Insurers Look To Senate For Prompt Action To Stabilize Market

Insurers continue to press Congress to take immediate action to shore up the individual market, including offering certainty on the Affordable Care Act’s cost-sharing reduction payments, and hope to engage the Senate on Medicaid and market reforms as the upper chamber tackles the House-passed American Health Care Act (AHCA). Insurers say they are concerned that AHCA’s aged-based tax credits are too low and the bill’s Medicaid cuts too steep.

The Blue Cross Blue Shield Association and America’s Health Insurance Plans say that although ACHA includes provisions aimed at stabilizing the market in 2018 and 2019, immediate action is also needed to fund the cost-sharing reductions (CSRs). “We need certainty now about funding for cost-sharing reductions that lower co-payments for patients so they can better afford to get care from their doctor,” AHIP President and CEO Marilyn Tavenner said.

“It is critical to fund cost-sharing reductions during this time to avoid disruption in the marketplace and to ensure those with low and moderate incomes get the care they need,” BCBSA President and CEO Scott Serota said.

The House GOP bill does not include funding for the cost-sharing reductions, but it does authorize the payments through January 1, 2020.