



THE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE

MEMORANDUM

September 6, 2013

To: Members, Subcommittee on Health

From: Majority Committee Staff

Re: Hearing Entitled "PPACA Pulse Check: Part 2"

On Tuesday, September 10, 2013, at 10:15 a.m. in 2322 Rayburn House Office Building, the Subcommittee on Health will hold a hearing entitled "PPACA Pulse Check: Part 2." This hearing will focus on readiness and implementation issues surrounding the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA). The following provides background on the hearing.

I. WITNESSES

Lynn Spellecy
Corporate Counsel
Equifax Workforce Solutions

John Lau
Program Director
Serco

Cheryl Campbell
Senior Vice President
CGI Federal

Michael Finkel
Executive Vice President of Program Delivery
QSSI

Brett Graham
Partner
Leavitt Partners

Edward A. Lenz
Senior Counsel
American Staffing Association
Testifying on behalf of the Employers for Flexibility in Health Care Coalition

Antoinette Kraus
Director
Pennsylvania Health Access Network

II. PPACA Implementation

Open enrollment in the PPACA exchanges begins October 1, 2013, with coverage effective January 1, 2014. PPACA implementation involves multiple government agencies and contractors. Agencies such as the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Internal Revenue Service, Social Security Administration, Department of Homeland Security, and the Office of Personnel Management are involved in implementation of the PPACA exchanges. In addition, HHS has entered into contracts with organizations to assist with the creation and operation of such exchanges. These contractors are assisting with activities such as IT buildup, eligibility verification, developing procedures for the receipt and processing of paper applications, and the creation of a data services hub to route information between agencies, contractors, and exchanges.

As October 1, 2013, approaches, many issues related to readiness, testing, and functionality of exchanges remain. Missed deadlines, delays, and untimely guidance likely will affect areas such as consumer assistance and experience, eligibility accuracy, integration with existing State programs, and interagency coordination.

This uncertainty also extends to provisions of PPACA affecting employers. In July, the Department of Treasury decided to delay enforcement of the law's employer mandate and certain reporting requirements for one year. Although this delay provides greater time for implementation of these provisions, this decision does not eliminate the underlying burden of the law's requirements for certain employers to provide government-approved coverage or pay a penalty. Nor did this delay alter the reporting requirements that employers must eventually meet. PPACA requires certain employers to provide information related to employee names, coverage certifications of minimum essential coverage, waiting periods, premiums, apportioned shares of premium costs, the number of full-time employees, and QHP designations, among other information. Guidance on how these requirements will be fully administered has not yet been made available.

III. STAFF CONTACTS

Should you have any questions regarding the hearing, please contact Paul Edattel, Katie Novaria or Monica Popp at (202) 225-2927.