

The Current Federal Health Care Debate: What it Means for Children's Health

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Community Catalyst
NEACH Summit
November 9, 2011*



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About Community Catalyst

Community Catalyst is a national non-profit advocacy organization that works with national, state and local consumer organizations, policymakers and foundations to build consumer and community leadership to improve the health care system.

We support consumer advocacy networks that impact state and federal health care policy, and ensure consumers have a seat at the table as health care decisions are made.



The Affordable Care Act (ACA) Benefits New England Kids and Parents

- About 175,000 parents and kids are expected to receive coverage through an expanded Medicaid program
- Over 30,000 young adults now qualify for coverage under their parents' plan
- Over 200,000 children are guaranteed continued CHIP coverage for two additional years
- Over 750,000 children can not be denied coverage for pre-existing conditions

But there are many dragons in the road between here and there



2012 Elections



Supreme
Court



ACA
Regulations



Debt
Reduction

Dragon #1

2012 Elections

Republican Presidential Candidates Vow to Repeal the ACA

"One thing I'd do on Day One... is direct my secretary of [HHS] to put an executive order granting a waiver from Obamacare to all 50 states."

Mitt Romney, Sept. 2011

"I'm going to un-pass it on my son's birthday, [March 23, 2012.]"

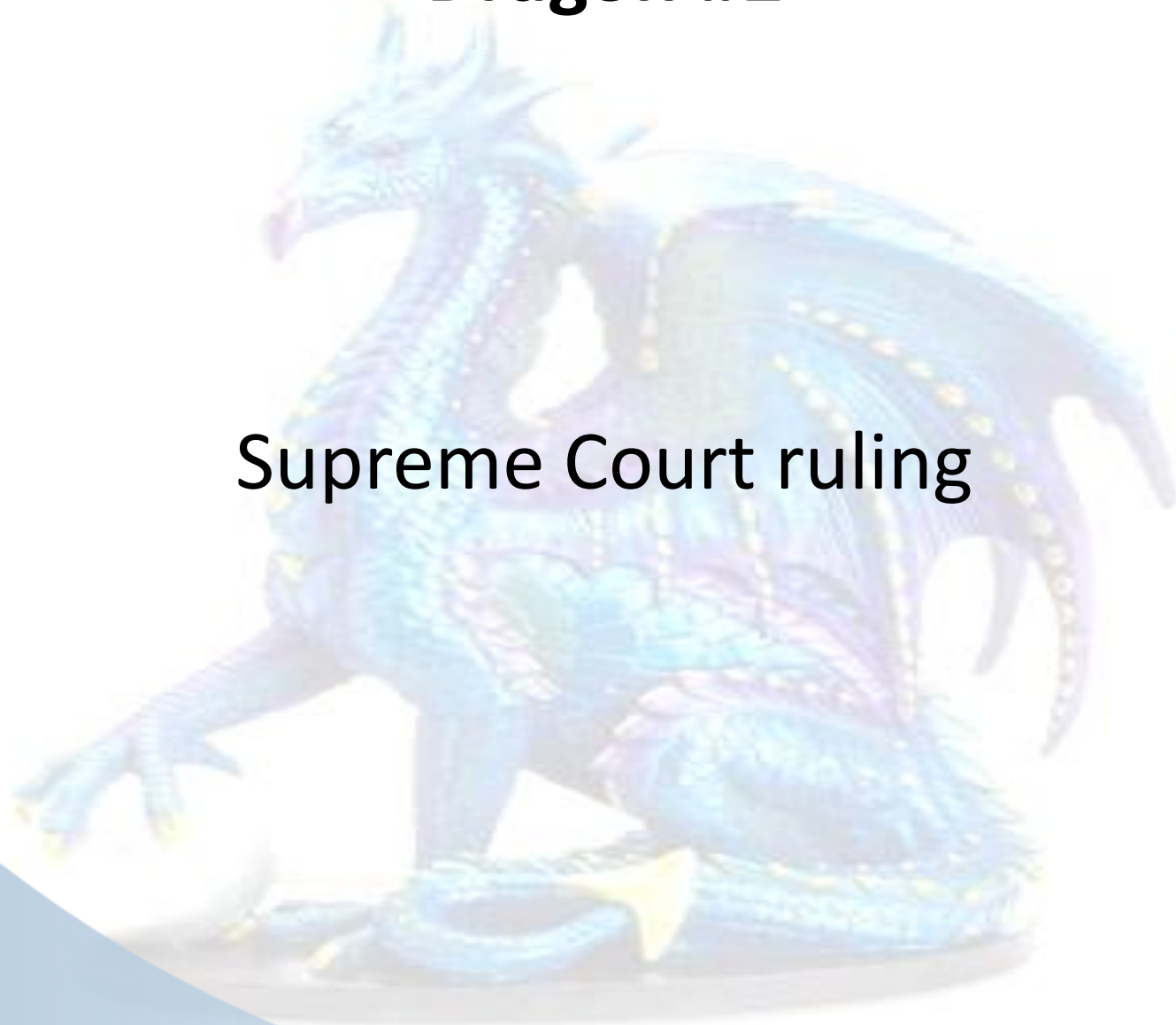
Herman Cain, Nov. 2011

"No issue is more critical for the defense of freedom and the American way of life than the... total repeal and dismantling of so-called Obamacare."

Rick Perry, Nov. 2010

Dragon #2

Supreme Court ruling



Court Decisions to Have a Large Impact

**“JUSTICES ASKED TO
ACCEPT KEY HEALTH
CARE REFORM APPEAL”**

CNN, Sept 2011

**'Obamacare' ruling: Appeals court says
health care reform law's insurance
mandate unconstitutional**

New York Daily News, Aug 2011

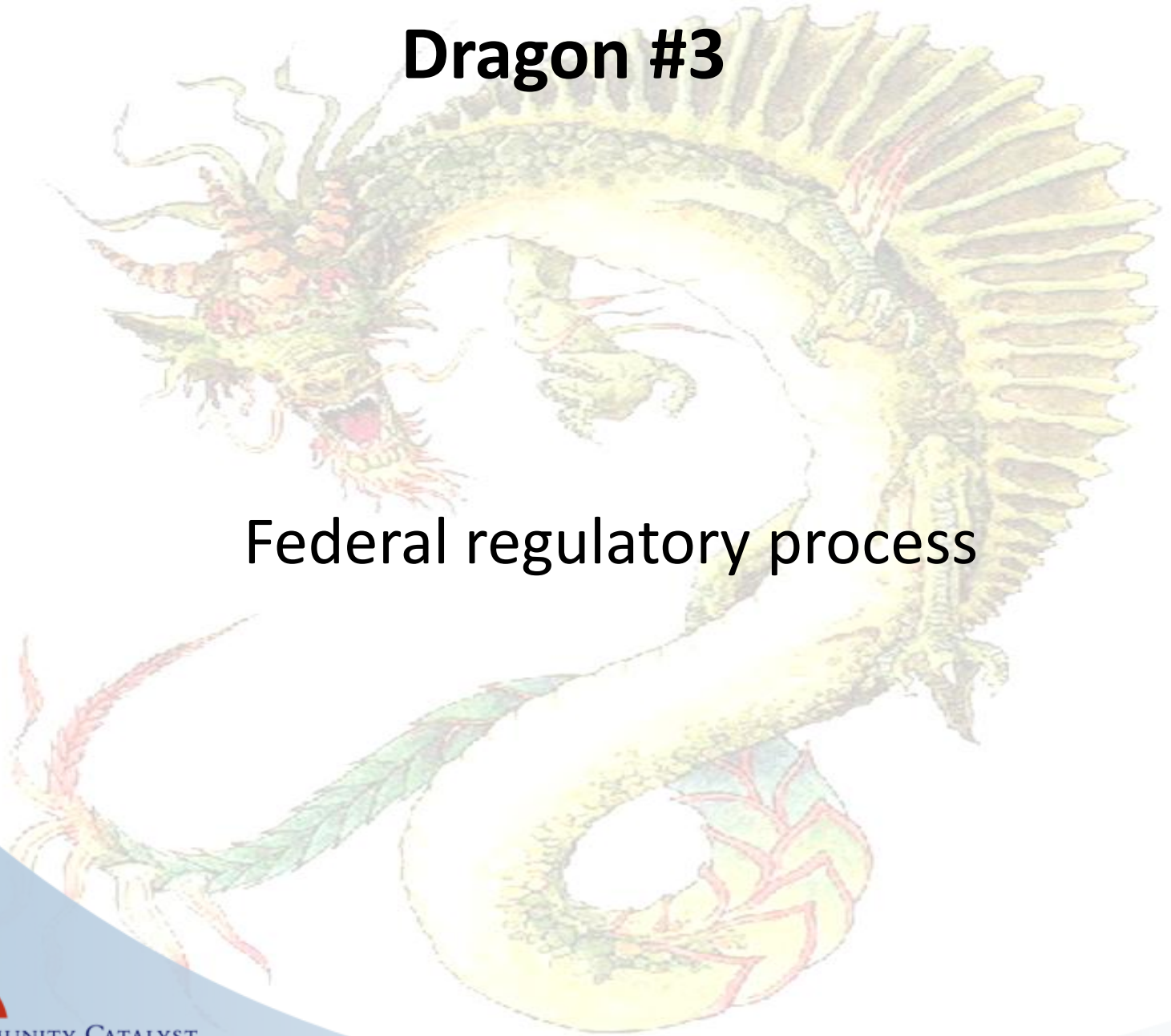
**Health care law cases rejected
by 4th Circuit Court of Appeals**

Politico, Sept 2011



Dragon #3

Federal regulatory process



Just a sample of regulatory decisions that will impact children...

- Family affordability standard
- Essential Health Benefits package
- Relationship between Medicaid and the Exchange

Dragon #4

The Debt Debate: Super Committee and Beyond

Super Committee: A Closer Look



PHOTOS: GETTY IMAGES

Super Committee

Assignment:

- Develop legislation to reduce the deficit by at least \$1.2 trillion over 10 years

Deadline:

- Nov 23rd



What's At Stake in the Super Committee Negotiations

On the chopping block:

- ACA
- Medicaid
- CHIP
- Other programs critical to children

Congress



Congress' Role:

- Pass Super Committee agreement with no amendments

OR

- automatic across-the-board cuts are triggered starting 2013 to save \$1.2 trillion, (half from defense; half domestic)

Deadline:

- Dec 23rd

Programs Safe from the Sequester

- Social Security
- Medicaid & CHIP
- SNAP (formerly known as the Food Stamp Program)
- Child Nutrition
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
- Refundable tax credits (such tax credits in the ACA)
- Veterans' benefits
- Federal retirement

There are a number of programs that are not protected that impact children, including:

- Cost-sharing subsidies**
- Public health programs**
- Basic Health Plan**
- Pediatric workforce programs**

The Latest Super Committee Gossip



For better or worse...

John Kerry keeps Super Committee Moving



double super

Murray

Kerry

Baucus

VanHollen

Clyburn

Becerra

Hensarling

Portman

Kyl

Toomey

Camp

Upton

Beyond Super-Committee

Coming to a head in late 2012/early 2013 (post-election):

- Further deficit reduction
- “Automatic cuts” if no Super-Com deal
- Expiration of Bush tax cuts
- Need to raise debt ceiling again
- Medicare physician fee scale (as usual)

Other opportunities for federal
advocacy on behalf of children's
health care....

More Children's Health Issues

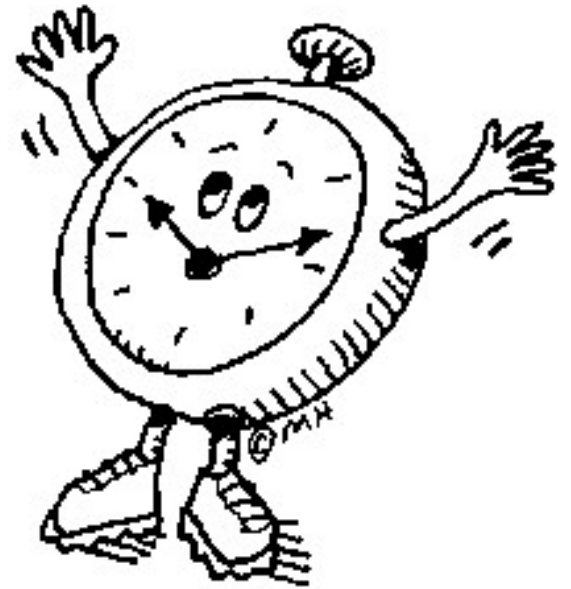
- Reauthorization of the Children's Hospital Graduate Medical Education (CHGME)
 - Funding important to free-standing children's hospitals, two in New England

More Children's Health Issues

- Reauthorization of the Farm Bill
 - Opportunity to weigh in on issues that could impact childhood obesity

More Children's Health Issues

Returning to NEACH's roots... it's never too early to start thinking about CHIP reauthorization in 2015



Dragon Slayers Wanted

- Long hours
- Low pay
- Dangerous
- Great job satisfaction



Questions?

