



Health Policy Briefing

May 26, 2015

21st Century Cures Legislation Advances; Congress Adjourns for Memorial Day Recess

21st Century Cures Reported Out of Committee

Following a year of roundtables, hearings, and bipartisan negotiations, the House Energy and Commerce Committee voted unanimously 51-0 to approve H.R. 6, the 21st Century Cures Act, on Thursday. Negotiations on offsets for the bill, aimed at spurring the pace of medical innovation, supporting biomedical research, and overhauling the way the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) evaluates new medical products, continued in the days leading up to the vote. The markup was actually delayed for 24 hours with less than two hours' notice in order to finalize the question of how to pay for the deal. The manager's amendment agreed upon by the Committee and forwarded to the House would entirely pay for the \$13 billion cost of the 21st Century Cures Act. The legislation will generate \$5.2 billion in savings by drawing down the strategic petroleum reserve, and will save \$5 to \$7 billion by adjusting the timing of Medicare pre-payments to Medicare Advantage plans that cover prescription drugs (MA-PD) sponsors so that the government, and not the insurers, recoups interest revenue. \$2.8 billion in savings are generated by a proposal to limit the durable medical equipment match rates in Medicaid to the Medicare competitive bidding process payment level. The limitation of federal payments for x-ray imaging services in order to incentivize the use of digital imaging would save an additional \$200 million. A proposal to offset the bill using changes to the 340B Drug Discount Program was dropped. The previous version of the legislation contained no potential offsets and did not deliver any additional funding to the FDA. This bill provides the agency with \$550 million in mandatory funding over five years through a Cures Innovation Fund. A measure to encourage Lyme disease research, as well as language exempting certain FDA user fees from sequestration, based on a bill passed by the House during the 113th Congress, was also added to the 21st Century Cures package. H.R. 6 will now be sent to the House floor for consideration. The bill's number is a positive signal from House leadership, as bill numbers 1 through 10 are reserved for priorities of the Speaker of the House. Rep. Fred Upton (R-Mich.), one of the bill's authors, has said that the Ways and Means Committee will likely have a referral period to comment on the legislation. He hopes to consider the bill on the House floor in the month of June, with the goal of sending the legislation to the President's desk by the end of the year.

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GAO Finds that Better Data and Greater Transparency Could Improve Payment Accuracy

The Government Accountability Office (GAO) has released a **report** recommending that the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) should better document its process for establishing relative values and inform the public of potentially misvalued services identified by the American Medical Association/Specialty Society Relative Value Scale Update Committee (RUC). The GAO also recommends that CMS should develop a plan for using funds appropriated for the collection and use of information on physicians' services in the determination of relative values.

Ways and Means Begins Series of Hearings on Medicare Payment

The House Ways and Means Health Subcommittee held the first in a series of hearings on reforming the Medicare reimbursement system. The hearing, titled "Improving Competition in Medicare: Removing the Moratoria and Expanding Access," featured a panel of witnesses representing the American Enterprise Institute, Methodist McKinney Hospital, the American Association for Homecare, and the American Hospital Association. Subcommittee Chairman Kevin Brady (R-Texas) has said he ultimately hopes to introduce legislation later this year to improve the payment system for hospitals and post-acute care, and has expressed an interest in making the inpatient and outpatient payment systems compatible. Future hearings to be conducted through July will consider physician shortages, rural health care disparities, and hospital payments. Also on Rep. Brady's agenda are the medical device tax, examining the two-midnight rule and recovery audit contractors (RACs), and identifying additional options for seniors in the Medicare program, such as a cap to protect them from high out of pocket costs and the premium support model put forth by Rep. Paul Ryan (R-Wis.).

Lawmakers Propose Changes to Medicare Advantage

Policymakers on the House Ways and Means and Energy and Commerce Committees have introduced a series of bills aimed at reforming the Medicare Advantage (MA) program. In H.R. 2506, Rep. Vern Buchanan (R-Fla.), Rep. Charlie Rangel (D-N.Y.), and Rep. Marsha Blackburn (R-Tenn.) propose to delay the Administration's ability to terminate MA contracts for plans that don't achieve high enough star ratings. Rep. Mike Kelly (R-Pa.), Rep. Ron Kind (D-Wis.), and Rep. Gus Bilirakis (R-Fla.) introduced H.R. 2505, which would require plans to report annual enrollment data. H.R. 2507, a proposal from Rep. Kevin Brady (R-Texas), Rep. Mike Thompson (D-Calif.), and Rep. Joe Pitts (R-Pa.) would expand an annual regulatory schedule for the program's payment rates. Finally, Rep. Brady, Rep. Keith Rothfus (R-Pa.), Rep. Susan Brooks (R-Ind.), and Rep. Kurt Schrader (D-Ore.) propose changes to the open enrollment period for the program in H.R. 2488.

NIH Update

NIH Congressional Caucus Created

Sen. Dick Durbin (D-Ill.) and Sen. Lindsey Graham (R-S.C.) launched the Senate National Institutes of Health (NIH) Caucus last week. Director of the NIH Francis Collins was present at the ceremony, and expressed excitement that 2015 might be the year that the decline in NIH funding could be reversed. The agency has lost 25 percent of its purchasing power since 2003. The Caucus will focus on the NIH's ability to fund biomedical research. Caucus membership includes Sens. Tammy Baldwin (D-Wis.), Richard Blumenthal (D-Conn.), Bob Casey (D-Pa.), Ben Cardin (D-Md.), Joe Donnelly (D-Ind.), Ed Markey (D-Mass.), Gary Peters (D-Mich.), Al Franken (D-Minn.), Tim Kaine (D-Va.), Amy Klobuchar (D-Minn.), Roger Wicker (R-Miss.), and Jerry Moran (R-Kan.).

Upcoming Congressional Meetings and Hearings

House Veterans' Affairs Oversight and Investigations (O&I) Subcommittee: hearing titled "Circumvention of Contracts in the Provision of Non-VA Healthcare;" 4:00 p.m., 334 Cannon Bldg.; June 1

House Budget Committee: hearing titled "The Congressional Budget Office: Oversight Hearing;" 10:00 a.m., 210 Cannon Bldg.; June 3

Health Legislation Recently Introduced

H.R. 2391 (MEDICAID), to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to require the payment of an additional rebate to the State Medicaid plan in the case of increase in the price of a generic drug at a rate that is greater than the rate of inflation; CUMMINGS; to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce; May 18

H.R. 2396 (HEALTH SOFTWARE), to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act with respect to the regulation of health software, and for other purposes; BLACKBURN; to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce; May 18

H.R. 2400 (ACA), to establish the Office of the Special Inspector General for Monitoring the Affordable Care Act, and for other purposes; ROSKAM; jointly, to the committee on Energy and Commerce, Natural Resources, Education and the Workforce, Ways and Means, Oversight and Government Reform, House Administration, the Judiciary, Rules, and Appropriations; May 18

S.1364 (MEDICAID), to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to require the payment of an additional rebate to the State Medicaid plan in the case of increase in the price of a generic drug at a rate that is greater than the rate of inflation; SANDERS; to the Committee on Finance; May 18

H.R. 6 (21st CENTURY CURES), to accelerate the discovery, development, and delivery of 21st century cures, and for other purposes; UPTON; jointly, to the committee on Energy and Commerce and Ways and Means; May 19

H.R. 2414 (MEDICAL DEVELOPMENTS), to facilitate the responsible communication of scientific and medical developments; BURGESS; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce; May 19

H.R. 2415 (DATA REVIEW), to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to provide for establishment of a streamlined data review program; BURGESS; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce; May 19

H.R. 2416 (CLINICAL EXPERIENCE), to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to evaluate the potential use of evidence from clinical experience to help support the approval of new indications for approved drugs, and for other purposes; BURGESS; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce; May 19

H.R. 2417 (MEDICAL SCHOOL), to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to establish fair and consistent eligibility requirements for graduate medical schools operating outside the United States and Canada; BURGESS; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce; May 19

H.R. 2419 (NIH), to amend the Public Health Services Act to reauthorize funding for the National Institutes of Health; BARTON; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce; May 19

H.R. 2420 (RESEARCH), to reduce administrative burdens on researchers; BARTON; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce; May 19

H.R. 2421 (NIH), to amend the Public Health Service Act to increase accountability at the National Institutes of Health; BARTON; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce; May 19

Health Legislation Recently Introduced cont.

H.R. 2422 (QUALITY ASSESSMENT), to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act with respect to third-party quality system assessment; SHIMKUS; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce; May 19

H.R. 2423 (SCIENTIFIC EVIDENCE), to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act with respect to valid scientific evidence; SHIMKUS; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce; May 19

H.R. 2424 (OVERSIGHT), to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act with respect to training and oversight in least burdensome appropriate means concept; SHIMKUS; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce; May 19

H.R. 2425 (STANDARDS), to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act with respect to the recognition of standards; SHIMKUS; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce; May 19

H.R. 2426 (DEVICES), to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act with respect to easing regulatory burden with respect to certain class I and class II devices; SHIMKUS; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce; May 19

H.R. 2427 (ADVISORY COMMITTEES), to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act with respect to advisory committee process; SHIMKUS; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce; May 19

H.R. 2428 (HUMANITARIAN DEVICES), to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act with respect to humanitarian device exemption applications; SHIMKUS; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce; May 19

H.R. 2433 (COMBINATION PRODUCTS), to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act with respect to enhancing combination products review; BILIRAKIS; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce; May 19

H.R. 2435 (REAGAN-UDALL), to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act with regard to the Reagan-Udall Foundation; BLACKBURN; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce; May 19

H.R. 2436 (RESEARCH), to amend the Public Health Service Act with respect to appropriate age groupings to be included in research studies involving human subjects; BLACKBURN; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce; May 19

H.R. 2437 (DME), to amend part B of title XVIII of the Social Security Act regarding high cost durable medical equipment, and for other purposes; BLACKBURN; jointly, to the committees on Energy and Commerce and Ways and Means; May 19

H.R. 2438 (TRIALS), to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act with respect to broader application of Bayesian statistics and adaptive trial designs; COLLINS; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce; May 19

H.R. 2439 (PHSA), to amend the Public Health Service Act with respect to the Silvio O. Conte Senior Biomedical Research Service; COLLINS; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce; May 19

H.R. 2440 (NIH), to amend the Public Health Service Act to improve loan repayment programs of the National Institutes of Health; ELLMERS; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce; May 19

H.R. 2443 (CLIA), to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act with respect to CLIA waiver study design guidance for in vitro diagnostics; GUTHRIE; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce; May 19

H.R. 2444 (CONTINUOUS MANUFACTURING), to authorize the Commissioner of Food and Drugs to award grants for studying the process of continuous drug manufacturing; GUTHRIE; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce; May 19

H.R. 2445 (FDA), to express the sense of Congress with respect to enabling Food and Drug Administration scientific engagement; GUTHRIE; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce; May 19

H.R. 2446 (MEDICAID), to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to require the use of electronic visit verification for personal care services furnished under the Medicaid program, and for other purposes; GUTHRIE; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce; May 19

Health Legislation Recently Introduced cont.

H.R. 2447 (NIH), to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for an NIH research strategic plan; HARRIS; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce; May 19

H.R. 2448 (RESEARCH), to amend the Public Health Service Act to authorize a program of high-risk, high-reward research; HARRIS; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce; May 19

H.R. 2452 (HEALTH CARE ECONOMIC INFORMATION), to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act with respect to facilitating dissemination of health care economic information; LONG; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce; May 19

H.R. 2455 (PRECISION MEDICINE), to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act with respect to precision medicine; PITTS; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce; May 19

H.R. 2456 (DATA SHARING), to amend the Public Health Service Act to ensure the sharing of data generated from research with the public; PITTS; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce; May 19

H.R. 2459 (ANTIMICROBIALS), to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to enhance the reporting requirements pertaining to use of antimicrobial drugs in food animals; SLAUGHTER; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce; May 19

H. Res. 275 (HIV/AIDS), supporting the goals and ideals of National Asian and Pacific Islander HIV/AIDS Awareness Day; BORDALLO; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce; May 19

S. 1368 (ACA), to establish the Office of the Special Inspector General for Monitoring the Affordable Care Act, and for other purposes; ROBERTS; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions; May 19

S. 1374 (MEDICAL SCHOOLS), to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to establish fair and consistent eligibility requirements for graduate medical schools operating outside the United States and Canada; DURBIN; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions; May 19

H.R.2461 (BONE MASS), to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to improve access to, and utilization of, bone mass measurement benefits under part B of the Medicare program by establishing a minimum payment amount under such part for bone mass measurement; BURGESS; jointly, to the committees on Energy and Commerce and Ways and Means; May 20

H.R.2462 (ANTITRUST), to restore the application of the Federal antitrust laws to the business of health insurance to protect competition and consumers; DeFAZIO; to the House Committee on the Judiciary; May 20

H.R. 2463 (DRUG DISPOSAL), to authorize the Attorney General to provide grants for drug disposal sites; BERA; jointly, to the committees on Energy and Commerce and the Judiciary; May 20

H.R. 2472 (ORGAN/TISSUE DONATION), to amend the Public Health Service Act to establish a National Organ and Tissue Donor Registry Resource Center, to authorize grants for State organ and tissue donor registries, and for other purposes; CLAY; to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce; May 20

H.R. 2476 (MA), to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to facilitate the transition to Medicare for individuals enrolled in group health plans, to establish a 3-month open enrollment period under Medicare Advantage, and for other purposes; HECK; jointly, to the committees on Ways and Means and Energy and Commerce; May 20

H.R. 2479 (MEDICAL PRODUCTS), to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to provide for the issuance of up-to-date regulations and guidance applying to the dissemination by means of the Internet of information about medical products; LONG; to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce; May 20

H.R. 2480 (CEREBRAL CAVERNOUS MALFORMATIONS), to increase research, education, and treatment for cerebral cavernous malformations; LUJAN; to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce; May 20

Health Legislation Recently Introduced cont.

S. 1391 (CEREBRAL CAVERNOUS MALFORMATIONS), to increase research, education, and treatment for cerebral cavernous malformations; UDALL; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions; May 20

S. 1392 (CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES), to require certain practitioners authorized to prescribe controlled substances to complete continuing education; MARKEY; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions; May 20

S. 1396 (INSURANCE), to establish a demonstration program requiring the utilization of Value-Based Insurance Design in order to demonstrate that reducing the copayments or coinsurance charged to Medicare beneficiaries for selected high-value prescription medications and clinical services can increase their utilization and ultimately improve clinical outcomes, enhance beneficiary satisfaction, and lower health care expenditures; THUNE; to the Committee on Finance; May 20

S. 1406 (COMPOUNDING), to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act with respect to pharmacy compounding; VITTER; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions; May 20

H.R. 2488 (PPACA), to preserve Medicare beneficiary choice by restoring and expanding the Medicare open enrollment and disenrollment opportunities repealed by section 3204(a) of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; ROTHFUS; jointly, to the committees on Ways and Means and Energy and Commerce; May 21

H.R. 2502 (BUNDLED PAYMENTS), to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for bundled payments for certain episodes of care surrounding a hospitalization; BLACK; jointly, to the committees on Ways and Means and Energy and Commerce; May 21

H.R. 2505 (MA), to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to require the annual reporting of data on enrollment in Medicare Advantage plans; KELLY; jointly, to the committees on Ways and Means and Energy and Commerce; May 21

H.R. 2506 (MA), to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to delay the authority to terminate Medicare Advantage contracts for MA plans failing to achieve minimum quality ratings; BUCHANAN; jointly, to the committees on Ways and Means and Energy and Commerce; May 21

H.R. 2507 (MA), to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to establish an annual rulemaking schedule for payment rates under Medicare Advantage; BRADY; jointly, to the committees on Ways and Means and Energy and Commerce; May 21

H.R. 2513 (HOSPITALS), to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act with respect to the treatment of hospitals under the Medicare program, and for other purposes; jointly, to the committees on Ways and Means Energy and Commerce; May 21

H.R. 2514 (VA), to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to prevent veterans from being disqualified from contributing to health savings accounts by reason of receiving medical care for service-connected disabilities under programs administered by the Department of Veterans Affairs; JOHNSON; to the Committee on Ways and Means; May 21

H.R. 2515 (EATING DISORDERS), to amend the Public Health Service Act with respect to eating disorders, and for other purposes; DEUTCH; jointly, to the committees on Energy and Commerce, Education and the Workforce, and Ways and Means; May 21

H.R. 2516 (TELEMEDICINE), to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the ability of health care professionals to treat veterans via telemedicine; RANGEL; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs; May 21

Health Legislation Recently Introduced cont.

H.R. 2519 (AUDIOLOGY), to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for treatment of audiologists as physicians for purposes of furnishing audiology services under the Medicare program, to improve access to the audiology services available for coverage under the Medicare program and to enable beneficiaries to have their choice of a qualified audiologist to provide such services, and for other purposes; JENKINS; jointly, to the committees on Energy and Commerce and Ways and Means; May 21

H.R. 2535 (EMERGENCY MEDICINE), to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow a \$1,000 refundable credit for individuals who are bona fide volunteer members of volunteer firefighting and emergency medical service organizations; HANNA; to the Committee on Ways and Means; May 21

H.R. 2536 (MAT), to provide access to medication-assisted therapy, and for other purposes; HIGGINS; jointly, to the committees on Energy and Commerce and the Judiciary; May 21

H.R. 2540 (BREAST RECONSTRUCTION), to amend the Public Health Service Act to raise awareness of, and to educate breast cancer patients anticipating surgery, especially patients who are members of racial and ethnic minority groups, regarding the availability and coverage of breast reconstruction, prostheses, and other options; LANCE; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce; May 21

H.R. 2547 (ACCELERATED APPROVAL), to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to provide for the development of accelerated approval development plans for investigational drugs and biological products; RODGERS; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce; May 21

H.R. 2548 (PEDIATRIC RESEARCH), to amend the Public Health Service Act with respect to a national pediatric research network; RODGERS; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce; May 21

H.R. 2549 (HEALTH DATA), to amend the HITECH Act with respect to accessing, sharing, and using health data for research purposes; RODGERS; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce; May 21

H.R. 2550 (introduced by Rep. McMorris Rodgers): A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide Medicare payment incentives to transition from traditional x-ray imaging to digital radiography, and for other purposes; RODGERS; jointly, to the committees on Energy and Commerce and Ways and Means; May 21

H.R. 2558 (ENVIRONMENTAL HAZARDS), to authorize the provision of health care for certain individuals exposed to environmental hazards at Atsugi Naval Air Facility, to establish an advisory board to examine exposures to environmental hazards at such Air Facility, and for other purposes; SCHRADER; to the Committee on Armed Services, May 21

H.R. 2565 (ACA), to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to restore the regular Medicaid matching rate for newly eligible individuals under the Affordable Care Act and to apply up to \$15 billion of the savings each year to the Highway Trust Fund; WESTERMAN; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce; May 21

H.RES. 282 (BLADDER CANCER), expressing support for designation of May as "National Bladder Cancer Awareness Month"; CARTWRIGHT; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce; May 21

S. 1409 (MEDICAID), to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to require States to suspend, rather than terminate, an individual's eligibility for medical assistance under the State Medicaid plan while such individual is an inmate of a public institution; MARKEY; to the Committee on Finance; May 21

S. 1410 (SUBSTANCE USE), to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide grants to improve the treatment of substance use disorders; MARKEY; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions; May 21

S. 1415 (ACA); to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify the definition of large employer for purposes of applying the employer mandate; HEITKAMP; to the Committee on Finance; May 21

Health Legislation Recently Introduced cont.

S. 1421 (EXCLUSIVITY), to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to authorize a 6-month extension of certain exclusivity periods in the case of approved drugs that are subsequently approved for a new indication to prevent, diagnose, or treat a rare disease or condition, and for other purposes; HATCH; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions; May 21

S. 1424 (MICROBEADS), to prohibit the sale or distribution of cosmetics containing synthetic plastic microbeads; GILIRBAND; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions; May 21

S. 1426 (PHYSICAL THERAPY), to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for the participation of physical therapists in the National Health Service Corps Loan Repayment Program, and for other purposes; TESTER; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions; May 21

S. 1427 (QUALITY MEASUREMENT), to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to facilitate increased coordination and alignment between the public and private sector with respect to quality and efficiency measures; STABENOW; to the Committee on Finance; May 21

S. 1431 (OPIOIDS), to provide for increased Federal oversight of prescription opioid treatment and assistance to States in reducing opioid abuse, diversion, and deaths; MANCHIN; to the Committee on Finance; May 21

S. 1435 (ORGAN DONATION), to amend the Public Health Service Act to promote awareness of organ donation and the need to increase the pool of available organs; CASEY; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions; May 21

S. 1450 (VA), to amend title 38, United States Code, to allow the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to modify the hours of employment of physicians and physician assistants employed on a full-time basis by the Department of Veterans Affairs; HIRONO; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs; May 21

S. 1452 (VA), to amend title 38, United States Code, to expand eligibility for reimbursements for emergency medical treatment and to require that the Department of Veterans Affairs be treated as a participating provider for the recovery of the costs of certain medical care, and for other purposes; HIRONO; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs; May 21

S. 1453 (PUERTO RICO), to amend part B of title XVIII of the Social Security Act to apply deemed enrollment to residents of Puerto Rico and to provide a special enrollment period and a reduction in the late enrollment penalties for certain residents of Puerto Rico; SCHUMER; to the Committee on Finance; May 21

S. 1455 (MAT), to provide access to medication-assisted therapy, and for other purposes; MARKEY; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions; May 22

S. 1456 (MSSP), to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to improve the way beneficiaries are assigned under the Medicare shared savings program by also basing such assignment on primary care services furnished by Federally qualified health centers, rural health clinics, nurse practitioners, physician assistants, and clinical nurse specialists; CANTWELL; to the Committee on Finance; May 22

S. 1461 (CAH), to provide for the extension of the enforcement instruction on supervision requirements for outpatient therapeutic services in critical access and small rural hospitals through 2015; THUNE; to the Committee on Finance; May 22

S. 1463 (VA), to amend the Veterans Access, Choice, and Accountability Act of 2014 to modify the distance requirement for expanded availability of hospital care and medical services for veterans through the use of agreements with non-Department of Veterans Affairs entities; MORAN; considered and passed; May 22

S. 1465 (STROKES), to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to expand access to stroke telehealth services under the Medicare program; KIRK; to the Committee on Finance; May 22

S. 1466 (OUTPATIENT DEPARTMENTS), to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to modify payment under the Medicare program for outpatient department procedures that utilize drugs as supplies, and for other purposes; KIRK; to the Committee on Finance; May 22

Health Legislation Recently Introduced cont.

H.R. 2568 (RAC), to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to improve the process of audits by recovery audit contractors and the recovery of overpayments under the Medicare program; HOLDING; jointly, to the committees on Ways and Means and Energy and Commerce; May 22

H.R. 2570 (PRESCRIPTION MEDICATIONS), to establish a demonstration program requiring the utilization of Value-Based Insurance Design to demonstrate that reducing the copayments or coinsurance charged to Medicare beneficiaries for selected high-value prescription medications and clinical services can increase their utilization and ultimately improve clinical outcomes and lower health care expenditures; BLACK; jointly, to the committees on Ways and Means and Energy and Commerce; May 22