



News release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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New healthcare bill will impact your company's bottom line

BAY AREA HOUSTON, TEXAS – Aetna Senior Government Relations Manager Shannon Meroney, J.D., spoke before a breakfast gathering of almost 100 members of the Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership and other business leaders on Oct. 13 at the Pasadena Convention Center.

BAHEP's Healthcare Partners Committee hosted the event, which was sponsored by Memorial Hermann Southeast, a member of BAHEP. Meroney's topic was *How the New Healthcare Bill will Impact your Company's Bottom Line*.

The statistics are staggering. Annual healthcare spending in the U.S. is estimated to surpass \$4.2 trillion in 2018. The first wave of provisions from the new legislation took effect on Sept. 23. Mandates provide dependent coverage up to age 26. Emergency medical conditions and services no longer have pre-authorization requirements, and members of healthcare plans must be allowed to select any available network primary care physician or pediatrician. Women can access OB/GYN services without a referral from their primary care physician, as well.

Many factors affect an individual's coverage under the new provisions or if a plan is exempt from some reforms.

The bottom line is that the new healthcare legislation will definitely impact a company's bottom line. Business owners would be well advised to consult a healthcare insurance provider to determine just how much.

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Shannon Meroney, J.D., left, is shown with Monica Millican, chair of BAHEP's Healthcare Partners Committee, prior to the start of Meroney's presentation on the provisions of the new healthcare legislation.

The Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership is a member-driven organization that provides the leadership to stimulate regional economic development and employment in southeast Texas. Its members include more than 260 investor companies, business professionals, local governments, and educational institutions encompassing 13 cities, Galveston and Harris counties, and the Port of Houston Authority. Visit www.bayareahouston.com.

Space Alliance Technology Outreach Program is administered by the Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership. It is a State of Texas funded initiative designed to transfer the knowledge and technology of the U.S. Space Program to small businesses to solve technical challenges they are unable to solve themselves. Visit www.spacetechnologies.com/bahep.