



SOCIETY OF ACTUARIES

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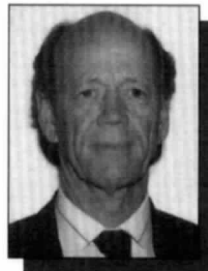
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What should actuaries do now?



"Keep the actuarial profile up. We have a role to play in educating those who are not as knowledgeable as you'd hope. With the debate continuing on the state level, the health actuary should contribute locally. Find out who the local decision makers are and which organizations, government commissions, and committees are involved. Write your state legislators and offer assistance if you feel qualified."

Sam Gutterman



"We should determine how we can play an effective, meaningful role in the next round of discussion, and do not shy away from getting into the public eye. We should have stepped up earlier last time. We have another golden opportunity. Don't back away from being a player, even if there are related risks. Don't we have a responsibility to be aggressively involved?"

Bart Clennon



"We have to identify a few more issues to look at in depth: medical savings accounts, the effect of potential waivers of the ERISA exemption for large employers, single payer initiatives, which may be an Academy issue or SOA research. This is a marvelous example of the Society and the Academy working together. I'm looking forward to good coordination among Sam, Howard, and me."

John Bertko



"The most critical issue short term for us to get involved in is state health care reform. Then, we have to get a lot of work done quickly on the federal level to get ready for the next session. We'll pick three or four issues. If you regretted not getting involved last time, call the Academy or the Society and volunteer now."

Julia Philips



"It's hard to get policy makers to listen to answers they don't want to hear. Let's be a little more bold about how we give them the bad news. Being low key doesn't get policy makers' attention. Maybe the answer is to speak out as an individual, because as a group, we don't all agree 100% and tend to water down our statements more."

Guy King



"We've formed a formidable body of intellectual capital for the next round of state and federal debate. We need to make sure policy makers and health policy people know our work. We can do more basic thinking, using the formats we've developed."

Howard Bolnick



"It's not often that we get as good a shot as this for a second try. From the views expressed here, it seems that people are at least 'asking an actuary.' Our challenge in the next round of health care debate will be to get them to listen. So make your views known, to your legislators and others who influence public opinion. And please, let us hear your opinions. The Actuary is listening."

Mike Cowell, Editor