A Brief History

• Physicians have been involved in the legislative process since the signing of the Declaration of Independence
  – Josiah Bartlett
  – Lyman Hall
  – Benjamin Rush
  – Matthew Thornton
  – Oliver Wolcott

• While the number of physicians in Congress has oscillated over the years, current issues have sparked interest and involvement.
Physicians of 112th Congress

- Senate incumbents
  - Tom Coburn (R) Oklahoma
  - John Barasso (R) Wyoming
  - Rand Paul (R) Kentucky*

* member of Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions (HELP) committee
Physicians of 112th Congress

• House Incumbents
  – Charles Boustany (R) Louisiana**
  – John Fleming (R) Louisiana
  – Bill Cassidy (R) Louisiana*
  – Tom Price (R) Georgia**
  – Paul Broun (R) Georgia
  – Phil Gingrey (R) Georgia*
  – Ron Paul (R) Texas
  – Michael Burgess (R) Texas*
  – David “Phil” Roe (R) Tennessee
  – Jim McDermott (D) Washington**

*member of House Energy and Commerce Committee
**member of House Ways and Means Committee
Physicians of 112th Congress

• New House Members
  – Larry Bucshon (R) Indiana
  – Andy Harris (R) Maryland
  – Dan Benishek (R) Michigan
  – Nan Hayworth (R) New York
  – Scott DesJarlais (R) Tennessee
  – Joe Heck (R) Nevada
  – Donna Christensen (D) Virgin Islands

*member of House Energy and Commerce Committee
**member of House Ways and Means Committee
Key physicians in Congress and their legislation
Tom Coburn

- Republican senator from Oklahoma
- Family physician
- Ob-Gyn
- Liebermann-Coburn Medicare Overhaul
  - Cut deficit by $600B
- Patient Care Act (S.1099)
  - Americans buy health insurance with a tax credit
  - State exchanges
  - No new spending/taxes
  - Addresses fraud
  - Reworks Medicaid
  - Prevention/wellness investments
  - Less government control
John Barasso

- Republican senator from Wyoming
- Orthopedic surgeon
- State Health Care Choice Act (S. 244)
  - Limit the implementation of the PPACA
  - Opt out of provisions that do not apply
Rand Paul

- Republican senator from Kentucky
- Ophthalmologist
- Key health issues
  - Medical expenses tax deductible
  - Health Savings Account eligibility for all Americans while removing required high deductible insurance policies
Charles Boustany

- Republican representative from Louisiana
- Cardiovascular surgeon
- Medical FSA Improvement Act of 2011 (H.R. 1004)
  - Allows you to keep extra money not spent in FSA as taxable income
  - Increase fee schedule for ground ambulance services
John Fleming

- Republican representative from Louisiana
- Family physician
- H.R. 38
  - Removes funds for Health Insurance Reform Implementation Fund under Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act
Bill Cassidy

- Republican representative from Louisiana
- Gastroenterologist
- Key health issues
  - Health Savings Accounts
  - Tort reform
  - Pooling mechanisms (Individual Membership Associations and Association Health Plans) for flexibility and bargaining power
Tom Price

- Republican representative from Georgia
- Orthopedic surgeon
- Medical Practice Freedom Act of 2011 (H.R. 969)
  - Prohibits secretary of HHS or any state from requiring a provider to participate in any health plan as part of licensure requirements
Paul Broun

- Republican representative from Georgia
- Family physician
- H.R. 299
  - Repeal PPACA
  - Association health plans
  - Increased funding for high risk pools
  - Allow plans to go across state lines
  - Repeal 7.5 percent threshold on deduction of medical expenses
Phil Gingrey

- Republican representative from Georgia
- Ob-Gyn
- HEALTH Act of 2011 (H.R. 5)
  - Sets conditions for lawsuits originating in health care liabilities
  - Ex. Limit $250,000 in noneconomic damages
Ron Paul

- Republican representative from Texas
- Ob-Gyn
- Prescription Drug Affordability Act (H.R. 147)
  - Repeals restriction on importations of prescription drugs
Michael Burgess

- Republican representative from Texas
- Ob-Gyn
- H.R. 360
  - President, vice-president, and political appointees participate in a state insurance exchange instead of federal employees health benefit program
David “Phil” Roe

- Republican representative from Tennessee
- Ob-Gyn
- Medicare Decisions Accountability Act of 2011 (H.R. 452)
  - Repeals Medicare Independent Payment Advisory Board (PAB)
Jim McDermott

- Democratic representative from Washington
- Psychiatrist
- American Health Security Act of 2011 (H.R. 1200)
  - Installs required state-based American Health Security Program for all citizens or lawful resident aliens
  - Eliminates Medicare, Medicaid and CHIP
Larry Bucshon

- Republican representative from Indiana
- Thoracic surgeon
- Top three health care priorities:
  - Tort reform
  - Insurance purchase across state lines
  - Small employers pooling resources to purchase insurance
Andy Harris

- Republican representative from Maryland
- Anesthesiologist
- Co-sponsor
  - Defund the Individual Mandate Act (H.R. 154)
    - Removes funding for any agency that would be used to force individuals to purchase insurance
Dan Benishek

- Republican representative from Michigan
- General surgeon
- Key health issues
  - Favors interstate competition amongst insurance plans
  - Advocates for the decentralization of the health care system to empower patients
  - Favors medical savings accounts
Nan Hayworth

- Republican representative from New York
- Ophthalmologist
- H.AMDT.170
  - Removes funding for Medicare Independent Payment Advisory Board (IPAB)
Scott DesJarlais

- Republican representative from Tennessee
- Family physician
- Co-sponsor
  - Health Care Choice Act (H.R. 346)
    - Repeals Title I of PPACA
    - Allows for insurance coverage across state lines
Joe Heck

- Republican representative from Nevada
- Emergency room physician
- Health Care Professionals Protection Act of 2011 (H.R. 2472)
  - Prevents health care entities from reporting health care providers without prior notice and hearing procedures
Donna Christensen

- Democratic delegate from U.S. Virgin Islands
- Family physician
- Lung Cancer Mortality Reduction Act of 2011 (H.R. 1394)
  - Via research, CT quality improvements and early detection program
GOP Doctors Caucus

• Formed in 2009
• Put together to review and strengthen the American health care system based on their firsthand knowledge
• 18 physician members of Congress
• Three nurse members of Congress
• Priorities
  – Quality
  – Access
  – Affordability
  – Portability
  – Choice
Questions?

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