

# Advocacy Update January 7, 2011

## Federal Affairs

### HIMSS Public Policy Principles

2010 was the year for healthcare reform in the United States. HIMSS believes that that lives can be saved, outcomes of care improved, and costs reduced by transforming the healthcare system through the appropriate use of information technology (IT) and management systems. HIMSS advocacy, public policy, legislative and regulatory actions are guided by [HIMSS 2011-2012 Public Policy Principles](#).

### Meaningful Use

The Medicare and Medicaid EHR Incentive Programs will provide incentive payments to eligible professionals, eligible hospitals and critical access hospitals (CAHs) as they adopt, implement, upgrade or demonstrate meaningful use of certified EHR technology.

Registration began January 3, 2011.

[http://www.cms.gov/EHRIncentivePrograms/20\\_RegistrationandAttestation.asp](http://www.cms.gov/EHRIncentivePrograms/20_RegistrationandAttestation.asp)

### Healthcare Reform

The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) just released their preliminary estimate on the cost of passing H.R. 2, titled "Repealing the Job-Killing Health Care Law Act". Per the attached estimate, "over the 2012–2021 period, the effect of H.R. 2 on federal deficits as a result of changes in direct spending and revenues is likely to be an increase in the vicinity of \$230 billion, plus or minus the effects of technical and economic changes to CBO's and JCT's projections for that period". This means that to pass this legislation, the House would need to find \$230 billion in offsets for this time period in savings.

## Commonwealth of Virginia

### Broadband in Virginia

The Commonwealth of Virginia is sponsored a study of Broadband Internet Usage for Health IT in Virginia. The project has been completed and the results will be presented in a meeting January 11, 2011 from 10am to 12pm in room 1006 of the Patrick Henry Building (1111 E. Broad Street, Richmond).

### **Healthcare Reform in Virginia**

On December 21, Governor Bob McDonnell received the final report and recommendations of the Virginia Health Reform Initiative Advisory Council from Secretary of Health and Human Resources Dr. Bill Hazel. In August, the Governor created the Advisory Council to provide recommendations towards a comprehensive strategy for implementing health reform specific to the needs of Virginia. He charged the Advisory Council with identifying policies to create an improved health system that is an economic driver for Virginia while allowing for more effective and efficient delivery of high quality care, at lower cost.

The full report and recommendations can be found on the Virginia Health Reform Initiative webpage: <http://www.hhr.virginia.gov/Initiatives/HealthReform/>

### **Health Information Exchange in Virginia**

Virginia's Health Information Technology Advisory Commission (HITAC), supported by the Office of Health Information Technology, a joint initiative of the Secretaries of Health and Human Resources and of Technology, is responsible for building trust and support for a statewide approach to HIE, for ensuring that an effective model for HIE governance and accountability is in place, for encouraging the proliferation of telemedicine, and for monitoring the support of activities associated with REC grants in Virginia.

Information regarding the Statewide HIE Planning and Operations Process can be found [here](#)

### **Virginia Chapter News**

Virginia HIMSS will be holding its fifth annual VA HIMSS Advocacy Day to be held February 1, 2011 at the MCV Alumni House in Richmond