

Brief Update on Health Care Reform



APA and APAPO Government Relations Offices (GRO)

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APA Health Care Reform (HCR) Priorities

- ❖ Integrated health care
- ❖ Prevention and wellness
- ❖ Diverse psychology workforce
- ❖ Mental and behavioral health care at parity
- ❖ Elimination of health disparities
- ❖ Research and training
- ❖ Records protections in health information technology (HIT)
- ❖ Involvement with consumers, families, and caregivers



From the APA Practice Organization (APAPO)

An additional priority for the APA Practice Organization (APAPO) is ensuring adequate Medicare reimbursement rates.

While both House and Senate health care reform and related bills include provisions to delay the 21.2% Sustainable Growth Rate (SGR) cut for health providers and restore the 5% psychotherapy payment, these priorities are expected to be achieved through separate legislation.



APA Strategy on Health Care Reform

We have taken a multi-faceted approach with outreach to Congress, the White House, other Executive Branch agencies, media, our members, and other organizations.



APA and APAPO: Selected Advocacy Successes in the House and/or Senate Health Care Reform Bills

- ❖ **Inclusion of mental health and substance use disorder services at parity with medical/surgical services in essential benefit packages**
- ❖ **Integration of psychologists and psychological services into interdisciplinary teams of health professionals in primary care and other settings**
- ❖ **Creation of a separate authorization and set-aside for funding accredited doctoral and postdoctoral programs and internships in professional psychology**

APA and APAPO: Selected Advocacy Successes in the House and/or Senate Health Care Reform Bills (continued)

- ❖ **Expansion of eligibility to psychologists, psychology programs, and psychology students for several new and existing geriatric education and training programs in the Senate bill**
- ❖ **Recognition of psychologists as health professionals and as part of the health care workforce in a key definitional section of the Senate bill**
- ❖ **Provisions to strengthen health disparities data collection and development of quality measures, and a House bill provision to include sexual orientation and sexual identity in the definition of a health disparity**

Special Thanks

Thank you to all those who participated in advocacy campaigns of APA and APAPO that were critical in our legislative efforts.

What's next for Health Care Reform?

