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Legislative update: Health-care mandate exemption approved by Ways and Means

The House Ways and Means Committee today approved by voice-vote H.R.954, the CO-OP Consumer Protection Act of 2016.

The Republican-sponsored bill would provide an exemption from the individual health-care mandate for individuals who had been enrolled in a qualified health plan offered by a qualified nonprofit health insurance issuer under the CO-OP program, if that coverage was terminated during a calendar year. For qualified individuals, the exemption would apply for the first month for which the coverage was terminated and the remaining months in the calendar year. The bill would be effective for months beginning after December 31, 2013.

The bill must next be considered by the full House of Representatives. A vote has not yet been scheduled.

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