HEALTH ISSUES
Alert No. 2017-H-30
October 25, 2017

Medicaid ‘Buy-in’ Bill Introduced in Congress

A bill to create a state public health insurance option, also referred to as a Medicaid “buy-in,” was introduced in the both chambers of congress today by Sen. Brian Schatz (D-HI) and Rep. Ben Ray Luján (D-N.M.).

Under the State Public Option Act, states could create a Medicaid-based public health care option, essentially allowing states to expand Medicaid eligibility to all state residents, with some limitations. The bill would also increase the Federal Medical Assistance Percentage (FMAP) match, as well as provide income-based premiums and cost-sharing reductions (CSRs) for the newly-created public option to assist low- and middle-income individuals.

The bill marks the second recent legislative proposal this month to create a public buy-in option, following a proposal by Sen. Tim Kaine (D-VA) and Sen. Michael Bennet (D-CO) to create a Medicare buy-in option.

If you have any questions regarding this Academy Alert, please contact David Linn, senior health policy analyst (linn@actuary.org; 202-785-6931).

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