

Healthcare cont'd from pg 1

amount to sweeping changes to the Affordable Care Act. That would fall to Congress, where Republicans are struggling to reach consensus over how to deliver on their promise to repeal and replace the health law. Progressive activists and leaders, including Oregon Gov. Kate Brown,

"However, in the longer run, providing (insurers) with additional flexibility could help stabilize premiums."

Larry Levitt of the non-partisan Kaiser Family Foundation said "this would allow insurers to offer plans with higher deductibles, which seems counter to Pres-

“The proposed change... could reduce the value of coverage for consumers

have largely urged Congress to keep and expand the law, rather than repeal and replace it.

But the administration's actions do signal a change in direction.

For consumers, the proposed HHS rules mean tighter scrutiny of anyone trying to sign up for coverage outside of open enrollment by claiming a "special enrollment period" due to a change in life circumstances such as the birth of a child, marriage, or the loss of job-based insurance.

Also, sign-up season will be 45 days, down from the current three months.

For insurers, the curbs on special enrollment periods are a big item. The industry claimed that some consumers were abusing special enrollment by signing up when they needed expensive treatments, only to drop out later.

Insurers would gain more flexibility to design low-premium plans tailored to younger people, yet that flexibility could lead to higher deductibles, according to the department.

"The proposed change ... could reduce the value of coverage for consumers," the proposal said.

ident's Trump promise to lower deductibles." A deductible is the annual amount consumers pay for medical care before their insurance kicks in.

Separately, the IRS is backing off from a tighter approach to enforcement that was in the works for this tax-filing season. The IRS said that's in line with Trump's executive order directing agencies to ease requirements of the health law.

Under the law, people are required to have health coverage or risk fines from the IRS — a penalty usually deducted from a taxpayer's refund. That underlying requirement remains on the books, and taxpayers are still legally obligated to comply, the IRS said.

But the agency is changing its approach to enforcement. Originally, the IRS had planned to start rejecting returns this year if a taxpayer failed to indicate whether he or she had coverage. Now the IRS says it will keep processing such returns, as it has in the past.

Many of the law's supporters consider the coverage requirement essential.

Read the full story at
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Shooting cont'd from pg 1

publicly available.

Hearst, who was also involved in the fatal 2013 shooting of Merle Hatch in the parking lot of Portland Adventist Medical Center, is on paid administrative leave — along with the two other officers who were at the scene at the time of the shooting — until the completion of an internal PPB investigation and grand jury.

State medical examiner Karen Gunion has said Hayes was not shot in the back, but has so far declined to describe precisely where officers' bullets hit Hayes.

At a Sunday evening vigil for Hayes, his mother, Venus Hayes, read the following statement — a video of which was posted to YouTube — from the family.

"Quanice's personality was magnetic. He was the person you liked and would remember the moment you met him," Hayes said. "Quanice was a 17-year-old kid that would often prefer to be

at home with his family rather than a night out with his friends. He was the oldest of five children. Quanice was the love of my life. Quanice was idolized by his siblings and adored by his family. We're all struggling to find sense in his death and are mourning the loss of a life taken too soon. While we wait for answers surrounding the death of Quanice, we ask everyone to refrain

“Officers released a photo of a replica handgun from the incident. Whether Hayes drew or pointed the gun is unclear

from speculation. Anyone that witnessed the tragic event leading up to the death of Quanice is encouraged to contact the ACLU along with detectives Eric Camara and Mark Slater. We will be taking no questions at this time and we ask that you please continue to respect our privacy while we continue to mourn the loss of my son."

A White man named Don Allan Perkins, 56, was also shot by Portland Police Feb. 9 after calling 911 to report he was suicidal and taking pills while driving around Southeast Portland. Perkins is also reported to have been carrying a replica firearm, though the events that led to officers firing at him are also unclear and pending investigation. He was wounded and transported



Quanice Hayes, 17, was shot and killed by Portland police Feb. 9.

tions are complete, but said the events that happened in Portland Thursday happen "all too often."

"When the person who is killed is a Black teenager, it taps into deep historical wounds," Wheeler said.

The Portland Student Action Network's rally for Hayes meets at 5:30 p.m. Thursday in the South Park Blocks near 800 SW Market St., according to the Facebook event page.



PHOTO BY SUSAN FRIED

Seattle Divests

Olivia One Feather (right) leans into a friend after the Seattle City Council voted unanimously Feb. 7 to take the city's money out of Wells Fargo and put it in a bank that is more in line with the cities values. The city council decided to find a different bank because Wells Fargo is involved in the Dakota Access Pipeline and because it invests in for-profit prisons.

Profiling cont'd from pg 3

their fines had been equal to those levied on White defendants, according to InvestigateWest.

"I believe profiling is an economic justice issue," Kayse Jama, executive director of Unite Ore-

“For too long we've heard stories of our community facing profiling by state police'

gon, told The Skanner. "You just need to go to the courts downtown and you see who has been ticketed. The majority is generally people of color."

2015 Law Created a Starting Point

In 2013, Jama took the issue of profiling to Salem, but was met with little result.

Then came the summer of 2014, when the fatal police shooting of Michael Brown in Ferguson put law enforcement — and its handling of force against African Americans — in the hot seat.

In 2015 the legislature passed the End Profiling Act, which was spearheaded by Attorney General Ellen Rosenlum and championed by Sen. Lew Frederick and Rep. Alissa Keny-Guyer. It defined

profiling as "people targeted based on their race, ethnicity, religion, national origin, language, housing status, and sexual orientation or gender identity." It also established a compliant mechanism so that individuals targeted by police profiling could file a grievance with the Law Enforcement Contacts Policy and Data Review Committee (LECC).

Yet some felt the legislation didn't live up to its name. "For too long we've heard stories of our community facing profiling by state police," said Amira Streeter, policy and advocacy director at the Urban League. "This unlawful act still continues even after

the passage of HB 2002."

But the End Profiling Act also created a task force. The Work Group on the Prevention of Profiling by Law Enforcement, steered by Rosenblum and assembled with organizations such as Unite Oregon, the Portland Police Association and the ACLU of Oregon, devised recommendations to address systematic profiling.

Eighteen months of task force meetings culminated in House Bill 2355, which aims to create a method to track profiling. If passed, the new bill would mandate that all police officers collect data on a person's perceived race, ethnicity, age and sex when making pedestrian and traffic stops. It would also make Oregon the second state to record pedestrian data. Currently only three Oregon police departments require officers to track race and ethnicity during traffic stops.

Read the full story at
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