This Week in Health Policy...

- Pain Management
- Medicaid Cuts
- Donut Hole
- Individual Mandate

Office of Health Policy and Government Relations
This week, the Institute of Medicine (IOM) reported that about **116 million adult Americans suffer from chronic pain**. IOM also found that the economic burden of pain ranges between $560 and $635 billion annually in direct medical costs and lost productivity. More details are available [here](#).
This week, Families USA released a report that analyzed the potential impact of cuts in federal Medicaid spending on states’ economies. Among other findings, the authors estimate that tens of billions of dollars in economic activity would be lost, and unemployment would increase in states that can least afford it. Researchers also found that the deeper the cuts, the more intense the economic pain. More details here.

**Key Findings:**

Assuming a 5% cut in federal Medicaid spending:

- 50 states + DC would lose $13.75B in business activity
- The hardest hit states would be NY, CA, TX, PA, FL
- 132,420 jobs will be lost in 10 states alone.
Thanks to the Affordable Care Act (ACA), more Medicare Part D beneficiaries are now able to afford their prescriptions when they fall into the “donut hole”. CMS reports that the 50% drug discount available under the ACA has resulted in $545 worth of savings per beneficiary. More details are available [here](#).

**Highlights:**
- **CA:** 54,586 seniors saved an average of $541.79
- **FL:** 29,249 seniors saved an average of $584.60
- **NJ:** 18,378 seniors saved an average of $613.63
- **WI:** 7,571 seniors saved an average of $635.22

*Image credit: Center for American Progress*
This week, the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals in Cincinnati ruled that the individual responsibility mandate of the Affordable Care Act is constitutional. In his concurring opinion, Judge Jeffrey Sutton (below) insisted the mandate “meets the requirement of regulating activities that substantially affect interstate commerce.” More details are available [here](#).
What You Can Do

• Please call your Governors and Members of Congress RIGHT NOW, and urge them to preserve Medicaid. Contact info here and here.

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