

THE SOUTH CAROLINA BLUES FEDERAL POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE



February 2019

Video: What Happens in a Congressional Office?

Legislative Director, Hilary Ranieri, from Representative Timmons' office gives us a little insight into what happens in a congressional office and how constituent inquiries are handled.

Please click on the image to watch the video.



Volunteer Opportunity for PAC Members

The 26th Annual SC Legislative Softball Game is coming up on March 27, 2019. PAC Members and their families are invited to attend but we are also looking for members who want to volunteer during the event. If interested, please send an email to scbluesfedpac@bcbssc.com. Opportunities include things such as handing out gifts to attendees and welcoming people to the event.



Did You Know?

You can receive daily news from BCBSA Strategic Communications Department. Send an email to daily.digest@bcbsa.com requesting subscription to the Daily Digest. Here's what you get.

DAILY DIGEST



Top Healthcare News for January 30, 2019

Today's Feature

[On Both Ends of Capitol, Both Parties Warn Big Pharma on Drug Prices](#)

New York Times, 1.30.19 Members of Congress from both parties served notice on pharmaceutical companies on Tuesday that the days of unchecked drug-price increases were over and that they would be held politically accountable for exorbitant prices. The new reality became apparent at simultaneous but separate hearings of House and Senate committees where lawmakers said that the relentless increases were unsustainable and unacceptable.

Related Stories: [It's Not Just Democrats: In Dueling Drug Pricing Hearings, At Least Some Republicans Slam Pharma, Too](#) – Stat; [Congress Wades Into Emotional Debate Over High-Cost Prescription Drugs](#) – Kaiser Health News

Spotlight on the Blues

[BCBS of North Carolina Awards \\$2M To Projects Tackling Opioid Epidemic](#)

Fierce Healthcare, 1.29.19 **Blue Cross and Blue Shield of North Carolina** has awarded \$2 million to five groups working to address the opioid epidemic in the state. Awardees include Duke University Health System, which launched Symmetry, a mobile health tool that aims to standardize screening and prescribing habits for opioids. Another group, Together for Resilient Youth, aims to prevent addiction in young people. The five awards are a piece of BCBS of North Carolina's \$10 million investment in addressing the addiction crisis, announced last year.

[Analytics Gives HCSC The Pulse Of Provider Care](#)

CIO 1.29.19 Evaluating the cost efficiency and quality of care is a running challenge for health insurance companies — a challenge that is exacerbated by the myriad physicians, specialists, hospitals, and other providers a patient might visit regarding an issue. **Health Care Service Corp. (HCSC)**, a not-for-profit health insurance company that serves nearly 15 million members in the U.S., is meeting that challenge with a combination of data analytics and machine learning.

Elsewhere in the News

[Congress Takes On Unexpected Medical Bills, Sparking Industry Turf War](#)

Politico, 1.30.19 A bipartisan fix for surprise medical bills that are socking even well-insured Americans could be one of the few issues uniting Democrats and Republicans this year, but only if lawmakers find a way to contend with competing factions of the health industry, none of whom want to pick up the entire tab.

[Dems Hit GOP On Pre-Existing Conditions At Panel's First Policy Hearing](#)

The Hill, 1.30.19 The powerful House Ways and Means Committee used its first policy hearing of the new Congress to hammer Republicans on pre-existing conditions, an issue that helped propel Democrats into the majority during the 2018 midterm elections.

[Obamacare Helps Save Low-Income People From Losing Their Homes, Study Shows](#)

CNBC, 1.30.19 The price of health care is the biggest concern among Americans these days, according to a recent FOX News poll. That makes sense, given that Americans routinely postpone or skip medical treatment when they can't afford it. Others who need care must make difficult choices, like paying for care with money they need for housing, according to a recent study published in the

UPCOMING PAC EVENTS

Please RSVP via the PAC website.

[Lunch 'n Learn @ Tower](#)

Tuesday, February 26, 2019

[26th Annual](#)

[SC Legislative Softball Game](#)

Wednesday, March 27, 2019

**SC Blues FedPAC's
first Annual Campaign
is coming in April**

****More details to come*

WHAT IS THE SC BLUES FEDPAC?

The SC Blues FedPAC provides us a platform to speak to lawmakers — in a unified voice that they will hear. It gives BlueCross a stronger voice in Washington. It also gives employees a way to participate in the political process. SC Blues FedPAC contributes to candidates and elected officials who support BlueCross' interests and businesses, regardless of party affiliation. Participation in the PAC is completely voluntary and is not favored or disadvantaged in anyone's employment because of a decision to participate, the amount of participation, or a decision to not contribute at all.

