

07/23/2021

Hi REDC Members,

Below is your policy update for the week:

I. SERVE Act

- Senate Armed Services Personnel Subcommittee and Full Committee approved the NDAA Wednesday and Thursday. We still don't have any news yet on whether SERVE was included, but we should know by next week.
- Action alerts
 - Over 1,500 emails were sent to Members of Congress between July 15 and July 22 to add pressure to get SERVE Act included in the NDAA.
 - We will do another round of action alerts targeted just to the House of Representatives before their markup on September 1st.
- Our SERVE Act letter of support ultimately had 132 organizations and businesses signed on, including military serving organizations, veterans-servicing organizations, mental health and military advocate organizations, and providers.
- We met with the Department of Defense and Defense Health Agency on the April 21, 2021 letter the REDC sent on SERVE Act provisions and TRICARE contracting items
 - Dr. Molly Perlman (Monte Nido), Cyndi Eddington (Eating Recovery Center), and Emily Walkley (Center for Discovery) joined and did an amazing job talking about the issue of eating disorders in military members, families, and veterans! Dr. Tiffany Stewart was unable to join unfortunately.
- Sen. Blumenthal cosponsored the SERVE Act! He is on Senate Armed Services, so this is a huge win.
- SERVE Pitch Meetings – since last Friday, we've met with the following:
 - Reps. Kahele, Brown, Larsen, Gallego, and Norcross
 - Sens. King and Rosen

II. Telehealth

- McKinsey Report
 - Patients are rapidly adopting telehealth.
 - Their survey finds some 40 percent of patients are interested in telehealth in the future, up from 11 percent pre-covid.
 - Providers also favorably disposed, with 58 percent saying they view telehealth more positively than pre-pandemic
 - In particular, visits to a psychiatrist via telehealth has increased.
 - Of patients who had seen a psychiatrist or psychologist, some 63 percent said they'd visited by phone or online.

- McKinsey says they “are observing a quick evolution of the space and innovation beyond the ‘virtual urgent care’ convenience.”

III. ACA

- Increase in Enrollment during Special Enrollment Period
 - HHS announced 1.5 million Americans bought plans on [healthcare.gov](https://www.healthcare.gov) since the administration opened up the federal Obamacare exchange for a special enrollment period due to the pandemic on February 15.
 - Roughly 600,000 people enrolled in coverage in the 15 states that operate their own marketplaces.
 - Special enrollment period will conclude on August 15.
 - Medicaid and CHIP also seeing record high enrollments with more than 8 million people covered.
- Democrats grappling with how to extend health insurance to millions of poor Americans in states that have refused Obamacare’s Medicaid expansion.
 - Upcoming party-line “human infrastructure” package represents their best chance to fill the health law’s biggest gap to
 - Working to fulfill President Biden’s pledge to extend coverage to the 2.2 million low-income adults in the 12 states where Republican officials have resisted the program for nearly a decade.
 - Faces competition from other Democratic health priorities jostling for position in infrastructure legislation, including an expansion of Medicare’s benefits and permanently increasing financial aid to people who purchase coverage on the ACA’s health insurance marketplaces.
- Biden Administration posted the Updating Payment Parameters rule
 - Reverses some of Trump Administration’s changes to the ACA
 - Proposed rule extends the Open Enrollment period for low-income individuals, expands the role of Navigators to help consumers understand and use their coverage, restores guardrails for 1332 waivers, and more.
 - National Health Law Program (NHeLP) has a [social media toolkit](#) and [comment portal](#) to help advocates comment and share their story. **Comments are due July 28.**

Hope you all have a great weekend,

Center Road Solutions Team