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NEWS

Illinois Department of Insurance

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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Illinois Department of Insurance To Host 6th Educational Webinar on Health Reform

March 23rd webinar to highlight the benefits for Illinois patients, families and small employers during the first year of the Affordable Care Act

CHICAGO—March 22, 2011. The Illinois Department of Insurance announced today the sixth in a series of educational webinars related to the federal health care reform law, known as the Affordable Care Act (ACA).

As part of its ongoing efforts to support the education of policymakers and interested parties regarding the ACA, the Department is announcing the sixth in its series of educational webinars, “ACA Implementation: Year One.” The presentation will cover: 1) an overview of insurance reforms under the ACA; 2) steps Illinois has taken to implement the ACA; 3) some of the ways that Illinois families and businesses have benefitted during the first year of the ACA’s enactment; and 4) a timeline and overview of future implementation efforts.

Background

The Affordable Care Act was signed into law on March 23, 2010. Since that time, the Department of Insurance has worked with other State and federal policymakers to implement key provisions of the law in Illinois. Resulting benefits to Illinois families and employers include the following:

- Over 1,000 uninsured Illinois residents with preexisting health conditions have received coverage through the Illinois Preexisting Condition Insurance Plan.
- Over 100,000 Illinois seniors who reached the Medicare Part D “donut hole” have received a \$250 rebate check.
- Hundreds of Illinois employers have enrolled in the Early Retiree Reinsurance Program, helping to reduce the cost of providing health coverage to retirees.
- Thousands of small employers in Illinois became eligible for tax credits making it more affordable to offer or maintain health coverage to employees.
- Millions of Illinoisans with health insurance have benefited from new consumer protections and reforms designed to increase the value and transparency of health insurance plans.

TOPIC: ACA Implementation in Illinois: Year One
DATE: Wednesday, March 23, 2011
TIME: 10:00 AM CST
WEB ADDRESS: insurance.illinois.gov/webinars

Led by the Department's Director, Michael T. McRaith, the presentation is scheduled to last approximately 30 minutes, and will be followed by an opportunity for questions and answers. Questions may be submitted at any point **one hour before the webinar or during the webinar** by sending an email to doi.webinars@illinois.gov. For details about the technical requirements necessary to participate in the webinar, please visit insurance.illinois.gov/webinars in advance.

For those unable to participate, the written presentation and an audio recording of the presentation will be available on both the Department of Insurance website (insurance.illinois.gov), and the Governor's Health Reform Implementation website (healthcarereform.illinois.gov).

More Information

The Department's mission is to protect consumers by providing assistance and information, by efficiently regulating the insurance industry's market behavior and financial solvency, and by fostering a competitive insurance marketplace. The Department assists consumers with all insurance complaints, including health, auto, life, and homeowner. Consumers in need of information or assistance should visit the Department's Web site at www.illinois.insurance.gov or call our toll-free hotline at (877) 527-9431.

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