



**We Advocate for our Members**

November, 2009

# Government Affairs Task Force

## Business Resources

### *H1N1 Resources*

Posted on our website under 'business resources' on the browser bar. Visit:

<http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/business/> and <http://pandemic.wisconsin.gov/>

### *How to Run for Public Office Information*

The Government Affairs Committee has a VHS and DVD copy of our recent workshop "How to run for Public Office."

Chamber members may borrow these for up to three weeks—contact the Chamber for more information at 837-4547.

### *View Proposed Health Care Bill Online*

Weblink to bill: [http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getdoc.cgi?dbname=111\\_cong\\_bills&docid=f:h3200ihtxt.pdf](http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getdoc.cgi?dbname=111_cong_bills&docid=f:h3200ihtxt.pdf)

## *Economic Development—focus of November Chamber Luncheon*

"Surviving or Thriving? The Future of Development in Sun Prairie" is the topic for our luncheon on November 19th. City Planner Scott Kugler and Economic Development Coor-

dinator Neil Stechschulte will give the presentation. Our Community Business Leader Award is presented at the luncheon and our businesses are thanked for their continued

community support. Visit the Chamber website at [sunprairiechamber.com](http://sunprairiechamber.com) or call 837-4547 to register.

## *New Burdens on Employers in H.R. 3200*

- All employers with total payroll over \$250,000 will be required to provide "Qualified Health Benefits" for their employees and their dependents or pay a pay-roll tax of up to 8% of payroll.
- Further, employers will be required to pay 72.5% of premiums for their employees
- Requirement to provide dependent coverage (and pay 65% of premiums).
- Government-run public health insurance plan will increase cost-shift burdens on employers and destabilize private insurance coverage
- No annual or lifetime limits on coverage for all health plans
- New provider network adequacy requirements on all health plans
- New minimum actuarial value requirements on all health coverage
- After 5 years all plans will also be required to meet the 'qualified health plan' definition—ERISA plans will no longer have design flexibility
- Flexible spending accounts (FSA's), Health spending accounts (HAS's) and Health Reimbursement Arrangements (HRA's) will no longer be eligible for over-the-counter medical purchases
- Mental health parity required for ALL employers (including 50 and under which were carved out)
- New onerous record keeping requirements on employers
- Maintenance of effort mandate for retiree health benefits (added in Education & Labor Committee)
- Expansion of COBRA coverage until insurance exchanges are implemented (added in Education & Labor Committee)
- Premium tax on all participants in fully-insured plans to fund comparative effectiveness research program (new tax) source: [www.uschamber.com](http://www.uschamber.com)

## *Legislation to Watch, Fall 2009*

**H.R. 2454, American Clean Energy and Security Act of 2009; H.Rpt.111-137 Part 1 (Waxman)** Requires U.S. to reduce carbon dioxide and greenhouse gas emissions by 17 percent by 2020 and by 80 percent by 2050; establishes a market-based trading program for businesses to meet the cap.

**H.R. 3200, America's Affordable Health Choices Act of 2009 (Dingell)** Overhauls the current health insurance system.

**S.1679, Affordable Health Choices Act (Harkin) S.\_\_\_\_,**

**America's Healthy Futures Act of 2009 (Baucus).** Overhauls the current health insurance system.

**H.R. 3269, Corporate and Financial Institution Compensation Fairness Act of 2009; H.Rpt. 111-236 (Frank)** Provides for the regulation of compensation for executives and employees of financial services institutions.

**H.R. 2892, Dept. of Homeland Security Appropriations Act, FY 2010; H. Rpt. 111-157 (Price)** Extends the E-Verify program for two years. Provides \$112 million in funding for E-Verify.

**S. 1298, Dept. of Homeland Security Appropriations Act, FY 2010, S. Rpt. 111-31 (Byrd)** Extends the E-Verify program for three years. Provides \$119 million, \$7 million above the Administration's request, to operate the E-Verify system and further improve its accuracy rates.

**S.515, Patent Reform Act of 2009 (Leahy)** Converts the U.S. patent system from a first-to-invent to first-to-file structure, which would give priority to the earlier-filed application for a claimed invention. Permits post-grant challenges to issued grants.