

## Meetings with Donna Smith

### Overview:

- House has to agree to a “Pledge and Pass” strategy – they will accept the Senate bill if the Senate will vote on a bundle of house ‘add-ons’. Reconciliation likely by late April.
- California Nurses continue to support (1) expanding Medicare, (2) allowing state ‘experimentation’, but also oppose (3) any excise tax on members’ health plans.
- Donna urges state advocates to (1) continue lobbying for changing, (2) build local chapters, and (3) encourage local/state entities to pass resolutions supporting Single Payer.
- Do everything you can to create your own media.
- Our mantra should be “Will it improve my health? Will it protect my wealth?”

### Senate accepted the Wyden/Sanders amendment:

- Currently in the Senate version, BUT not in the House bill
- This allowed state innovation waivers, BUT not until 2017
- Exchanges using taxpayer subsidies for private insurance plans kick in 2013
- ERISA waiver language

**Ask House members to insert this into their version, but same year that Exchanges start, 2013.**

**Ask Senate members to change start date for state innovation to 2013.**

### House Committee passed Kucinich Amendment, but stripped before got to floor vote:

- Allowing ERISA waivers for states requesting them.

### Obstacles to changing the 2017 date in the House: Henry Waxman, Miller & Nancy Pelosi

#### Note: An “ERISA waiver” is separate from a “state innovation waiver”

- ERISA waiver would allow state legislatures to intervene in retirement & medical benefits negotiated by labor and management – like setting benefit standards on health care benefits.
- State innovation waivers would allow states to pool federal funds and state funds into one common “pool”. For example taking all Medicare and Medicaid funds and apply them to an enlarged Basic Health Plan.

**Ask Senate members to insert ability for states to request ERISA waivers.**

**Ask House members to insert ability for states to request ERISA waivers.**

**Rep. Anthony Wiener:** “The Republican Party is a wholly-owned subsidiary of the insurance industry”. But, figures show, some Democrats get higher contributions than Republicans.

### Working with **Judy Huntington, Washington Nurses Association**

No way around negotiating with her and the executive structure.