

## **One Minute Message for April, 2011**

**Submitted by Oly Storz, VP of PAC**

### **WATCH WHAT THEY DO – Part 2**

In the last One Minute Message, I began by stating that many people believe the words spoken by politicians, that promises made during political campaigns are regularly broken after elections become distant memories, and that people (including many CAHU members) continue to believe the words that contradict the deeds (votes taken).

Last time, we examined the example of Medicare Advantage. Let's now take a look at Section 125 plans. Ask politicians about their opinion of Sec 125 plans and they will nearly all agree that these plans are good for the consumer.

But....what do our friends in Congress and the current administration actually do? Oh, how about sticking a cap on contributions into Medical Reimbursement Accounts, which happen to be one of the most popular and useful vehicles available to help consumers deal with the high cost of medical care. These plans provide a true win-win situation for both employers and employees since both parties realize tax savings. This enables employees to plan ahead for anticipated medical and dental expenses. Why, then, do our politicians work to make these products less attractive by reducing the maximum amount of pay that can be diverted into Medical Reimbursement Accounts to \$2,500 a year? Why not continue to allow the employers to set the maximum so that employers can determine how much risk they wish to take?

In California, in our State Legislature, many of our elected representatives see successful, popular programs such as Section 125 plans and the previously discussed Medicare Advantage plans as threats to their dream of government healthcare for all. People **like** Section 125 plans -- witnessed by the large number of participants. As with Medicare Advantage, making Section 125 plans less attractive reduces resistance to government-run healthcare -- which starts to look more attractive than available private options. And, of course, politicians will blame the private sector for the lack of good options. As stated in the last message, the agenda continues to be the destruction of the very programs that work while professing to help the public. Create enough of a mess so people will demand and embrace government healthcare. This is the war we continue to fight in California. The constant battles must be fought by **YOUR** association, **CAHU**.

**CAHU**, with the funds raised by **CAHU PAC**, must continue the fight for and against legislation bill by bill and word by word. This remains an incredibly tedious and time-consuming process. It requires the continual raising of large sums of money that must come from our members. **Only one out of four CAHU members makes any monthly or lump-sum PAC contribution.** These members are doing the heavy lifting for everyone else -- the other three out of four.

A small monthly contribution of \$21, deducted from your checking account or charged to a credit card, will go a long way in the battle to save your career. It will gain you recognition as a Ruby-level contributor and the satisfaction of knowing that you are doing **SOMETHING** by becoming part of the solution.