

HORIZON

GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS

Horizon Government Affairs delivers consistent results for our clients through cutting edge strategies and best in market tactics. We turn policy into law and provide data driven insights, create and develop smart solutions and align the right stakeholders to produce wins for our clients. Below is a sample of laws and regulations we are most proud of.

OUR IMPACT ON FEDERAL LAWS

- 1 Small Business Health Care Relief Act (Provision in 21st Century Cures - P.L. 114-255):** The Council for Affordable Health Coverage, an HGA coalition, helped develop legislation to protect small employers who offer benefits to workers through voluntary Health Reimbursement Arrangements from outrageous IRS fines (QSEHRA plans).
- 2 PACE Act (P.L. 114-60):** HGA led advocacy efforts to allow states to maintain the current small group market definition in order to prevent an 18% premium increase and major disruptions for small and mid-sized businesses.
- 3 Data Sharing (P.L. 114-10):** HGA's Clear Choices Campaign successfully advocated for a provision that provides expanded access to Medicare and commercial claims data to support big data projects that pinpoint cost problems and solutions.
- 4 Continuing resolution for FY 2018 (H.R. 195) (P.L. 115-120):** HGA worked to delay for two additional years the implementation of the ACA's Cadillac tax on employer-sponsored health coverage.
- 5 Continuing resolution for FY 2018 (H.R. 195) (P.L. 115-120):** HGA helped enact a one-year moratorium on the ACA's health insurance tax on fully-insured plans.
- 6 21st Century Cures Act/Patient Access to Data (P.L. 114-255):** HGA helped draft and enact a provision that allows business associates under HIPAA to grant patients access to their personal health information.
- 7 21st Century Cures Act/ Precision Medicine (P.L. 114-255)** HGA helped lead support to include data sharing agreements to encourage greater interoperability as part of the NIH precision medicine initiative.
- 8 21st Century Cures Act/Interoperability (P.L. 114-255):** Health IT Now, an HGA led collaborative of 75 groups, led the effort to amend the health IT certification Program to facilitate widespread interoperability while establishing penalties for blocking information that improves patient care.
- 9 21st Century Cures Act/Regulation of Health Software (P.L. 114-255):** HGA led the enactment of the MEDTECH law. We led the stakeholder group that formed initial set of recommendations on how health software should be regulated, then spearheaded advocacy efforts on Capitol Hill to include the recommended framework in the law.
- 10 Bipartisan Budget Act/Coordinating data between Medicare Parts A, B and D (P.L. 115-123):** HGA drafted and then helped enact the law to provide Medicare Parts A/B claims data to Part D Plans to promote the use of medications and improve health outcomes.
- 11 Bipartisan Budget Act/GAO Study of Medication Synchronization Programs (P.L. 115-123):** HGA helped craft a GAO study that laid the groundwork for future reforms in medication adherence by synchronizing medications.
- 12 Bipartisan Budget Act/Telehealth (P.L. 115-123):** HGA helped enact reforms that led to reimbursement of telehealth for treatment of end-stage renal disease and stroke. The law also allows shared-risk ACOs to utilize telehealth, and allows Medicare Advantage plans to offer telehealth services in their base benefit packages.
- 13 VA MISSION Act of 2018/VETS Act (P.L. 115-182):** Over a three year period, HGA led the coalition effort to remove barriers to cross-state practice of telehealth within the Veterans Administration, leading to better access to care for veterans.
- 14 Opioids/SUPPORT for Patients and Communities Act/Health IT (P.L. 115-271):** Through Health IT Now, HGA formed a working group of more than 26 stakeholder organizations to lead policy development and advocacy around key health IT provisions included in the law, including allowing Medicare reimbursement for treatment of substance use disorder via telehealth, requiring electronic prescribing of controlled substances in Medicare Part D, and requiring Medicare Part D plans to provide electronic prior authorization.

- 15 Faster Access to Specialized Treatments (FAST) Act (P.L. 122-144):** HGA helped create and coordinate a grassroots advocacy campaign to obtain support from the rare disease patient community. The law improves accelerated approval for life-threatening diseases while maintaining high safety and efficacy standards.
- 16 Creating Hope Act (P.L. 112-144):** HGA helped Kids v Cancer with creating and coordinating a grassroots advocacy campaign to promote the Creating Hope Act. The law created the Rare Disease Pediatric Priority Review Voucher.
- 17 Reauthorization of the Creating Hope Act (P.L. 114-255):** HGA assisted Kids v. Cancer in its successful mission to reauthorize the Creating Hope Act through a grassroots and tops advocacy campaign.
- 18 Improved Biomarker Qualification (P.L. 114-255):** HGA joined with others to help lead an advocacy campaign supporting the use of biomarkers and other tools within FDA product reviews. The law establishes a review pathway at FDA to help decrease drug development times.

STATE ADVOCACY

1332 WAIVERS/HEALTH REFORM

HGA was hired by the state of Wisconsin to help secure a waiver from ACA that provided the state \$128 million in annual funds for a new Wisconsin Health Care Stability Plan dropped 2019 premium rates in Wisconsin's individual health insurance market on a weighted average by 4.2 percent from 2018 rates, and by an estimated 10 percent as compared to without the program.

NEWBORN SCREENING

Through our Newborn Foundation client, HGA worked to enact thirty-one state laws requiring screening for Critical Congenital Heart Defects, making it the standard of care for the 4 million newborns born in the United States every year.

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SHAPING KEY REGULATIONS

STATE FLEXIBILITY

Secured new CMS guidance expanding state flexibility under the Affordable Care Act's Section 1332 waiver program.

CONSUMER PLAN CHOICES

Won key changes to the Medicare Plan Finder tool, following a report on its deficiencies from the Council for Affordable Health Coverage, an HGA-led coalition.

EXCEPTED BENEFITS

Led the charge to block a regulation that would have massively expanded regulation of excepted health benefits, making premiums more expensive and out of reach for many.

HEALTH REIMBURSEMENT ARRANGEMENTS

Secured a proposed rule from the Departments of Labor, Treasury, and HHS improving HRA usability; allowing the savings tools to be used toward the purchase of coverage on or off the Obamacare markets.

MEDICATION ADHERENCE

Worked collaboratively with the VA and other stakeholders to craft policy to allow veterans to be treated via telehealth across state lines regardless of where the VA physician is licensed. The policy was implemented via a VA regulation entitled Authority of Health Care Providers to Practice Telehealth (RIN 2900-AQ06) and later codified via the VA MISSION Act.

MEDICATION THERAPY MANAGEMENT

Helped craft a Medicare demonstration project to reform payments for Medication Therapy Management and more directly involve pharmacy in coordinating care for Medicare Part D patients.

MEDICARE PART B CUTS

Helped kill a harmful demonstration program that would have imposed sharp reimbursement cuts on doctors making care more expensive and difficult for patients with cancer, arthritis and eye disease.