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House Could Vote On Obama Health Care Reform Sunday

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By Cynthia Marcotte Stamer

Time is running out for Americans to make their health care reform views known to key Congressional decision-makers. The stage now appears to be set for the House of Representatives to vote as early as Sunday on the Reconciliation Act of 2010 (H.R. 4872), the latest version of health care reform backed by President Obama, Speaker Nancy Pelosi and other key Congressional Democrats. The impending deadline means that Americans concerned about the potential outcome of the impending vote need to act quickly if they wish to attempt to influence the decision. For tips about sharing your input with Congress effectively, see [Getting Your Health Care Reform Message Heard By Key Congressional Leaders](#).

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Developments Today Start Clock Running For Vote

On Thursday, March 18, 2010, two key developments set the stage for a vote on H.R. 4871 as early as Sunday:

- 1 The House Rules Committee posted the text of H.R. 4872 on its website; and
- 1 The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) delivered its scoring of H.R. 4872 to House Speaker Nancy Pelosi.

The delivery of CBO scoring started the clock running on the 72 hour mandatory period between the release of the CBO scoring and any final vote on the bill. This means the House could vote on H.R. 4872 as early as Sunday, March 21.

If passed by the House, H.R. 4872 would make sweeping changes to the U.S. health care system impacting virtually every American patient, health care provider, employer and taxpayer. To learn the

facts about these proposed changes, read the full text of H.R. 4872 [here](#).

According to the CBO, H.R. 4872 will cost 0 billion over 10 years to extend coverage to 32 million uninsured people. To learn more specifics about these CBO cost and other determinations, review the CBO scoring [here](#).

This Is Only The Beginning: Stay Involved

The outcome of this latest health care reform push is only a small part of a continuing process. Whether or not the President's proposal or some other version of health care reform passes this week, Congress already has and will continue to consider other legislation impacting health care reform. This reality is demonstrated by Congressional actions recently taken on the COBRA premium subsidy extension, Medical reimbursement for physicians, continuing federal efforts to develop and implement federal health care quality and technology standards, and other legislative, regulatory and enforcement actions taken while public attention has been focused largely only on the broader health care reform debate.

Upcoming mid-term elections will significantly impact the nature and scope of these upcoming efforts. Perhaps even more significantly, the enactment of legislation is only a beginning point. The real meaning of these or other health care reforms will be determined largely by the shaping and implementation of regulations and enforcement actions which generally are conducted outside the public eye. Monitoring and staying active in these ongoing processes provides a critical opportunity to continue to monitor your issues and provide input to shape how they are addressed.

To help stay informed about health industry and other developments and join the discussion about these and other health care reform proposals, concerned Americans are invited to join the Coalition for Responsible Health Care Reform Group on LinkedIn and registering to receive these updates [here](#).

If you need assistance evaluating or formulating comments on the proposed reforms contained in the House Bill or on other health industry matters please contact Cynthia Marcotte Stamer at cstamer@cttlegal.com or 214.270.2402.

Ms. Stamer has extensive experience advising and assisting employers, health industry, and health insurance clients and others about a diverse range of health care, employee benefit, and employment policy, regulatory, compliance, risk management and operational concerns. You can get more information about her health industry experience [here](#).

Former Chair of the American Bar Association Health Law Section Managed Care & Insurance Interest Group and currently Chair of the American Bar Association RPTe Employee Benefits & Compensation Committee, a Council Representative to the ABA Joint Committee on Employee Benefits and Vice President of the North Texas Health Care Compliance Association, Ms. Stamer is nationally recognized for more than 22 years work with health care providers, managed care and other payers, employers, governments and other clients on health care, employee benefit, and other concerns. From her extensive involvement with federal and state legislative and regulatory health, pension and other reforms in the U.S. to her involvement as a lead advisor to the Government of Bolivia on its pension privatization legislation, Ms. Stamer's experience includes significant experience working with clients domestically on key health care and other public policy matters. The publisher of Solutions Law Press, Ms. Stamer also publishes, conducts training and speaks extensively on these and related concerns. For additional information about Ms. Stamer and her experience or to access other publications by Ms. Stamer see [here](#) or contact Ms. Stamer directly. For additional information about the experience and services of Ms. Stamer and other members of the Curran Tomko Tarksi LLP team, see [here](#).

If you found this information of interest, you also may be interested in reviewing other updates and publications by Ms. Stamer including:

- | [Getting Your Health Care Reform Message Heard By Key Congressional Leaders](#)
- | [Extension of Unemployment Benefits Signed Into Law & Immediately Effective As Filibuster Ends](#)
- | [COBRA Premium Subsidy Requirements Expanded & Extended Under Newly Signed Unemployment](#)

[Extension Legislation](#)

- | [Employers Concerned About New Union Powers As NLRB Orders Union Elections In 31 California Health Care Facilities To Proceed](#)
- | [Privacy Rule Changes & Posting of Breach Notices On OCR Website Signal New Enforcement Risks For Health Plans, Their Sponsors & business that should use business insurance Associates](#)
- | [Stamer To Present "2010 Health Plan Checkup" At Annual DFW ISCEBS Employee Benefits Fundamentals Workshop](#)
- | [SouthWest Benefits e-Connections Highlights Stamer Article About Importance For Health Plans, Their Sponsors & business that should use business insurance Associates To Update HIPAA Policies, Practices & Agreements](#)
- | [Health Plan Liability Heats Up As Plans & business that should use business insurances that need business that should use business insurance insurance Face New Obligations, Costs & Exposures under New HIPAA Privacy Rules Effective 2/17 & Other Expanding Federal Health Plan Mandates](#)
- | [Employers, Group Health Plans Subject To New CHIP/Medicaid Notice, Coordination of Benefits & Special Enrollment Requirements](#)
- | [Health Plans & business that should use business insurance Associates Face 2/17 Deadline To Update Policies, Contracts & Procedures For HIPAA Privacy Rule Changes](#)
- | [St. Louis Employer's OSHA Violations Trigger Contempt Order and Penalties](#)
- | [Labor Department Final H-2A Certification Procedures Tighten Requirements For Employment Of Temporary Agricultural Employment Of Workers](#)
- | [COBRA, HIPAA, GINA, Mental Health Parity or Other Group Health Plan Rule Violations Trigger New Excise Tax Self-Assessment & Reporting Obligations](#)
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You can review other publications and resources and additional information about the experience of Ms. Stamer [here](#) and learn more about other Curran Tomko Tarski LLP attorneys [here](#). If you or someone else you know would like to receive future updates about developments on these and other concerns, please be sure that we have your current contact information – including your preferred e-mail – by creating or updating your profile [here](#) or e-mailing this information to Cstamer@CTTLegal.com or registering to participate in the distribution of these and other updates on our Solutions Law Press distributions [here](#). For important information concerning this communication click [here](#). If you do not wish to receive these updates in the future, send an e-mail with the word "Remove" in the Subject to [here](#).

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