

Publications

Health Care Reform Update, January 26, 2010

ATTORNEYS & PROFESSIONALS

Jon Breyfogle

jbreyfogle@groom.com

202-861-6641

Christine Keller

ckeller@groom.com

202-861-9371

Tamara Killion

tkillion@groom.com

202-861-6328

Christy Tinnes

ctinnes@groom.com

202-861-6603

Kevin L. Walsh

kwalsh@groom.com

202-861-6645

Brigen Winters

bwinters@groom.com

202-861-6618

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Both the House and Senate have now passed comprehensive health care reform bills. The House passed the “Affordable Health Care for America Act” (H.R. 3962) on November 7, 2009, while the Senate passed the “Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act” (H.R. 3590) on December 24, 2009. Since then, House and Senate Democratic leaders and the Obama administration have been working behind the scenes to attempt to reconcile the two bills and ready the legislation for final action.

In the wake of last week’s surprising election of Scott Brown (R-MA) in a special election in Massachusetts to fill the Senate seat left open by the late Sen. Edward Kennedy (D-MA), it now appears that the push for health care reform is on hold, at least for the time being. President Obama is scheduled to give his first State of the Union address to a joint session of Congress on January 27, and it is likely that the speech will provide some direction on how the White House hopes to proceed on health care reform — and other priorities such as jobs legislation, financial regulatory reform and deficit reduction — for the remainder of the year.

Attached is a revised version of our side-by-side comparison of key provisions of the House and Senate-passed bills in the following areas:

- Insurance Market Reforms
- Employer Responsibility
- Exchange
- Public Plan Option
- Individual Responsibility
- Revenue Raisers

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