

2018 Legislative Update: What You Need to Know



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Question and Answer

What will Indiana do as far as Individuals with Disability Act now that the law was removed by the Federal Government? Removing this Law will significantly limit the ability of our individuals to access their communities.

I would consider this a political mistake. I am not significantly worried that this will make it to the President's desk. I believe the senate will kill this bill.

How does the new Medicaid law that requires able bodied individuals to work in order to keep their Medicaid effect the individuals we support?

The following is a list of Participation Exemptions included in this law:

- Gateway to Work Participation Exemptions
- Students (full-time and part-time)
- Members who are employed & working more than 20 hours per week averaged over 8 of 12 months
- Pregnant women
- Members who are a primary caregiver of a dependent child below the compulsory education age or a disabled dependent, including kinship caregivers of abused or neglected children
- Members identified as medically frail (i.e. serious & complex medical conditions, chronic substance use disorder, or disability determination)
- Members with a certified temporary illness or incapacity (includes individuals on FMLA)
- Members in active substance use disorder (SUD) treatment
- Members over the age of 60
- Former foster children under age 26
- Chronically Homeless Individuals
- Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) recipients
- Recent incarceration

I have heard about an issue of gerrymandering. Is that an issue in Indiana? If so, what can citizens do about it?

It is an issue here as it is everywhere. Ohio just passed a bill that will end up with a referendum to redo their maps. There is also a court case in Pennsylvania. It exists in every state, and historically the political party in charge is the one who draws the maps, and they draw the maps so that they're advantageous to them. Right now, Republicans have the majority in Indiana, so the maps are drawn to the Republican advantage. The US Supreme Court has heard a case from Wisconsin about

gerrymandering, and we expect a decision next summer. This is a partisan issue, and it would require the Republican party to give away control, so the judicial system would have to issue a decision regarding that matter to get it to change.

Are there any answers on potential monetary changes related to the Medicaid Waiver program as the realignment of federal Medicaid funding becomes more of a factor in the near budget future?

I don't have any at this time. Communicating this concern to your congressman and both US Senators is valuable.

A family stated she heard that Medicaid was going to be cut. This came from her special education teacher. The mother is very concerned as to services ending for her daughter who recently got on the Medicaid waiver. How do I effectively address this concern?

Communicating this concern to your congressman and both US Senators is valuable. And I recommend reminding the congressional offices on a schedule, like monthly as an example.

Is house bill 207 and 224 the only two that sb355 may be added/amended to?

224 is a possibility. 1007 is a house bill in the senate committee on Wednesday. Those are the two bills that would make the most sense. Keep an eye on those two bills.

Can the new Medicaid work requirements be discussed in how it will affect the individuals we serve?

See the list above for exemptions, but this link contains a good discussion in more detail:
[https://www.in.gov/fssa/hip/files/HIP%20Amendment%20\(Update%207_20\).pdf](https://www.in.gov/fssa/hip/files/HIP%20Amendment%20(Update%207_20).pdf)

Obviously, Indiana is a fiscally conservative state. With that in mind, is there any legitimate conversation amongst legislators regarding addressing the DCS/Foster care crisis and opioid addiction? My rep (BOSMA) is asking constituents about mandatory drug treatment, but how could they possibly fund that?

Many states have been hit particularly hard with this crisis. We knew it would be hard to address this issue since it is not a budget year. I feel that being patient has helped because money from the federal government is starting to become more available. I think on the opioid crisis, federal funding is going to be a significant factor.

It has been reported that the Trump administration, in an effort to save \$129 billion over the next decade, wants to scrap food stamps for low-income Americans and replace them with boxes of non-perishable food items selected by the government. The boxes would reportedly include staples like powdered milk, peanut butter, canned fruits and meats and cereal. What is our recourse on behalf of our clients here in Indiana should this proposal take effect?

I would advocate against this before planning on how to except it. It is a controversial idea that has not been well received so far. I recommend voicing opposition to congressional offices. Also, see this news item (there are many others): <https://www.nytimes.com/2018/02/13/us/harvest-box-snap-food-stamps.html>

If we have an issue that we feel needs to be presented as a bill, how do we pursue that? Find a legislative sponsor (or more than one)? Prepare a draft bill?

My advice is to go to your legislator with your issue and talk about it in terms of the policy that you seek. For example, if you want potholes to be filled within 24 hours, you would go and say, "this is what I want the law to say." Legislative services manages the website, and they help facilitate the process.

Does a bill that is passed in the House, have the same number in the Senate?

Yes.

Why does IPMG case managers not allowed to tell their clients about legislative laws and concerns? All of them have said they can't inform us on issues or they will get fired. Why is that?

IPMG encourages employees to provide Individuals that we support with information on how to advocate for themselves and others. This includes providing information on voter registration. We would be happy to discuss this in more detail with you and address your specific concerns. Please contact IPMG's customer service at 866-672-4764.