

FCC REPORTS DESPIERTA AMERICA OCTOBER 1-15 PART 1

10/03/2011

US SUPREME COURT

VO: 20

The Supreme Court is beginning a term expected to be dominated by health care with arguments Monday in a closely watched case involving the Medicaid program for poor Americans. The first order of business is disposing of appeals in more than a thousand cases that piled up over the summer. After that, the justices will hear arguments in a case that centers on California's plan to cut Medicaid payments to doctors, hospitals and other medical providers to close the state's budget gap. The issue is whether the providers and Medicaid recipients can go to federal court to block the reductions from taking effect, claiming they violate the federal Medicaid law. California, joined by the Obama administration, says only the U.S. Health and Human Services Department can make that call.

JOB BILL COST

VO: 20

Congress gets back to work this week. With president Obama insisting they take up his \$447 billion dollar jobs program. He says it will get teachers,

Cops, and construction crews back to work. But there's a new analysis of just how much each of those jobs cost?

IMMIGRATION LAW PROTEST

VO: 20

Several churches across the Birmingham area organized a protest Sunday morning against Alabama's immigration law outside Gardendale's First Baptist Church, where the law's primary sponsor, Sen. Scott Beason, attends. "It embarrasses and shames all of the people who call themselves Alabamians," said protest leader Rev. Franklin Tate of Missionary Baptist Church. "We want to send that message to this congregation and the world at large that most people in Alabama believe in letting people eat, but this law does not allow them to eat." Close to 100 protestors held signs and prayed outside the church for nearly two hours, hoping for a glimpse of Sen. Beason.

FIRM RECALLS BEEF FOR POSSIBLE E. COLI TAINT

VO: 20

About 80,000 pounds of beef has been recalled because the products may be contaminated with E. coli, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) has announced. The California-based farm, Manning Beef, recalled the beef products after an unusually high number of confirmed positive E. coli test results. When available, the retail distribution list(s) will be made available by FSIS. No illnesses have been associated with this recall.

10/04/2011

AIRPORT MACHINES

VO: S/25

The T-S-A is planning to test new machines aimed at improving security. Starting in certain airports next year, security officials will be using the machines to match a traveler's boarding pass with his or her government-issued ID. The machines will assist the current "travel document checkers," who now conduct checks assisted only by ultra-violet flashlights and magnifying loupes. Earlier versions of the technology were tested at two airports in the Washington D-C area in 2009.

FANNIE MAE ABUSES

VO: S/25

Mortgage finance giant, learned as early as 2003 of extensive foreclosure abuses among the law firms it had hired to remove troubled borrowers from their homes. But the company did little to correct the firms' practices, according to a report issued Tuesday.

10/05/2011

ALABAMA: IMMIGRATION LAW AFFECTS LATINO ATTENDANCE

VO :20

Last week, NCLR (National Council of La Raza) was outraged to learn that U.S. District Court Judge Sharon Blackburn upheld some of the most egregious provisions of Alabama's HB 56, the strictest anti-immigrant law in the nation. Bucking the trend set by courts across the country, Blackburn let stand provisions that would bring racial profiling into Alabama's classrooms and undermine education. Janet Murguía, President and CEO of NCLR, swiftly criticized this ruling in a statement released last week, calling Blackburn's failure to stop the law's "clearly unconstitutional directive to force teachers and schools

to ascertain their students' immigration status" a decision that endangers the education of every child in the state and jeopardizes teachers' abilities to do their jobs.

OBAMA JOBS/6WEEK EXTENSION

VO :28

Instead of the tax increases suggested by President Barack Obama -- which would come through limits in itemized deductions on higher-income Americans -- Senate Democrats are proposing a millionaire's tax. The plan outlined by Senate Democratic leader Harry Reid would cover the entire cost of Obama's jobs bill -- about \$450 billion over the next decade. And it would take effect in January of next year. Obama has said raising taxes in a weak economy isn't a good idea, and he has pointed out that his own increases wouldn't kick in until 2013. Reid says he's making the changes to attract more votes from fellow Democrats.

NAPOLITANO IMMIGRATION

VO :22

Facing critics on all sides, Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano on Wednesday defended the Obama administration's new policy of deciding which illegal immigrants to send home first. The government is deporting record numbers of illegal immigrants, she said, but putting at the top of the line those who pose a public safety or national security threat. That's a shift from the Bush administration's enforcement strategy, Napolitano said in a speech at American University, the latest public push to promote the new approach.

10/06/2011

IMMIGRATION LAW IMPACT ALABAMA

VO :36

Georgia's new immigration law is scaring migrant workers away and costing south Georgia farmers big bucks. A new U-G-A study showed 140-million dollars in crop losses linked to a shortage of more than 5-thousand farm workers. Experts say the labor shortage could shrink Georgia's economy by nearly 400-million dollars.

NAPOLITANO IMMIGRATION

VO :23

Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano says the government is deporting record numbers of illegal immigrants -- but she says it's putting at the top of the line those who pose a public safety or national security threat. She defended the administration's policy, which she said is a shift from the Bush administration's policy, in a speech today at American University in Washington. Republicans say by making it a priority to deport those who pose a threat, the administration is effectively granting amnesty to other people who are living in the U.S. legally but haven't committed crimes.

OBAMA JOB PLAN

VO :22

U.S. President Barack Obama will hold a news conference at 11 a.m. EDT on Thursday, the White House said. Obama will take reporters' questions in the East Room of the White House as he presses for congressional approval of his \$447 billion jobs plan. Republicans are resisting large parts of the package as well as his proposal to pay for it mostly through increased taxes for wealthier Americans and elimination of some tax breaks.

CALIFORNIA: DREAM ACT LAST PUSH

LILIANA ESCALANTE / LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

PKG 2:07

Undocumented Students Deliver Hundreds of Petitions to Governor Brown and Remind Him of His Campaign Promise to Sign the CA Dream Act into law. Currently, AB131, the California Dream Act sits in the Governor's desk. Governor Brown has until October 9 to sign or veto the bill. If signed into law, the California Dream Act would allow thousands of California undocumented students to qualify for state financial aid and thus accomplish their educational goals. Undocumented students face many obstacles as a result of a broken immigration system, by signing AB131 into law, these students would be given the opportunity to overcome a few of those challenges, contribute to their communities and to the state of California.

UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS

VO :20

The number of people who applied for unemployment benefits last week rose slightly last week, a sign that the job market remains weak. The Labor Department says weekly applications increased to a seasonally adjusted 401,000. The uptick in applications comes after they plummeted 33,000 in the previous week. That drop partly resulted from technical difficulties with the department's seasonal adjustment process.

10/07/2011

US MORTGAGE

VO :29

Interest rates on 30-year U.S. mortgages fell below 4 percent for the first time this week, helping those with access to credit but doing little for the millions who owe more than their homes are worth. Freddie Mac, a major mortgage finance provider controlled by the U.S. government, said Thursday the national average rate for 30-year fixed rate mortgages dropped to 3.94 percent in the week through Oct. 6. That is the lowest level on record dating to 1949 for mortgages with terms of 25 years or more. Last week, 30-year rates averaged 4.01 percent. The U.S. Federal Reserve slashed overnight interest rates to near zero in December 2008 to try to lower costs for mortgages and other loans, and it has continued to break out new tools to help the economy recover from recession.

CANCER STUDIES' REVIEW SUGGESTS NO SCREENINGS

VO :26

The U-S Preventative Services Task Force is about to recommend that men not be screened for prostate cancer. It is to give the P-S-A blood test a "D" -- which means the test has no net benefit or the harms outweigh the benefits. The recommendation, which will be released Monday, comes from a review of studies. It is to say P-S-A tests result in "small or no reduction" in prostate cancer deaths. A spokesman for the Prostate Cancer Foundation calls the proposed recommendation -quote- "a tremendous mistake." The task force is the same group that said women in their 40's didn't need mammograms.

EMPLOYMENT UN THE US

VO :29

Employers added 103,000 jobs in September, a modest burst of hiring after a sluggish summer. Still, job growth remains too weak to lower the unemployment rate, which stayed at 9.1 percent for the third straight month. The Labor Department also revised the previous two months to show that companies hired at a better pace than first estimated. Nearly half of the gains last month occurred because 45,000 striking Verizon workers returned to their jobs. Employers have added an average of only 72,000 jobs in the past five months. The economy must create twice as many just to keep up with population growth. The jobs crisis has intensified a debate in Washington 13 months before President Barack Obama will run for re-election.

10/10/2011

FAST & FURIOUS

VO :32

Leading House Republican investigating the ATF operation dubbed Fast and Furious subpoenaed documents from Atty. Gen. Eric H. Holder Jr. on Wednesday, escalating the confrontation over the botched gun-tracing program. Rep. Darrell Issa (R-Vista), chairman of the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee, issued a far-ranging subpoena seeking all communications between Holder, his deputies and the White House in connection with the now-defunct operation run by the Phoenix field office of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives. Issa contends the attorney general knew more about the operation than he has told congressional investigators. Holder strongly denies that.

“DREAM ACT”

LILIANA ESCALANTE. LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

PKG 2:00

Undocumented immigrant children in California will soon be able to receive financial aid to attend college... That's under a new law signed Saturday by Governor Jerry Brown. It allows immigrant students to start receiving state-funded financial aid beginning in 2013. The new law is one of two pieces of legislation known as the California Dream Act. The other half of the California Dream Act was signed into law in July. It allows undocumented immigrant students to receive privately funded scholarships administered at public universities and community colleges

UNDOCUMENTED ALABAMA PARENTS

VO :20

Terrified by Alabama's strict new immigration crackdown, parents living in the state illegally say they are doing something that was unthinkable just days ago - asking friends, relatives, co-workers and acquaintances to take their children if they're arrested or deported. Many illegal immigrants signed documents in the past week allowing others to care for their children if needed, assistance groups say, and a couple living illegally in nearby Shelby County extracted a promise from the man's boss to send their three young children - all U.S. citizens - to Mexico should they be jailed under the law. A key sponsor of the measure, Republican state Sen. Scott Beason, said such concerns weren't raised when legislators were considering the bill, and he wonders if the stories now are designed to "pull on heart strings" and build sympathy for illegal immigrants.

10/11/2011

SENATE-JOBS BILL

VO :20

President Barack Obama's jobs bill, facing a critical test in the Senate, appears likely to fail because Republicans oppose its spending components and its tax surcharge on millionaires. Obama has been waging a campaign-style effort to rally public support behind the \$447 billion measure, which was expected to be the subject of a Senate vote Tuesday. The plan combines payroll tax cuts for workers and businesses with \$175 billion in spending on roads, school repairs and other infrastructure, as well as unemployment assistance and help to local governments to avoid layoffs of teachers, firefighters and police officers.

10/12/2011

SENATE VOTE "NO" ON JOBS BILL

VO: 24

Congress and the White House are facing the choice of continued fighting or a shift toward bipartisan bargaining in the wake of a Senate vote that killed President Barack Obama's \$447 billion jobs plan. They're likely to do both as they seek to produce results sought by a discontented public while also drawing bright political lines for voters as the 2012 campaign heats up. Obama's plan died at the hands of Senate Republicans on Tuesday despite weeks of cross-country campaigning by the president. Republicans opposed its stimulus-style spending and the tax surcharge for the very wealthy.

LOS ANGELES JAILS INVESTING

VO: 23

He's been dubbed L.A.'s new-age lawman. He talks about damaged psyches and second chances, and he shies away from the tough-on-crime clichés favored by many of America's top cops. Yet after 13 years heading the nation's largest sheriff's department, Lee Baca's progressive views on law enforcement might

not have percolated through the ranks. Disturbing allegations about deputy misconduct, especially in Baca's sprawling jail network, have simmered for years. Now, the 69-year-old sheriff finds himself defending his leadership in the midst of an unfolding scandal that has triggered at least two ongoing federal probes.

FOLIC ACID MAY REDUCE LANGUAGE DELAYS IN KIDS

VO: 20

A new study says moms who take folic acid supplements before and during pregnancy greatly reduce the risk of their children having severe language delays.

The study was published Tuesday in the Journal of the American Medical Association. Interestingly, mothers who took other supplements, but not folic acid, saw no risk reduction, signaling that folic acid has a unique effect on the child's development. Although the benefits of folic acid in protecting against neural tube defects has long been documented in medical studies, this research is further evidence that the supplements may protect against other neurodevelopment disorders as well.

10/13/2011

ALABAMA UNDER HB56

MARIA ANTONIETA COLLINS

PKG 2:55

A U.S. appeals court Friday temporarily blocked Alabama from enforcing part of its tough new law cracking down on illegal immigrants but allowed some disputed portions to remain in effect. The U.S. Court of Appeals for the 11th Circuit, based in Atlanta, halted a provision that permits Alabama to require public schools to determine the legal residency of children upon enrollment. But the court ruled the state could continue to authorize police to detain people suspected of being in the country illegally if they cannot produce proper documentation when stopped for any reason.

LISTERIA

VO :20

Pittsburgh's Giant Eagle Inc is recalling packaged iceberg lettuce because of the potential threat of listeria contamination, according to a company statement. Listeria-tainted cantaloupes have killed at least 23 people across 12 states in recent weeks, matching the death toll in a 1998 outbreak, health officials have said. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration has told Giant Eagle about the presence of listeria in a routine test of Giant Eagle Farmer's Market eight-ounce package of shredded iceberg lettuce, the company said in a statement dated Wednesday and appearing on the FDA website.

BLACKBERRY PROBLEMS

VO :20

Crackberry's anonymous was standing room only yesterday -- as the blackberry outage that began in europe, spread through asia, africa and right here in north america. for me, being disconnected was peaceful at first, then, I confess, it got pretty irritating.

NEW STUDY: VEGGIES HELP HEART HEALTH

VO :20

A new study finds that a diet high in fruits and vegetables can reduce the danger of heart disease among people at highest risk. Scientists found healthier eating can turn off the risk gene and mitigate the risk of heart attack. Researchers studied a large group of more than 27,000 people whose genetic makeup, or genotype, includes a unique gene associated with an increased risk of heart attack. The scientists wanted to know whether diet could modify this gene variant, known as 9p21.

10/14/2011

NOTHING TO REPORT

=====**END OF**
REPORT=====