

Ohio Association of Health Underwriters
Legislative Update
February 17, 2009
Prepared by John T. McGough

House Finance Committee Cancels Budget Hearings

Late last Friday, the Ohio House Finance & Appropriations Committee cancelled all their budget hearings scheduled for this week. Apparently, this was due to the fact that the recently passed federal stimulus legislation includes about \$600 million less for Ohio than what the Strickland Administration had estimated in preparing their proposed biennial budget. Reports are that the actual budget language may not be available until next week. Presumably, hearings will then resume.

ODI to discuss Budget with OAHU Legislative Committee

This week, representatives from the Ohio Department of Insurance will attend the OAHU Legislative Committee to discuss provisions in the proposed state budget to increase the number of insured Ohioans by 110,000. The three proposals to attain the 110,000 more insured are:

52,000 more insured by capping individual market open enrollment rates (for high risk individuals) to 150% of standard rates (which is projected to decrease open enrollment rates by 50-70%); individual market rates are projected to increase 5.5%.

21,000 more insured by expanding dependent coverage up to age 29 and extending the state tax deduction for employer coverage to all family and dependent coverage.

37,000 more insured by requiring employers to offer employees the opportunity to purchase coverage with pre-tax dollars through Section 125 cafeteria plans, saving up to 40% off the cost of coverage.

OAHU has several questions concerning how these proposals will realistically reach their stated goals and is concerned about how the plan to cover high risk individuals could cause the individual market to go into a “death spiral”. OAHU will be developing a plan of action as we further understand these proposals and after further discussions with key legislators and stakeholders.

Ohio House and Senate Committees Announced

Below is a listing of the House and Senate committees that OAHU works with regularly.

HOUSE COMMITTEES

Finance and Appropriations					
Name	Party	Position	Name	Party	Position
Vernon Sykes	D	Chair	Ron Amstutz	R	Ranking Minority Member
Linda S. Bolon	D	Vice Chair	Dave Burke	R	Member
Barbara Boyd	D	Member	Matthew J. Dolan	R	Member
Edna Brown	D	Member	Clyde Evans	R	Member
John Patrick Carney	D	Member	Randy Gardner	R	Member
Ted Celeste	D	Member	Bruce W. Goodwin	R	Member
Kathleen Chandler	D	Member	Cheryl Grossman	R	Member
Denise Driehaus	D	Member	Dave Hall	R	Member
Stephen	D	Member	Ron Maag	R	Member

Dyer					
Lorraine M. Fende	D	Member	Jeffrey McClain	R	Member
Jennifer Garrison	D	Member	Ross McGregor	R	Member
Jay P. Goyal	D	Member	Robert Mecklenborg	R	Member
Clayton R. Luckie	D	Member	Seth Morgan	R	Member
Michael Skindell	D	Member	Barbara R. Sears	R	Member
Stephen Slesnick	D	Member			
Peter S. Ujvagi	D	Member			
Tyrone K. Yates	D	Member			

Health					
Name	Party	Position	Name	Party	Position
Barbara Boyd	D	Chair	Lynn R. Wachtmann	R	Ranking Minority Member
John Patrick Carney	D	Vice Chair	Troy Balderson	R	Member

Edna Brown	D	Member	Dave Burke	R	Member
Robert F. Hagan	D	Member	Courtney Eric Combs	R	Member
Tom Letson	D	Member	Randy Gardner	R	Member
Deborah Newcomb	D	Member	Bruce W. Goodwin	R	Member
Debbie Phillips	D	Member	Matt Huffman	R	Member
Stephen Slesnick	D	Member	Robert Mecklenborg	R	Member
Roland Winburn	D	Member	W. Scott Oelslager	R	Member
Kenny Yuko	D	Member			

HealthCare Access and Affordability					
Name	Party	Position	Name	Party	Position
Lorraine M. Fende	D	Chair	Barbara R. Sears	R	Ranking Minority Member
Nancy Garland	D	Vice Chair	Dave Burke	R	Member
Linda S. Bolon	D	Member	Robert Hackett	R	Member
Marian Harris	D	Member	Peggy Lehner	R	Member

Mike Moran	D	Member	Ross McGregor	R	Member
Matt Patten	D	Member	Todd Snitchler	R	Member
Brian G. Williams	D	Member			

Insurance					
Name	Party	Position	Name	Party	Position
Dan Dodd	D	Chair	Jay Hottinger	R	Ranking Minority Member
Tom Letson	D	Vice Chair	John Adams	R	Member
John Patrick Carney	D	Member	David T. Daniels	R	Member
Stephen Dyer	D	Member	Matthew J. Dolan	R	Member
Sandra Stabile Harwood	D	Member	Robert Hackett	R	Member
Tracy Maxwell Heard	D	Member	Kris Jordan	R	Member
Joseph Koziura	D	Member	Ross McGregor	R	Member
Debbie Phillips	D	Member	Lynn R. Wachtmann	R	Member

Mark Schneider	D	Member		
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SENATE COMMITTEES

Finance and Financial Institutions

REPUBLICANS	DEMOCRATS
John Carey Chair	Dale Miller Ranking Minority Member
Mark Wagoner Vice Chair	Ray Miller
Gary Cates	Shirley Smith
Keith Faber	Jason H. Wilson
Tom Niehaus	
Thomas F. Patton	
Bill Seitz	
Jimmy Stewart	
Chris Widener	

Health, Human Services and Aging

REPUBLICANS	DEMOCRATS
Kevin Coughlin Chair	Sue Morano Ranking Minority Member
Karen Gillmor Vice Chair	Ray Miller
Steve Buehrer	Shirley Smith

<u>David Goodman</u>	
<u>Kirk Schuring</u>	
<u>Jimmy Stewart</u>	

Insurance, Commerce and Labor

REPUBLICANS	DEMOCRATS
<u>Steve Buehrer</u> Chair	<u>Joseph Schiavoni</u> Ranking Minority Member
<u>Keith Faber</u> Vice Chair	<u>Eric H. Kearney</u>
<u>Karen Gillmor</u>	<u>Nina Turner</u>
<u>Jim Hughes</u>	<u>Jason H. Wilson</u>
<u>Tim Schaffer</u>	
<u>Bill Seitz</u>	
<u>Jimmy Stewart</u>	
<u>Chris Widener</u>	