



WEEKLY SESSION UPDATE

March 3, 2017

2017 MNASCA Day on the Hill

On Wednesday, MNASCA had its annual day on the hill. Rep. Tony Albright (R-Prior Lake), Speaker Pro-Tempore and vice-chair of the House Health and Human Services Finance committee, and Sen. Jim Abeler (R-Anoka), chair of the Senate Human Services Reform Policy and Finance Committee, spoke with MNASCA members about the 2017 session. They both thanked the members for visiting and emphasized the importance of reaching out to their legislators on issues that affect ASCs, explaining that it brings valuable insight as to how facilities and the industry would be affected by legislation.

Members then had individual meetings with their legislators, where they discussed MNASCA's priorities, including the repeal of the provider tax, support for legislation for clarification of language to allow ASCs to allow temporary employees (eg. CRNA locum tenens), and worker's compensation payment reform, among other issues. Legislators were also invited to visit the MNASCA member facilities.

If you would like to schedule a time for your local legislators to visit your facility, reach out to Rachel at rstuckey@messerlikramer.com.

HEALTHCARE: via AP's Kyle Potter, **VERBATIM:** "Minnesota officials are bracing for billions of dollars in additional health care expenses if congressional Republicans enact a plan they're discussing to replace the Affordable Care Act, according to a draft document obtained by the Associated Press...The planning document shows that the GOP proposal, a draft of which was circulated last week, would cut \$1.3 billion next year from the state's low-income health care program that covers roughly one-sixth of its 5.5 million residents. By 2021, the losses would accumulate to more than \$5 billion, eventually costing the state \$6 billion a year starting in 2029. That analysis was prepared by the state's Department of Human Services, which runs those programs...It illustrates the uncertainty states across the nation are grappling with over how President Donald Trump and Congress will reshape the health care law championed by President Barack Obama. And it provides one of the first concrete estimates of what the emerging GOP plan would cost a state that expanded Medicaid." **READ:** <http://bit.ly/2miiK0w>

For-profit HMOs face uphill climb

From the MINNEAPOLIS STAR TRIBUNE: Legislators last month struck down Minnesota's 40-year ban on for-profit HMOs, saying the reversal might draw competitors to the state's beleaguered market where individuals buy coverage. The historic move chipped away at the state's long-held reputation as one of the nation's premier homes for nonprofit health care.

<http://www.startribune.com/for-profit-hmos-face-uphill-climb/414822384/>