

US FORUM CONNECTION #77, MAY 2010

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HEALTH CARE COVERAGE FOR 55-64 YEAR OLDS EFFECTIVE DATE ADVANCED A DKG VICTORY FOR THE PAYCHECK FAIRNESS ACT TITLE IX UPDATE CREDIT CARD RATE CHANGES ALERT IMMUNIZATION ADVICE FOR ADULTS

HEALTH CARE COVERAGE FOR 50-64 YEAR OLDS EFFECTIVE DATE ADVANCED

The recently passed health care bill includes a provision which offers Medicare-type health insurance to people in the 50-64 year old range. The initial effective date for this was to have been in late June, but it has been moved up to June 1, 2010. The coverage is not available in all states. To find out more about this medical insurance you can either call AARP at 1-866-894-6027 or go to

<https://www.aarphealthcare.com/requestinformation/default.aspx?SourceCode=4ZT&xOver=OVER&gclid=CKuM0M7Cz6ECFZVY2godkGlqMQ>

A DKG VICTORY FOR THE PAYCHECK FAIRNESS ACT

Louisiana members contacted Senator Mary Landrieu requesting that she sign on as a cosponsor to the Paycheck Fairness Act (S182). Senator Landrieu signed as a cosponsor on April 20. Considering that no new cosponsors had signed on since February 22, I think we can count this one as ours. Additionally Senator Dianne Feinstein of California signed as cosponsor on April 21, Senator Jeff Bingaman of New Mexico signed as cosponsor on April 27 and Senator Claire McCaskill of Missouri signed as a cosponsor on May 6.

TITLE IX UPDATE

A recent "Dear Colleague" letter issued by the U.S. Office of Civil Rights has changed the way high schools gauge interest of girls in athletics. Schools had been sending out email surveys about female interest in athletics. Any nonresponse was counted as "no interest." This letter takes away the ability of schools to use this method of ascertaining interest of girls in athletics. Currently there are two bills in Congress addressing Title IX in high school and both would substantially increase the athletic opportunities available to girls. The bills are H.R.2882 and S.471. Passage of these bills is necessary to deny the executive branch the authority to make policy which may be detrimental to allowing females the opportunity which participation in sports affords them. Participation in high school athletics is the means by which many females get scholarships to attend college.

CREDIT CARD RATE CHANGES ALERT

There have been changes in what information credit card providers must supply to card holders. Some credit card providers are changing from no annual fee to an annual fee. The first indication you may get of a rate change is when it is charged on your credit card statement. If a fee is charged on a statement, you have 30 days from the issuance of the statement to pay charges in full, contact the company, close the account and not be charged the annual fee. These new fees can be quite high. Mine on a Citi Bank card was \$60.

IMMUNIZATION ADVICE FOR ADULTS

The Duke Medicine Health News (April 2010 issue) advises adults to consider having the following immunizations.

Flu Shot – annually for those over 50

Pneumonia Shot – at least one shot after age 65, consult physician for individual advice about whether more

shots are needed, a shot before age 65 should minimize the total number of pneumonia immunizations needed
Zoster (shingles) – recommended for those over the age of 60 (some health insurance plans cover the cost of the cost of this immunization)

Tetnus, diphtheria, pertussis – Adults over the age of 18 should get the tetnus and diphtheria immunizations once every 10 years. If you have not had the pertussis (whooping cough) immunization as an adult you should get one immunization.

Varicella (chickenpox) – Optional – Consult your physician about your risk if you have never had chickenpox.

Hepatitis B – Optional – Consult your physician about your risk

Hepatitis A – Optional – Consult your physician about your risk

Meningococcal – Optional – Consult your physician about your risk

CHECK WITH YOUR INSURANCE PROVIDER AS TO WHICH OF THESE IMMUNIZATIONS ARE COVERED BY YOUR INSURANCE

For on-line information on specific bills go to <http://thomas.loc.gov/>

CONTACT ADDRESSES FOR GOVERNMENT INFORMATION

U.S. GOVERNMENT CONTACT INFORMATION can be obtained through Congressional Switchboard 1-866-327-8670 (this is a toll free number). You can contact your Congressman and Senator through this number without paying long distance charges.

<http://www.house.gov/> for members of the House of Representatives <http://www.senate.gov/> for members of the U.S. Senate

STATE GOVERNMENT CONTACT INFORMATION can be obtained through

<http://www.emailyourgovernor.com/> Information available at this site allows contact with governors, members of the state legislature, state supreme court, congressional delegation and state agencies such as the Education Department, Attorney General, Motor Vehicles Department and Voter Registration.

INFORMATION ON HOW YOUR CONGRESSMAN VOTED ON KEY BILLS

<http://projects.washingtonpost.com/congress/111/bills/>

FIVE CONSTITUENT CONTACTS WILL CAUSE A LEGISLATOR TO PAY SERIOUS ATTENTION TO A GIVEN ISSUE.

Archival copies of the U.S. Forum Connection can be found at

<http://ocean.otr.usm.edu/~w305514/HomePage.htm>

Dr. Angela O. Bedenbaugh

The University of Southern Mississippi