



## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**10 May 2010**

### **The American Association of Healthcare Administrative Management (AAHAM) Holds 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Legislative Day**

Fairfax, VA – The American Association of Healthcare Administrative Management (AAHAM) [www.aaham.org](http://www.aaham.org), a professional association, held its sixth annual Legislative Day, April 21-22, 2010 at the Liaison on Capitol Hill.

Speakers included:

Jeffrey Young, Bloomberg Government; Robert Book, Senior Research Fellow, The Heritage Foundation; Paul Miller and David Wenhold, Principals of Miller/Wenhold Capitol Strategies, LLC. Mr. Wenhold is also President of the American League of Lobbyists.

“We were extremely pleased with the participation in the event by our members. With the current economic cutbacks; it was especially meaningful that this many members placed such a high level of importance in attending and participating, said Laurie Shoaf, CPAM, AAHAM President.

AAHAM issues were included in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, signed into law on March 23, 2010. AAHAM’s concern now is the length of time that will occur before the regulations become effective coupled with the length of time these issues have already been delayed which has cost our health system billions of wasted dollars. Based on research conducted by the Healthcare Efficiency Index, these items could reduce healthcare costs by as much as \$30 billion a year.

AAHAM is requesting their members work with HHS and CMS to reduce the timeframe for promulgating rules for adopting the following provisions included in HR 3590. Specifically:

- Unique Health Plan Identifier have an effective date of December 31, 2011, not October 1, 2012.
- Eligibility for a health plan and health claim status have an effective date of December 31, 2011, not January 1, 2013.
- Electronic funds transfer and health care payment and remittance advice have an effective date of December 31, 2011, not July 1, 2012.
- Health claims or equivalent encounter information, enrollment and disenrollment in a health plan, health plan premium payments, referral certification and authorization have an effective date of January 1, 2012 not July 1, 2014.

“AAHAM is planning an aggressive push for solid reforms we believe will make a real difference and save the tax-payers money.” said Paul A. Miller, AAHAM’s Congressional Liaison of Miller/Wenhold Capitol Strategies, LLC.

“Bringing our members together for this collaborative effort on behalf of the association, shows the impact AAHAM membership can make on issues” said Charles Myers, CPAM, Chairman of the Government Relations committee.

Following the Hill visits, a members’ debriefing reception provided an opportunity to unify messaging and share results of this years Legislative Day.

2010 Legislative Day sponsors included “Senator Level” sponsors; Keystone, New Jersey and Philadelphia AAHAM chapters. “Representative Level” sponsors were the Illinois and Maryland AAHAM chapters.

For more information regarding AAHAM and its programs, please visit [www.aaham.org](http://www.aaham.org) or contact AAHAM, 703-281-4043.

## ABOUT AAHAM

The American Association of Healthcare Administrative Management (AAHAM) is a national professional association of thirty-seven chapters and over 2600 healthcare patient financial services professionals from hospitals, clinics, billing offices, allied vendors, physicians and multi physician groups. AAHAM members direct the activities of the thousands of people who are employed in the healthcare industry.

AAHAM is the preeminent professional organization for revenue cycle professionals and is known for its prestigious certification and educational programs; professional development of its members is one of the primary goals of the association. AAHAM is also recognized for its quarterly journal, *The Journal of Healthcare Administrative Management* and its Annual National Institute, held each fall. AAHAM actively represents the interests of its members through a comprehensive program of legislative and regulatory monitoring and participation in industry groups such as WEDI, ASC X12, NUBC and NUCC.

###