

## **President Urges Congress to Keep at HSR Discussion; Congressional Democrats Look for Path to Reform**

During the President's State of the Union address last week, President Obama encouraged the Congress to continue its efforts at health system reform, but he offered no real guidance on how to accomplish that. "Don't walk away from reform. Not now. Not when we are so close. Let us find a way to come together and finish the job for the American people. Let's get it done," he said. In the aftermath of the Republicans win in the race for the Massachusetts Senate seat formerly occupied by the late Ted Kennedy, Democratic leaders in Congress have been examining several strategies to move health system reform forward with two options appearing the most likely - moving forward on a scaled-back bill or bills, or pass the Senate bill in the House and have both chambers agree to a package of amendments to Senate bill passed under budget reconciliation. Maine's two Senators have encouraged the Democrats to return to bipartisan negotiations, but that seems to be a remote possibility at this point.

The AMA continues to post current information about the HSR debate in Washington on its web site at: <http://www.ama-assn.org/ama/pub/health-system-reform/index.shtml>.