The Private Duty Source
Issue: November 26, 2021

FEATURE ARTICLE

Build Back Better Passes House of Reps

Here is what it means for NAHC members and their patients

The Build Back Better Act, a signature legislative priority for the Biden administration and its allies in Congress, passed the House of Representatives this morning on a party line vote of 220-213. The legislation now heads to the Senate for consideration.

The Build Back Better Act (BBB) is a roughly $1.7 trillion social spending package that, among other things, creates new Medicare benefits for hearing services and enables the government to negotiate some prescription drug prices to lower the costs that seniors pay for lifesaving medicines such as insulin.

The legislation also contains substantial implications for the future of home and community-based services in the United States, as well as training and development of the direct care workforce.

“Today’s historic vote of support for home care comes at a time when the country needs it more than ever,” said NAHC President William A. Dombi, moments after the vote in the House. “Health care at home is widely recognized as high value, high quality, and highly preferred. From pediatric nursing care to home care aide services for those with multiple chronic illnesses as they age, this legislation will provide improved access to home care. We now look to the Senate to complete the work to protect our families and friends who need this essential care.”
NAHC has analyzed the legislation to see how it will impact our members and the wider home care and hospice community.

TOP STORIES

Administration Begins American Rescue Plan Rural Funding to Support Providers Impacted by Pandemic

Today, Tuesday, November 23, the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), through the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), released the vast majority ($7.5 billion) of the $8.5 billion American Rescue Plan (ARP) Rural payments to providers and suppliers who served rural Medicaid, Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP), and Medicare beneficiaries from January 1, 2019 through September 30, 2020.

Hundreds of home health care and hospice agencies received this funding and we strongly encourage them to attend the stakeholder briefing mentioned below.

Emerging Legal Trends in Home Care & Hospice Part 8: Legal Considerations in Mergers and Acquisitions

- Wednesday, December 1, 2021
- 2:00-3:00pm Eastern

REGISTER FOR WEBINAR
REGISTER FOR SERIES
Description: Should I buy? Should I sell? Should I think about a joint venture? It seems so overwhelming and confusing. This session will walk you through the steps that you need to consider as you think about these issues. This session will provide you with the information that you will need to ensure success with all your transactions.

Information on the Series

NAHC is bringing together the top experts in the industry to examine the most important legal topics in home care and hospice.

READ THE REST @ PD Home Care at NAHC

10 Reasons to be Thankful for Home Care

More people die from chronic disease than from acute disease. What this suggests is that the future will be about the management of chronic disease and not acute illness. The number of people going into hospitals will be fewer and they will spend less time there. What will increase by geometric progressions is the number of people cared for at home.

While sheer demographics and increased life expectancy – perhaps the greatest gift of the 20th and 21st centuries – have and will continue to increase the demand for home care services, our community will grow for other reasons, as well. Those other reasons mostly center around the great work done by home care and hospice workers and the unique services they provide.

So, as we begin this holiday season, here are the top ten reasons to be thankful for home care and hospice.

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Emerging Legal Trends in Home Care & Hospice Part 7: ACA Employer Mandate and Employee Retention Credits

- Tuesday, November 30 2021
The employee retention credit provides financial relief for home health care providers. Eligible businesses can earn up to $33,000 per employee. Determining credit depends on identifying which employees were full-time equivalent and that determination mirrors the Affordable Care Act calculation. The Employee Retention Credit was introduced in 2020 and is a refundable tax credit that provides financial relief to employers impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. The credit was extended through 2021, but the opportunity for employers to regain their losses will not be available for long.

**In this session** we will cover the qualifying criteria your organization needs to satisfy to be eligible and how to qualify for the credit even if you received Paycheck Protection Program funding. We will also discuss best practices for minimizing IRS audit risk for both ERC and ACA, while simultaneously maximizing credits for your organization.

Did You Miss the NAHC Webinar on Mandatory Vax and Testing Rules?

Vaccine and testing mandates are perhaps the most important public policy issue in the United States right now and health care employers are on the front line of this debate. Having the necessary knowledge and expertise about how to respond to the new rules is absolutely essential.
On November 5, 2021, both the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) issued rules that mandate COVID-19 vaccination and/or testing for all staff. In addition, healthcare providers are also subject to the requirements of the OSHA COVID 19 ETS that was issued on June 21, 2021.

Home Care Industry Update

Thursday, December 16
12:00 PM – 2:00 PM ET

REGISTER

Please join Polsinelli, the National Association for Home Care & Hospice (NAHC), Sharecare and the Home Care Association of America for a legal update for the Home-Based Care Industry (home health, home care and hospice providers).

Bill Dombi and Vicki Hoak will provide an update on the latest advocacy efforts and initiatives of NAHC and HCAOA.

Mr. Spinola and Mr. Vail will provide an update on CMS and OSHA’s recent vaccine mandate requirements for private employers and what employers and HR departments in the home-based care and hospice industry are obligated to do.

Dept. of Labor Rule Increases Minimum Wage for Some Fed Contractors

On Monday, November 22, 2021, the U.S. Department of Labor’s Wage and Hour Division announced a final rule that increases the hourly minimum wage for certain federal contractors to $15 effective January 30, 2022.

Executive Order 14026 implements new requirements, including:
NAHC President Bill Dombi Talks to MSNBC News About the Shortage of Home Care Workers

The home healthcare field is currently experiencing an extreme shortage of workers. NBC’s Vicky Nyguen reports on the need of employees and what exactly is causing the lack of help in the industry.

Watch Bill’s comments and see the important story.

Watch the Story @ MSNBC News

Build Back Better bill offers significant investment in workforce training, recruitment: analysis

While home care is cheering the inclusion of money for home- and community-based services, the Build Back Better legislation recently passed by the House also offers significant funding for direct care worker training. That is according to the National Association for Home Care & Hospice Report released last week.

Specifically, the bill offers $400 million a year for fiscal years 2023–2026 for a grant-based program that would bolster frontline caregivers’ access to economic and educational supports, the report said. These grants would go to states and territories for items such as worker wage subsidies, student loan repayment or tuition assistance, and childcare.

READ THE REST @ McKnight’s Home Care

Guard Your Card – Protect What’s Important to You and
Your Patients

The Social Security Administration is asking NAHC to help spread the word about carefully guarding their private Social Security information. The best way to “Guard Your Card” is to keep it in a safe place and share it only when required. Do not carry the card every day. In fact, in most cases, just knowing the Social Security number should be enough. For example, when requesting a Real ID, all states, except for Pennsylvania, no longer require seeing your Social Security card.

Your clients should be careful about sharing their Social Security number when asked for it. It’s important to always ask why the number is needed, how it will be used, and what will happen if it is not provided.

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Help Make an Impact on the Future of Healthcare at Home

“Healthcare at home has gained tremendous momentum in the last year, but we must keep moving forward. This includes positioning ourselves to succeed under the emerging value-based models with best practice research. By determining where and what resources should be used to achieve the highest clinical, operational and financial outcomes, we strengthen ourselves as an industry and also our ability to become a formidable partner within the healthcare continuum.”

– Brent Korte, Chief Home Care Officer, EvergreenHealth Home Care

We need your help! Take the pledge to move our industry forward by participating in the NAHC sponsored National Healthcare at Home Best Practices Study today. Click here to register.

READ THE REST @ PD Home Care at NAHC
RESOURCES

The Human Experience 2020: Vision for the Future of Health Care - The Beryl Institute

Littler Operational Guidelines for the Home Care Industry Amid COVID 19 - Littler Mendelson, P.C.

PDHCA Education - PDHCA Website

Private Duty Home Care at NAHC is a fully integrated service line of the National Association for Home Care & Hospice focused on Leadership, Education, Advocacy, and Innovation exclusively for the private duty home care community.

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