and ending Jan. 8, 2021.
- Stephanie Davidson, Ph.D. of Columbus (Franklin County) to the Midwestern Higher Education Compact Commission for a term beginning Aug. 11, 2017, and continuing at the pleasure of the governor.
- Lawrence B. Mixon, Ph.D. of Columbus (Franklin County) reappointed to the Wildlife Council for a term beginning Aug. 11, 2017, and ending Jan. 31, 2021.
- John Anthony Richard DeMarco of Avon (Lorain County) to serve as a student member on the Cleveland State University Board of Trustees for a term beginning Aug. 11, 2017, and ending May 1, 2019.

- Nicholas R. Pottmeyer of Marietta (Washington County) to the Technical Advisory Council on Oil and Gas for a term beginning Aug. 14, 2017, and ending Jan. 31, 2020.
- Sarah B. Spence of Columbus (Franklin County) to the Public Benefits Advisory Board for a term beginning Aug. 14, 2017, and ending June 30, 2019.
- Lisa Zimmerman of Marysville (Union County) to the Commercial Dog Breeding Advisory Board for a term beginning Aug. 14, 2017, and ending May 12, 2019.
- Molly Katz, M.D. of Cincinnati (Hamilton County) and Simrit K. Bhullar, D.O., FCCP of Dublin (Union County) reappointed to the Medical Quality Foundation Board for terms beginning Aug. 15, 2017, and ending July 20, 2019.
- Richard A. Fankhauser, M.D. of Columbus (Franklin County) and Brian Kaminski, D.O. of Bowling Green (Wood County) reappointed to the Medical Quality Foundation Board for terms beginning Aug. 15, 2017, and ending July 20, 2020.
- Paul C. Hicks of Columbus (Franklin County) to the Medical Quality Foundation Board for a term beginning Aug. 15, 2017, and ending July 20, 2019.
- Catherine A. Cunningham of Hilliard (Franklin County) and Dennis B. Brommer of Akron (Summit County) to the Ohio Elections Commission for terms beginning Aug. 16, 2017, and ending Dec. 31, 2021.
- Sandra Oxley of Pickerington (Fairfield County) to the Early Childhood Advisory Council for a term beginning Aug. 16, 2017, and continuing at the pleasure of the governor.
- Robert A. Montagnese of Pataskala (Licking County) to the Medical Quality Foundation for a term beginning Aug. 16, 2017, and ending July 20, 2019.

NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF STATE LEGISLATURES (NCSL)

The opioid epidemic has become "by far and away the greatest health crisis that we've had since the height of the AIDS epidemic," Michael Botticelli, of the Grayken Center for Addiction Medicine in Massachusetts, told lawmakers gathered for the NCSL Legislative Summit in Boston. The Centers for Disease Control says overdoses in 2015 surpassed car accidents as the No. 1 unintentional killer in the U.S. "Accidental poisoning," the category into which overdoses fall, has jumped 78 percent in the past decade and, in 2015, poisoning claimed 42,000 people, 6,000 more than car crashes.

Nadine Burke Harris, a pediatrician and CEO/founder of the Center for Youth Wellness, speaking at NCSL described an "ah hah" moment when dealing with a young girl's asthma at her children's health clinic in San Francisco. She explained that she had tried everything to get it under control. Asking the mother if she had noticed any triggers, Burke Harris said the mother commented that the asthma always seemed to get worse every time her dad punched a hole in the wall. She said this and other examples in the clinic led her to explore the effect of "adverse childhood experiences" or ACEs which they have found, "without intervention," can result in a 20-year difference in life expectancy. "ACEs ... [are] a public health crisis hidden in plain sight."

How to best promote sustainable use of our water resources was discussed by a panel at NCSL. Panelist Peter Gleick, co-founder and president emeritus of the Pacific Institute, said the history of water in the U.S. has been one of development and building. It is also one of pollution, waterborne disease, underinvestment and questionable management. Climate change now poses additional uncertainty and challenges. Waterborne disease has for the most part been addressed through central water treatment, but pollution continues to increase.

Rohit Prasad of Amazon told attendees at NCSL's "The Future of Artificial Intelligence and Voice Recognition Technology" that the Star Trek computer inspired his company's work on

conversational artificial intelligence (AI). He went on to update the audience on the development of Alexa while Stacey Gray of the Washington, D.C.-based Future of Privacy Forum explored some of the privacy ramifications and the laws that are in place to address concerns.

National and states' efforts to prepare for natural disasters were discussed by a panel at NCSL in Boston last week. Panel members included Anne Stauffer, director for fiscal federalism at the Pew Center on the States, who said that natural disasters are infrequent, episodic and a challenge to fund. She noted that federal funding for disaster mitigation has more than doubled in the past decade, and that Pew continues to seek data on state spending.

PEOPLE

NARAL Pro-Choice Ohio announced the expansion of its field and political operations with the addition of Vashitta Johnson and Kelley Freeman. Johnson, who previously worked in the Ohio Senate, becomes NARAL's first field and political director while Freeman is a new Central and Southern Ohio organizer.

The Ohio Children's Hospital Association (OCHA) announced Thursday it has hired Sarah Kincaid as director of policy and advocacy. She succeeds Carrie Baker, who is now CEO of the Healthcare Collaborative of Greater Columbus.

William Lhota, who served as chairman of the Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation (BWC) Board of Directors under Gov. Ted Strickland and the retired head of the Central Ohio Transit Authority (COTA), died Thursday, Aug. 10 after a battle with pancreatic cancer, according to COTA. He was 77.

WORKERS' COMPENSATION

Terrence Welsh began a new role as the Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation (BWC) chief medical officer on Monday, BWC said. Welsh is the former chief medical advisor for the Ohio Industrial Commission. He specializes in physical medicine and rehabilitation and will oversee all medical components of BWC and direct medical policy in his new role.

LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITY:

SENATE:

No Senate activity to report.

HOUSE:

No House activity to report.