

## Analysts say financial bailout may delay healthcare reforms.

In continuing coverage from the Sept. 24 edition of *NAHU Newswire*, [Bloomberg News](#) (9/24, Goldstein, Marcus) reported, "Health insurers face little risk of upheaval next year from an overhaul of U.S. medical care because the proposed \$700 billion rescue of the financial system won't leave enough money for big changes, analysts said." According to Drew Altman, president of the Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation, given the government's current political agenda, "healthcare will have to compete in a much more crowded environment." Presidential candidates Sens. John McCain (R-Ariz.) and Barack Obama (D-Ill.) may also reconsider the timing of their reform proposals. Sen. Obama "told NBC News yesterday that the bailout may force him to enact his health plan in phases rather than all at once." Analysts warn, however, that despite "lowered expectations for political change," the "pressure for action" will remain, especially given a report released by Kaiser on Wednesday that indicated "health insurance premiums have more than doubled in nine years." Aetna Chief Financial Officer Joe Zubretsky added, "The pressure for change won't ease as the nation copes with a surge in chronic diseases in an aging population."