



# The War in Washington and at Home

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## 2017 - The Year So Far



- Dec and Jan: There is extensive discussion of repealing Obamacare, and a firm shift to needing repeal with simultaneous replacement.
- Feb: The House of Representatives is rumored to be drafting a repeal and replacement bill—eventually the text of the American Health Care Act (AHCA) is leaked on Feb. 24.
- Mar: Revised AHCA released on Mar. 6 and marked up over the next two weeks, with limited changes. Speaker Ryan pulls vote on Mar. 24 and the legislation looks dead.

## 2017 - The Year So Far



- Apr and May: Negotiations restart on the AHCA and the House votes to pass a revised bill on May 4, 2017.
- June and July: The Senate begins debate on various bills, including AHCA, the Better Care Reconciliation Act, the Obamacare Repeal Reconciliation Act, and the Health Care Freedom Act. Ultimately, the Senate votes on July 27/28 on several bills and all votes fail.

## 2017 - Where We Are Now



- Medicaid is off the table *for now*.
- Things are very, very uncertain and will remain uncertain.
- Focus on tax reform and other high cost issues mean that Medicaid will continue to be seen as a potential pay-for.

# 2017 - Mental Health Developments



- New Assistant Secretary of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Disorder, Dr. Elinore F. McCance-Katz
- Interdepartmental Serious Mental Illness Coordinating Committee
- Other bills: H.R. 1253 (loans for institutions), H.R. 3545 (privacy for substance use records)

# Healthcare Going Forward



## Legislatively

- The Federal Budget/Funding the Government
- The Debt Ceiling
- Stabilize the ACA
- Extend the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP)
- Tax Reform
- ???

## Administratively

- Medicaid Waiver Approvals
  - Work requirements
  - Cost sharing
  - Time limits on enrollment
  - IMDs and community service issues
- Medicaid Expansion?
- Open Enrollment for the ACA/Stabilizing the Marketplaces



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What are next steps  
you can take?