

# IIABL WEEKLY NEWS BRIEFING

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### **LOUISIANA AND GULF COAST NEWS:**

#### **HEALTHCARE REVAMP'S LOUISIANA TIES, MIXED SUPPORT.**

Gov. John Bel Edwards opposes the Obamacare replacement plan by U.S. Sen. Bill Cassidy, report the New Orleans [Times-Picayune](#) (9/19/17, O'Donoghue) and [The Advocate](#) (9/19/17, Crisp). The [Times-Picayune](#) (9/20/17, Morris) notes the plan would direct more money to states but end expanded Medicaid in states like Louisiana, where [The Advocate](#) (9/18/17, Grace) points out that the

rate of uninsured dropped after the expansion. Gov. Edwards says Cassidy's proposal would hurt Louisiana while benefitting other states, reports [The Advocate](#) (9/19/17, Crisp). Some hospital groups also oppose the bill, reports the [Times-Picayune](#) (9/20/17, O'Donoghue). Meanwhile, the Baton Rouge physician and GOP senator sparred with talk-show host Jimmy Kimmel over his plan, reports [Money/CNN](#) (9/20/17, Pallotta).

**PROGRESS FOR LONG-DELAYED FLOOD PROJECT?** The fate of the long-stalled Comite River diversion project looked a bit brighter after a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers official called it "critically important," reports [The Advocate](#) (9/18/17, Stole). Still missing: funding for the work.

**FEMA REJECTS KATRINA LESSONS AFTER LATEST STORMS.** The Federal Emergency Management Agency won't borrow much from the Hurricane Katrina playbook after Harvey and Irma, including its hotly criticized trailer program for housing, reports the [Associated Press](#) (9/19/17, Kunzelman). Oil and chemical spills after Katrina were far more extensive than those caused by Harvey, reports [Reuters/Insurance Journal](#) (9/18/17, Flitter).



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## **NATIONAL INDUSTRY NEWS:**

**POST: WE DON'T KNOW HOW TO DISCUSS FLOODS.** A piece in the [Washington Post](#) (Bledsoe, 9/13/17) points out that terms to discuss floods are frequently misused and misunderstood. A so-called 500-year flood at a given place, for instance, has "about a 10 percent change of happening over a 50-year period," the paper notes.

**MARIA SMASHES INTO PUERTO RICO.** Yet another major disaster hit the Caribbean as Hurricane Maria made landfall in Puerto Rico as a Category 4 storm, reports the [Associated Press](#) (9/20/17). Maria hit just as residents of the Florida Keys began to trickle home

amid destruction from Hurricane Irma, reports [CNN](#) (9/16/17, Sanchez).

**OBAMACARE: REPEAL SCRAMBLE BEGINS.** Senate Republicans have 12 days to pull together 50 votes in support of a last-ditch proposal to replace President Obama's Affordable Care Act, although some details of how the plan would work are unclear, reports [Bloomberg](#) (9/20/17).

**AFTER HARVEY, SOME CLAIMS ADJUSTERS CAMP OUT.** Insurance companies have sent scores of adjusters across Harvey-battered Texas to process thousands of claims, and some adjusters are literally using tents for shelter while there, reports the [Houston Chronicle/Insurance Journal](#) (9/18/17, Rumbaugh).



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