

Advocacy update April 2020

The importance of coalitions

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Why belong to coalitions?

- Power in numbers
 - Individual organizations pool resources
 - Speak with one voice around an issue or issues of concern
- Enhanced relationships among the members
 - May lead to improved communications and other opportunities for collaboration in the future



Coalition participation

- Healthcare for All Virginians

- Over 100 organizations
- Prevent cuts to existing programs
- Seek improvement in programs
 - Add dental benefits for Medicaid adults
 - End restrictions to Medicaid access for legal permanent residents
 - Improve maternal health through doula/midwifery services and home visiting programs
- Support state-based insurance marketplace

- Healthy Market Virginia

- Oppose insurance plans that limit access to pre-existing conditions
 - Association health plans
 - Short-term, limited duration plans
- Support bills to create a state-based marketplace to lower insurance out-of-pocket costs
- Support bills to create a Virginia Reinsurance plan to fortify plans covering high-cost treatments for rare and chronic conditions

Effectiveness of coalition work: Healthcare for All Virginians: successful with budget and bills

- Add dental benefits for Medicaid adults
- End restrictions to Medicaid access for legal permanent residents
- Improve maternal health through doula/midwifery services and home visiting programs
- Support state-based insurance marketplace
- Budget bill sent to Governor provides for adult dental coverage
- Governor's budget included \$4.5M in funding to provide Medicaid coverage for low-income working immigrants
- Work group established to recommend regulation of doulas and a doula Medicaid benefit
- Virginia Health Benefit Exchange established through [SB 226](#), [SB 598](#), and [HB 1428](#).

Effectiveness of healthy market coalition: limited effectiveness

- Oppose insurance plans that limit access to pre-existing conditions
 - Association health plans
 - Short-term, limited duration plans
- Support bills to create a state-based marketplace to lower insurance out-of-pocket costs
- Support bills to create a Virginia Reinsurance plan to fortify plans covering high-cost treatments for rare and chronic conditions
- Association health plan bills ([HB 1559](#) and [SB 235](#) passed General Assembly and awaiting Governor's signature. Coalition seeking gubernatorial veto.
- Short-term, limited duration bills [HB 1037](#) and [SB 404](#) both passed. Coalition is seeking gubernatorial amendments.
- Virginia Health Benefit Exchange established through [SB 226](#), [SB 598](#), and [HB 1428](#).
- No reinsurance plan funding in the budget bill as passed.

What's next at the 2020 General Assembly?

- The General Assembly returns April 22 to deal with the Governor's recommendations and vetoes on bills.
- The General Assembly deliberated 3910 bills and passed 2218 to pass along to the Governor, who has approved 476 bills to date. He has until 11:59 p.m. on April 11th to make his recommendations.
- The COVID-19 endemic has created health and economic havoc on Virginia.
 - The General Assembly will certainly review the budget bill in anticipation of anticipated drops in state revenues.
 - Some bills may be delayed in enactment because of their fiscal impact.