

Health Care Reform Legislation Impact on Anesthesia Care

Preamble

The American Society of Anesthesiologists (ASA) and its physician anesthesiologist members are committed to providing safe, high quality and efficient care for patients undergoing anesthesia and surgery, and for patients requiring care in the intensive care unit, pain management, and palliative care. To accomplish these goals, the ASA is also committed to advancing patient health and clinical care through research designed to improve the health of our patients, identify new and improved ways to care for patients and to provide value based care that best meets the needs of each patient.

The ASA has established a list of key principles that should be ensured in any legislative changes proposed by Congress to refine the Affordable Care Act and achieve the goals outlined by the Administration. The following is a summary of the key provisions that ASA believes must be included in any legislative reforms considered by Congress.

Key Health Care Reform Provisions

- **Maintain access to affordable health care services** for all Americans by building on the best features of public and private coverage - including **maintaining a robust employer-sponsored insurance system** and **access to preventive and health maintenance services** as well as insurance **coverage for catastrophic illnesses**. **Preserve current levels of coverage and benefits for the individuals and families** who gained access to insurance coverage under the ACA-implemented exchanges.
- Assure access to anesthesia and pain services by **preserving coverage of essential benefits**, including coverage for physician and hospital services, maternity care, and prescription medications. **Continued insurance coverage** should be provided for all patients with **preexisting conditions**.
- Recognition of the **value of physician-directed care** and the integral role physicians play in delivering high quality, cost-efficient patient care based on their advanced education, skills and experience.
- Assure **choice** of physician, insurer, and type of health plan, including health savings accounts as well as to **access to physician-led care** regardless of the geographic location.
- Ensure **adequate funding for Medicaid and children's health services**.