



# LAHU NEWS

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*"America's Benefit Specialists"*

June 2008

## Upcoming Events:

### NAHU Annual Convention –

June 29 – July 2  
San Diego, CA

### LAHU Annual Meeting & Awards Luncheon –

Tuesday, July 22<sup>nd</sup> – 11:30 to 1:30  
Hillcrest Country Club  
Guest Speaker: Kent Seacrest, Vision 2015

### NAHU Region IV Leadership Conference –

August 14th-16th  
House on the Rock  
Spring Green, WI



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## Scholarship Endowment Opportunity

Your Board of Directors is pleased to announce the formation of a permanent endowment, established at the BryanLGH Foundation. The proceeds of this endowment will be used to fund scholarships for nursing students attending the BryanLGH College of Health Sciences.

Funding sources for this endowment will be a combination of proceeds from current (and future) golf outings, excess association reserves and individual member contributions.

Watch for more information regarding this exciting opportunity to build a legacy for The Lincoln Association of Health Underwriters!

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### Board of Directors:

President	Joe Roberts
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See **second page** for excerpts from Janet Trautwein's testimony to US Senate Committee on Finance on June 16, 2008. Full report can be obtained by accessing:

<http://newsmanager.commpartners.com/nahuw/downloads/TrautweinstatementFINAL.pdf>

***Statement of Janet Trautwein***  
**Executive Vice President and CEO**  
**National Association of Health Underwriters**  
**United States Senate Committee on Finance**  
**Health Reform Summit**  
***June 16, 2008***  
**"Insurance Market Reform"**

We feel that the following recommendations would make important improvements to the U.S. health care system to lower costs, improve quality and create greater efficiency:

- Encourage federal and state governments to incorporate wellness and disease management programs into medical programs for employees and government subsidized health coverage.
- Provide employers with legal protections and tax and premium incentives for wellness programs.
- Provide incentives for doctors and medical facilities to improve system efficiencies and eliminate errors with pay for performance, best-practice guidelines and support for evidence-based medicine.
- Create federal standards for interoperable electronic medical record technology to help unify the health care system, reduce errors and improve patient satisfaction.
- Enact comprehensive medical liability reform that limits non-economic damage awards, allocates damages in proportion to responsibility for adverse events, places reasonable limits on punitive damages and attorney fees, and imposes reasonable statutes of limitations on claims. Encourage state authorities to increase the effectiveness of discipline imposed on substandard providers. Alternative dispute resolution mechanisms, like health courts, might also be considered to ensure more timely and less costly avenues for both patients and providers.
- Reimburse providers participating in all federal health care coverage programs, including Medicaid, Medicare and SCHIP, at the same level paid to providers serving federal employees through the Federal Employees Health Benefit Plan.
- Encourage states to streamline the application processes for public health insurance programs like Medicaid and SCHIP, and allow for presumptive eligibility so that all eligible participants are enrolled and their providers are paid properly to mitigate uncompensated care expenses.
- Encourage expansion of consumer-directed health insurance products.
- Make consumers more aware of the cost of the health care that they are purchasing by enabling and encouraging health plans and providers to overcome policy concerns (e.g., prohibiting gag provisions in provider contracts) and bring greater price transparency to the public as soon as possible.

**Questions regarding the Lincoln Association of Health Underwriters can be directed to:**

President – Joe Roberts, 434-8050