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ML Strategies Publishes Washington Outlook for 2016

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VIEWPOINT TOPICS

- Federal Government Relations
- Health Care

SERVICE AREAS

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- Health Care

Earlier today, my colleagues at **ML Strategies** published the **Washington Outlook for 2016,** offering their insights about what we might expect from Capitol Hill and the Administration in the coming year. The Outlook covers a wide range of issues and includes a preview of the US legislative agenda as well as a look at the Obama Administration's regulatory plans.

Also, check out the Outlook's Appendix for an **election season cheat sheet**, including the dates of the US state primaries and lists of the important Senate and House races to watch, as well as the **2016 House and Senate calendars**.

With regard to **health care**, it is likely that the Administration's signature health care law will continue to be at the forefront of its domestic agenda. **ML Strategies** says that we should expect additional activity on targeted bipartisan reform efforts to modify the ACA. Issues include:

- The "30-hour work week" fix.
- The Simplifying Technical Aspects Regarding Seasonality Act, or the "STARS Act," which would exempt seasonal employees from the definition of "full time employee" of the ACA's employer mandate.
- The "Small Business Healthcare Relief Act," which would allow for small businesses with fewer than 50 employees that do not offer health insurance coverage to establish a health reimbursement arrangement.
- Efforts to address rising insurance prices in the exchanges, which could include efforts to modify insurance "rating," or pricing rules.

The Outlook also includes **detailed discussion** on a number of initiatives we have been following in 2015:

- 21st Century Cures Act
- Senate Chronic Care Initiative
- Mental Health Reform
- Rising Costs of Prescription Drugs
- Medicare Dependent Hospital (MDH) Program
- Electronic Cigarettes
- Opioids

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