



## BENEFIT NEWS BRIEFS

### *Update On Health Care Reform Bills*

---

This *Benefit News Brief* is being issued in light of some actual movement, not just talk, on health care reform bills in the House and Senate.

On July 14, the three House committees addressing health care reform combined to release legislation to the House floor for debate, etc. The House Bill (H.R. 3200) is entitled *America's Affordable Health Choices Act of 2009*. The 1018 page Bill is available at: <http://edlabor.house.gov/documents/111/pdf/publications/AAHCA-BillText-071409.pdf> Extensive information on the Bill is available from a House website at: <http://edlabor.house.gov/blog/2009/07/americas-affordable-health-choices-act.shtml>.

On July 15, the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions voted to pass the *Affordable Health Choices Act*. According to published reports, this bill is expected to be combined with separate legislation from the Senate Finance Committee which is not yet written. A copy of the 615 page unnumbered Senate Bill is available at: [http://help.senate.gov/BAI09A84\\_xml.pdf](http://help.senate.gov/BAI09A84_xml.pdf). More information on the Bill is available at: <http://help.senate.gov/>.

However, on July 16, according to a report in the Washington Post, in testimony in front of the Senate Budget Committee, the head of the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office (CBO) stated the health reform measures being drafted by congressional Democrats would *worsen an already bleak budget outlook, increasing deficit projections and driving the nation more deeply into debt*. Given that the CBO is the official arbiter of the costs of legislation, the Post reported such stark testimony is certain to undermine support for the measures. See the full story at the Washington Post's website: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2009/07/16/AR2009071602242.html>.

While the Research Department will monitor the legislation, we will not be reporting on either Bill until one is passed, as changes will undoubtedly be made to the proposed legislation during the process.

\* \* \*