AACU and UrologyTimes.com: Single-payer proposals crop up at state, federal level

Sen. Bernie Sanders' campaign for the Democratic Party's nomination for president reminds many Americans that single-payer health care proposals often pop up in his home state of Vermont. Proponents of universal health care wield great influence not only in Montpelier, however. Lawmakers in state capitals across the country, as well as Washington, are weighing various so-called "public options."
State-level single-payer legislation has been introduced in 26 states at one time or another. Of the 16 campaigns launched in 2015-2016, a few proposals remain active in New York, Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, California, Minnesota, Oregon, and elsewhere.

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**National News of Note**

**Finding Value in Unexpected Places - Fixing the Medicare Physician Fee Schedule**

Are sick beneficiaries better off in traditional Medicare?

**CMS finalizes slight bump in Medicare Advantage payment rates**

Medicare Advantage payments to rise slightly

**Four Consequences That Will Derive From MIPS**

Hospitals Brace for New Medicare Payment Rules

**What Practices Should Know about MIPS**

Analysis highlights high customer churn on Affordable Care Act exchanges

**Only 33 Percent of Exchange Enrollees in 2016 Kept Their Same Plan from 2015**

**How Practices Are Faring with ICD-10 at Six Months**
New Stark Law Exception Breathes Life into Primary Care, Especially in Underserved Areas

Medical innovation bill passes Senate committee without crucial NIH funding; Senators advance medical cures bill, push for more funding

Politics may derail Obama's cancer initiative

Uninsured rate hits eight-year low, Gallup says

Federal, state efforts to end balance billing

VA commission divided on total privatization proposal

AAMC confirms physician shortage is real, 94,700 docs could be needed; AAMC increases estimate of physician shortage: 8 things to know

Growth of certified PAs hits 35% in 5 years

Physicians continue to find fulfillment treating patients despite burnout

Telemedicine offers solution to narrowing networks, but regulatory uncertainty remains

Back-end challenges persist in push to update payers' provider directories

If Healthcare Prices Emerge, Americans Won't Link To Quality; Study: Insurers must do more to promote use of price transparency tools

Study: Yelp reviews can provide new insight to hospital execs

Pfizer calls off $160 billion merger with Allergan; The big winners
and losers of the Pfizer-Allergan breakup

**Opinion: How the Feds plan to Federalize MOC**

**Opinion: Politics should be more like medicine**

**Opinion: Academia And Industry Do Not Need To Be At Odds With Each Other**

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**Save The Date**

Leaders of organizations representing urologists, as well as State Society Network Physician Representatives and AACU members are encouraged to SAVE THE DATE for the 9th Annual State Advocacy Conference, scheduled for August 19-20, 2016, in Metropolitan Chicago.

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**State Round-Up**

State medical association urges physicians to consider dropping Medicaid patients due to 25% rate cut

State-run health insurance marketplaces enroll more in Medicaid

AL: Alabama overbilling Medicare, CMS says; AL: Bentley, Azar paint grim picture for Medicaid

AR: Lawmakers urge Gov. to drop Medicaid plan

CA: Anthem, Cigna Await Commissioner's Decision On Proposed $54B Merger
CT: Governor names certificate of need task force

FL: Regulators OK Anthem-Cigna insurance deal; FL: State settles 10-year Medicaid provider access suit

IA: Gov. Branstad Urges Repeal of State's Certificate of Need Laws; IA: Iowa implements Medicaid managed care program

IL: Budget impasse leads to 5% pay cut for SIU physicians

LA: Hospitals to help pay for Medicaid expansion under plan being finalized

MN: Insurer UCare to get boost from merger with Fairview Health Services

NC: Certificate Of Need Law: Diagnosing Dysfunction

NH: Is 'Right to Try' Right for New Hampshire?; NH: Senate Approves Extending Medicaid Expansion Program

NY: Budget talks clear Medicaid hurdle; NY: Study shows avoidable emergency room costs

OH: Ohio readies waiver to require cost-sharing in Medicaid

OK: Oklahoma eyes Obamacare funds, but without expansion

OR: Health leaders offer remedy for 'measurement fatigue'

TN: Lawmakers pursue CON reform; TN: Opinion: Bill would ruin certificate of need program

TX: Health insurers fear Texas trial lawyers are seeking billions, but attorneys say that's hype

WI: Medical malpractice fund surplus exceeds recommended total by $406M; WI: Mega Merger Between Health Insurers Raises Concerns Over Higher Premiums, Job Losses

WV: New Telemedicine Practice Standards & Remote Prescribing Laws