
VOR is the only national organization advocating for a full range of residential and support options for people with mental retardation, including Medicaid-certified Intermediate Care Facilities for the Mentally Retarded (ICFs/MR) and home and community-based care. VOR supports choice.

VOR Weekly E-Mail Update November 17, 2006

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For Immediate Release
November 7, 2006

News Release SOCIAL SECURITY -- Public Warned about E-mail Scam

Jo Anne Barnhart, Commissioner of Social Security, and Patrick O'Carroll, Jr., Inspector General of Social Security, issued a warning today about a new email scam that has surfaced recently.

The Agency has received several reports of an email message being circulated with the subject "Cost-of- Living for 2007update" and purporting to be from the Social Security Administration. The message provides information about the 3.3 percent benefit increase for 2007 and contains the following "NOTE: We now need you to update your personal information. If this is not completed by November 11, 2006, we will be forced to suspend your account indefinitely." The reader is then directed to a website designed to look like Social Security's Internet website.

"I am outraged that someone would target an unsuspecting public in this manner," said Commissioner Barnhart. "I have asked the Inspector General to use all the resources at his command to find and prosecute whoever is perpetrating this fraud."

Once directed to the phony website, the individual is asked to register for a password and to confirm their identity by providing personal information such as the individual's Social Security number, bank account information and credit card information.

Inspector General O'Carroll recommends people always take precautions when giving out personal information. "You should never provide your Social Security number or other personal information over the Internet or by telephone unless you are extremely confident of the source to whom you are providing the information," O'Carroll said.

To report receipt of this email message or other suspicious activity to Social Security's Office of Inspector General, please call the OIG Hotline at 1-800-269-0271. (If you are deaf or hard of hearing, call the OIG TTY number at 1-866-501-2101). A Public Fraud Reporting form is also available online at OIG's website www.socialsecurity.gov/oig

2. Former HHS Secretary Thompson Says States Will Take Lead on Health Care Reform

Kaiser Daily Health Policy Report October 27, 2006 Coverage & Access Former HHS Secretary Tommy Thompson, chair of the Deloitte Center for Health Solutions and a partner at the law firm Akin Gump Strauss Hauer and Feld, on Thursday told reporters that states likely will take the lead on health care reform in the absence of federal action, CQ HealthBeat reports (www.cq.com/corp/show.do?page=products_cqhealthbeat).

According to Thompson, regardless of whether Democrats take control of Congress after the midterm elections, federal action on healthcare likely will not occur until 2008, when he expects the issue to play an important role in the presidential election. He also said that at least 20 states likely will follow the lead of Massachusetts and pass laws to require residents to purchase health insurance.

In addition, Thompson said that he remains hopeful about the enactment of a federal healthcare information technology law. The House and Senate have passed separate healthcare IT bills (HR 4157 and S 1418), but lawmakers have not named conferees to resolve differences in the legislation. Thompson also promoted the "Medicaid Makeover" proposal that he introduced in August at the National Governors Association (<http://www.nga.org/portal/site/nga>) meeting (Hopkins, CQ HealthBeat, 10/26).

The proposal recommends that the responsibility for long-term care of elderly Medicaid beneficiaries shift from joint state and federal funding to the federal government and that states focus on acute care for Medicaid beneficiaries younger than age 65. In addition, the proposal recommends that Medicaid begin to use electronic health records and other technologies to improve case management and health information collection (Kaiser Daily Health Policy Report, 8/3 http://www.kaisernetwork.org/daily_reports/rep_index.cfm?hint=3&DR_ID=38906).

Thompson said, "I think the Bush administration has done more than any other to bring Medicaid to the forefront." He added, "Am I satisfied? No, I'm not." (CQ HealthBeat, 10/26).

Tamie Hopp

REFERRAL/MEMBERSHIP/CONTRIBUTION FORM

THREE EASY WAYS TO SUPPORT VOR > REFER, CONTRIBUTE OR JOIN

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

TO JOIN OR CONTRIBUTE: \$25 per individual, \$150 per family organization, or \$200 per provider/professional organization. Extra donations are welcome! You may pay by credit card or check.

TO REFER SOMEONE TO VOR: Use the form below, including the additional sections for referrals.

Mail the completed form (if joining or contributing) with payment to:
Voice of the Retarded
5005 Newport Drive, Suite 108
Rolling Meadows, IL 60008
847-253-6054 fax (for referrals or credit card payments)
vor@compuserve.com (for referrals or credit card payments)

FOR REFERRALS: ____ The contact information provided is for someone I think would consider membership with VOR.

FOR REFERRALS: ____ You may use my name in any correspondence with this individual.

My name is _____.

Name

Address (if paying by credit card, use billing address). All forms must include complete address including zip code)

City St Zip

Phone Fax

E-Mail

Family/Professional Organization Affiliation (if applicable)

VOR now accepts Master Card and Visa. If paying by credit card, please provide the following information:

Amount to charge to card: ___\$1,000 ___\$500 ___\$250 ___\$150 ___\$50 ___\$25

\$_____ Other amount

_____ Master Card _____ Visa

Card Number: _____

Expiration Date: _____

Cardholder's Signature: _____