

CLIENT BULLETIN

Health Care Reform Bill Passed, President Expected to Sign Soon

On Sunday March 21, 2010, the United States House of Representatives passed H.R. 3590, *the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act* that was previously passed by the Senate on December 24, 2009. The *Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act* is expected to be signed into law shortly. In addition, the House also passed a reconciliation bill aimed at tweaking the just passed H.R. 3950. This reconciliation bill is also expected to pass the Senate and be signed into law.

One item of interest in H.R. 3590 is the requirement for group health plans, including multiemployer self-insured plans, to provide coverage for dependents to age 26. This would be effective for Plan Years beginning 6 months after the date the bill is signed into law, or Plan Years beginning on or after about September 23, 2010. Another item of interest is the prohibition on lifetime limits in group health plans and prohibition of the use of restrictive annual limits.

UAS is reviewing the *Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act* along with the reconciliation bill and will follow up in the coming days with an initial analysis of the bill, including the anticipated short and long-term implications to our multi-employer health and welfare clients.

The text of the H.R. 3590 is available by "[clicking here](#)" or at:
http://docs.house.gov/rules/hr4872/111_hr3590_engrossed.pdf.

A summary of the bill prepared by the Congressional Research Service is available by "[clicking here](#)."

The general implantation timeline of the changes is available by "[clicking here](#)" or at: <http://docs.house.gov/energycommerce/TIMELINE.pdf>.

Other helpful summaries, including the reconciliation bill, are available at:
<http://www.speaker.gov/newsroom/legislation?id=0361>.

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