As the 2018 midterms approach, a growing list of senators and representatives have announced their intentions not to run for re-election. Altogether, the number of U.S. lawmakers vacating their seats in 2018 has reached 51. While some of these individuals will be seeking a new office, a surprising number have opted to retire from public office outright.

Anthem Rescinds Same-Day Service Cut

Due to overwhelming opposition from organized medicine, Anthem recently announced it will not proceed with its policy to reduce payments for E&M services reported with CPT modifier 25.

Score one for doctors as Anthem rescinds policy to reduce payment for same-day services; Anthem cancels 25% cuts on some same-day services: 3 things to know

Hospital, physician advocacy groups press Anthem for further changes to controversial policies

National News of Note

CMS to review Stark Law in connection with payment reform

CMS seeks physician participants for study on quality reporting burdens; CMS study to shed light on MIPS burden

Democrats march toward single-payer health care

Payment Reform Seen in Medicaid's Future; Tens of Thousands of Medicaid Recipients Skip Paying New Premiums

Network directory errors remain an issue, AMA report finds

New rule could limit cancer patients' access to genetic testing

Cuts to discounted drug program threaten some hospital services

Good Samaritan bill one step closer to law

Independent physicians say they're getting squeezed out of business

HHS head attests, 'I'm a Big Supporter of Telehealth'

Opinion: How can we remedy the shortage of health providers?

Senate Democrats demand answers from Aetna CEO on insurer's claims review process

CVS, Aetna say their merger won't be anticompetitive, but some consumer advocates are skeptical; CVS, Aetna unscathed through congressional hearing

State Round-Up

Bipartisan group of governors unveil new health reform proposal; Governors push for ACA stabilization, more Medicaid innovation with healthcare reform blueprint; 20 states suing to invalidate ACA

State wants to ban competency testing for physicians over certain age

CA: Eureka hospital grant to build a residency program; CA: LA County offers to help doctors pay off medical school debt

GA: Doctor pay gap persists in Medicaid

HI: Universal health care topic of presentation

IA: Senate passes bill requiring state approval for hospital conversions

ID: Lawmakers spike governor's healthcare plan

IL: Convert hospitals into ERs? Proposal would make it easier

KY: Medicaid to penalize patients for 'unneeded' ED visits; KY: Sweeping changes to liability system would bring benefits

MA: In massive restructuring, 800,000 MassHealth members moved to new plans

MD: Health care costs lower than other states, analysis finds

MO: Bill would forbid pharmacist 'gag orders'; MO: Medical liability statute of limitations legislation

NV: Residency program repurposes Elko Clinic to improve rural health care

OR: Universal health care measure dies in Senate; OR: House passes bill requiring reasons for drug price

TX: Rep. Castro decries proposed NIH funding cuts

UT: Bill advances that would prohibit certain doctor competency tests

WI: Gov. signs bill aimed at stabilizing ObamaCare market