

Post Election Update!

By Scott Leavitt

IAHU Leg. Chair

The election is over and PPACA is here to stay. No matter how we feel about the law, the Supreme Court has upheld it and now the American public has reelected President Obama. We now have to find a way to live with the law and hopefully make a few changes to ensure that our industry will survive.

Now that the law is here to stay the administration will be coming out with rule after rule to continue to implement PPACA. In the past week HHS has released another round of proposed health reform regulations, 373 pages worth! Included in these rules are the processes for reinsurance, risk-adjustment and risk corridors in the individual and small group markets. They also include sections addressing essential benefits, the premium tax credit, user fees for federally-facilitated Exchanges, the SHOP exchanges and the medical loss ratio requirement.

When I wrote last month's article I was encouraging you to contact Governor Otter and ask him to declare that Idaho needed to create a non-profit State Based Exchange by Nov. 16th. On Nov. 15th HHS extended the deadline to Dec. 14th. If you have not already contacted the Governor's office about setting up a State exchange yet via phone call, letter or our Operation Shout I am asking you to do so by this Thursday. I would also encourage you to forward the email out to your friends, clients and colleagues.

Not only did we vote our Federal Legislators we elected out state Legislators as well. There are now over 30 new Freshman Legislators in Idaho. We need to get to know each and every one of them so they can understand our views and how important our industry is to the people of Idaho. With the changes in the State House there were also several changes in the Legislative Leadership including Rep. Scott Bedke being named the new Speaker of the House. Colby Cameron, our Lobbyist, will be writing further about these changes in his report.

Even though the election may not have gone our way, we must never give up the fight! Together we can preserve our industry's future.

