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Legislative update: House passes healthcare-related bills

The U.S. House of Representatives today passed the following bills related to healthcare.

- The House passed by voice vote the VETERAN Act (H.R. 2372). The bill would clarify eligibility for premium assistance tax credits for certain individuals who are not enrolled in Veterans Affairs health insurance programs. Specifically, the bill would apply to the current premium credit for tax years ending after 2013 and would apply to any premium assistance credits that would become effective assuming enactment of the American Health Care Act of 2017.
- The House passed the Broader Options for American Act (H.R. 2579) by a vote of 267-144. The bill would allow individuals to apply the premium assistance tax credit for unsubsidized COBRA continuation coverage, provided that the COBRA continuation coverage has been certified to meet the requirements for qualified health plans. The effective date of the bill is contingent upon the successful enactment of the American Health Care Act of 2017.

Earlier this week, the House passed the Verify First Act (H.R. 2581) by a vote of 238-184. This bill would require the IRS to verify an individual's citizenship status prior to any advance payments of premium assistance tax credits. The effective date of the bill would also be contingent upon the successful enactment of the American Health Care Act of 2017.

These bills will be sent to the U.S. Senate for possible consideration.

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