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What's Included In This Edition:

Schwimmer Script - Helping New Jersey Implement H.R.1 and Preserve Health Care Access

Take Five Interview - Wardell Sanders, President of New Jersey Association of Health Plans (NJAHP)

Register for Quality Institute Spring Reception 5/12



Helping New Jersey Implement H.R.1 and Preserve Health Care Access

At the Quality Institute, we support ways to keep people insured and to improve access to health care. The passage of H.R.1, along with other federal policy changes, make both goals much harder to achieve and *will* harm people living in the Garden State. To help State Leaders and health care providers prepare for those changes, and to mitigate the expected harms, in partnership with Parker Family Health Center, we created and convened the H.R.1 Health Care Access Workgroup last fall.

The Workgroup's goals are to:

- Ensure the state is prepared to engage all individuals eligible for Medicaid enrollment and provide the communication, education, direct support, and technology resources needed to support their continued coverage.
- Provide access to essential health care services for individuals who are not eligible for Medicaid or other insurance and would otherwise be uninsured.
- Develop strategies, supported by state and private funds, to strengthen the safety net system of care and ensure access to care.

Our process engaged organizations including state and local government, technology companies, health plans, health systems, as well as other organizations with direct

experience from the roll-out of the ACA, engaging communities during COVID-19, supporting messaging during the Medicaid Unwinding effort, and those that provide social services, legal supports, and free or subsidized care to people who are uninsured or underserved. We met weekly with a volunteer steering committee and convened over 60 entities for an all-day session to support the creation of a report which includes [recommendations for H.R. 1 implementation](#) and [action steps](#) for each area of recommendations. The recommendations align with the [Healthcare Action Team Report](#) just released by Governor Sherrill, including creation of a multistakeholder group and other critical steps to support the state.

We plan to continue this work and invite you to join us. If you are interested, please [complete this survey](#)...

[Read Full Story](#)

TAKE FIVE INTERVIEW

Wardell Sanders,
President, New Jersey Association of Health Plans



Interviews with members, influencers, and noteworthy people

[New Jersey Association of Health Plans \(NJAHP\)](#) is part of the Quality Institute's Association Council.

Interview Sneak Peek: *What do you see as the major challenges facing the health care exchange and the individual market?*

As background, the exchange is where people seeking insurance through the individual market can shop and compare plans. New Jersey has done a good job organizing the exchange, which simplifies, standardizes, and organizes the marketplace. The key challenge is the challenge facing every health insurance market: affordability. We've been fighting this battle for decades, if not longer — and the confounding problem only seems to be getting worse. The biggest factor impacting access to care is affordability.

Before the Affordable Care Act, you were on your own paying for coverage. Now we have subsidies, a good thing, though they do mask the underlying problem. And the increased, enhanced subsidies, created during COVID, expired at the end of 2025. With the expiration of the enhanced subsidies, some folks will buy less comprehensive coverage while others are going to say, "I can't afford this." The larger problem to tackle, especially in markets where there are no subsidies, like the small employer market, is to make coverage affordable...

[Read Full Interview](#)

Quality Institute Spring Reception

*Celebrating 20 Years of the Mayors Wellness Campaign and Local Leadership in
Improving Health & Wellness Throughout New Jersey*



May 12, 2026 from 5:00 - 7:30 p.m.



Join us on May 12 to celebrate 20 years of the Mayors Wellness Campaign. Together we'll recognize the importance of local leadership and health policies that make communities healthier places for everyone to live, work, play, and age.

We'll bring together our members, state and local policymakers and health care leaders, and Campaign members, volunteers, and sponsors from over the decades.

Date: May 12, 2026

Time: 5 to 7:30 p.m.

Location: Princeton Marriott at Forrestal, 100 College Road E, Princeton, NJ, 08540

Activities: Short program with featured speakers, light dinner and drinks, and socializing.

This event is for Quality Institute members and invited guests. For more information, contact Virginia Tesser at vtesser@njhcqi.org.

Register Now



For information on how to join, please contact Virginia Tesser at vtesser@njhcqi.org.

To learn more about our current initiatives, please visit our website at www.njhcqi.org.

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