

That's
ThinkWellPoint

Click to learn more

ThinkWellPoint.com



THE HILL

Monday, December 13, 2010

Search TheHill.com **GO»**

[Advanced Search Options »](#)

[Home/News](#) [News by Subject](#) [Business & Lobbying](#) [Opinion](#) [Capital Living](#) [Special Reports](#) [Jobs](#) [The Washington Scene](#)

BLOGS [Congress Blog](#) [Pundits Blog](#) [Blog Briefing Room](#) [Twitter Room](#) [Hillicon Valley](#) [E2-Wire](#) [Ballot Box](#) [On The Money](#) [Healthwatch](#)

Enter Email **GO**

- [Home](#)
- [Senate](#)
- [House](#)
- [Administration](#)
- [Campaign](#)
- [Polls](#)
- [Business & Lobbying](#)
- BLOGS**
- [Congress Blog](#)
- [Pundits Blog](#)
- [Blog Briefing Room](#)
- [Twitter Room](#)
- [Hillicon Valley](#)
- [E2-Wire](#)
- [Ballot Box](#)
- [On The Money](#)
- [Healthwatch](#)
- BUSINESS & LOBBYING**
- [K Street Insiders](#)
- NEWS BY SUBJECT**
- [Defense & Homeland Security](#)
- [Energy & Environment](#)
- [Finance & Economy](#)
- [Technology](#)
- [All News by Subject](#)
- OPINION**
- [A.B. Stoddard](#)
- [Brent Budowsky](#)
- [Lanny Davis](#)
- [John Del Cecato](#)
- [Ben Goddard](#)
- [David Hill](#)
- [Cheri Jacobus](#)
- [David Keene](#)
- [Mark Mellman](#)
- [Dick Morris](#)
- [Markos Moulitsas \(Kos\)](#)
- [Robin Bronk](#)
- [Editorials](#)
- [Letters](#)



This week: Reform law ruling Monday; 9/11 benefits, food safety still unresolved

By Jason Millman - 12/13/10 08:16 AM ET

- [COMMENT](#)
- [EMAIL](#)
- [PRINT](#)
- [SHARE](#)

A Virginia federal judge is expected to issue a decision on the constitutionality of the new healthcare reform law Monday.

U.S. District Judge Henry Hudson will decide whether the federal government can require individuals to purchase health insurance, in accordance with the Constitution's commerce clause. Whatever Hudson rules Monday, he said in October the case will wind up in the Supreme Court.

On Thursday, a federal court in Florida will hear oral arguments on a healthcare reform lawsuit filed by 20 states. In October, U.S. District Judge Roger Vinson allowed the lawsuit to challenge two constitutional provisions: whether the law's individual mandate violates the commerce clause, and whether the federal government can require states to expand their Medicaid programs.

The Senate will consider the food safety bill this week after House leaders tucked it into a continuing resolution to keep the government funded through Sept. 30. The \$1.1 trillion CR narrowly passed the House, 212-206, after House Republicans objected to the legislative maneuver. Senate Appropriations Committee Chairman Daniel Inouye (D-Hawaii) is expected to include the CR into an earmark-loaded omnibus bill.

Senate Democrats will try again to pass \$7.4 billion in health benefits and compensation to Ground Zero workers after failing a vital cloture vote on Thursday. Senate Republicans held up the bill partially because they want to finalize the budget and Bush tax cuts before dealing with other business. About 60 members on Thursday backed a proposal to include the health benefits bill into the Bush tax cuts extension.

On Friday, the Food and Drug Administration is expected to rule if it will rescind approval of Avastin for advanced breast cancer treatment. Just last week, Britain's healthcare agency rejected the drug for the same purpose.

Another FDA panel this week will review whether mercury-based dental fillings exceed Environmental Protection Agency-approved levels.

On Monday, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services will host a conference call to gather stakeholder input on the design and development of the Independence at Home Demonstration included in healthcare reform. The project will enable Medicare beneficiaries with multiple chronic conditions to receive primary care in their homes.

[GO TO THE HILL HOME »](#)

Do We Need to Change the Way We Pay for Power?
Join the discussion at ecomagination.com.

Enter Your Comment:

Name _____

Post

Imagination at work [ecomagination](#) [SHARE](#)

HEALTHWATCH SECTIONS:

- [Healthwatch Home »](#)
- [Health Reform Implementation »](#)
- [Medicare »](#)
- [Medicaid »](#)
- [Food Safety »](#)
- [Prescription Drug Policy »](#)
- [Corporate news »](#)
- [State issues »](#)
- [Politics/elections »](#)
- [Worker safety »](#)

VIEW ARTICLES BY AUTHOR



Julian Pecquet



Mike Lillis

HEALTHCARE NEWS

- [Lawmakers not on sidelines as health law repeal gains momentum in courts](#)
 - [Bipartisan bill would accelerate state opt-out provision in health law](#)
 - [Long wait for food safety bill may be over](#)
 - [House Dems who pushed health bill to passage face grim Election Day](#)
 - [Orszag crunched on healthcare reform](#)
 - [Florida judge: Fight against insurance mandate can proceed](#)
 - [Obama grapples with implementing unpopular health law before Nov.](#)
 - [House Dems still negotiating on child nutrition legislation](#)
 - [Eyeing control of the House, GOP rolls out its new agenda](#)
 - [New healthcare rules debut to administration cheers, GOP jeers](#)
 - [GOP using Rep. Taylor as '10 ammo](#)
 - [Senate defeats plan to strip filing requirement from health law](#)
 - [Healthcare reform faces low participation in high-risk pools](#)
 - [Insurance agents fight for survival in world after health reform](#)
- [Healthcare News Archive »](#)

- Op-Eds
- CAPITAL LIVING
- Gossip: In the Know
- Cover Stories
- Food & Drink
- Announcements
- All Capital Living
- SOCIAL
- Washington Scene
- VIDEO
- HillTube
- RESOURCES
- Mobile Site
- iPhone
- Android
- iPad
- Election 2010
- Lawmaker Ratings
- White Papers
- Classifieds
- Order Reprints
- Last 6 Issues
- Outside Links
- RSS Feeds
- CONTACT US
- Advertise
- Reach Us
- Submitting Letters
- Subscriptions



Also on Monday, the liberal Center for American Progress will host a discussion panel on the future of financing and caring for Medicare and Medicaid dual eligibles. Edo Banach, senior adviser for CMS' Federal Coordinated Health Care Office, will serve as a panelist.

The libertarian Cato Institute will be in the Rayburn House Office Building on Thursday to discuss the GOP budget agenda and how the next Congress should address entitlement spending.

Comments (1)

Evidently the DemocRATS learned NOTHING from the November drubbing. They are viewing this lame duck session as their "last hurrah" to spend yet more money we do not have. Disgraceful.

BY **DISGUSTED WITH DC** on 12/13/2010 at 09:26

Add Comment

Name (required)

E-Mail (will not be published) (required)

Your Comments

Submit Comment Clear

The Hill Archives: [Senate](#) | [House](#) | [Administration](#) | [Campaign](#) | [Business & Lobbying](#) | [Capital Living](#) | [Opinion](#)

View News by Subject: [Defense & Homeland Security](#) | [Energy & Environment](#) | [Healthcare](#) | [Finance & Economy](#) | [Technology](#) | [Foreign Policy](#) | [Labor](#) | [Transportation & Infrastructure](#)



BRIEFING ROOM

- Key Dem outlines possible path to final deal on taxes
- Manchin looks to explain vote against 'Don't ask, don't tell' repeal
- Ron Paul: 'At least 50-50' chance of 2012 run for president

[More Briefing Room »](#)

CONGRESS BLOG

- A surprising and wrong decision
- WikiLeaks is revealing the truth about American empire (Rep. Ron Paul)
- Tax deal like a bait and switch mortgage

[More Congress Blog »](#)

PUNDITS BLOG

- Has Obama jumped the shark?
- Israel and the Krebs generation
- American kids overworked, overscheduled and underperforming?

[More Pundits Blog »](#)

TWITTER ROOM

- California congressman extends DREAM Act tweet war through the weekend
- California congressman embroiled in a war of tweets over DREAM Act
- State Dept. spokesman heavily uses Twitter to battle WikiLeaks fallout

[More Twitter Room »](#)

HILLICON VALLEY

- Judiciary panel to take up Espionage Act, legal options against WikiLeaks
- Pew: Women use Twitter more than men
- Franken: FCC should bury net-neutrality proposal unless it is strengthened

[More Hillicon Valley »](#)

E²-WIRE

- Kerry: Cancun shows U.S. should 'get back in the game' on climate
- What the Cancun climate deal means
- Energy secretary: 'I'll stay 'as long as the president will have me'

[More E²-Wire »](#)

BALLOT BOX

- Rep. Chaffetz's PAC to hold first event
- Retiring Sen. Bond takes shots at Obama, has 'reservations' about Palin
- New Jersey GOP lacking a name to face a more vulnerable Menendez

[More Ballot Box »](#)

ON THE MONEY

- Hoyer prioritizes deficit, tax code reform in speech
- New Appropriations Republicans vow to slash spending quickly
- Economic disparity evident in Wall Street bonuses, Warren says

[More On The Money »](#)