



# Health Policy Briefing

March 22, 2021

## Becerra Confirmed As HHS Secretary

Xavier Becerra has been sworn in as the 25th Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). Becerra was confirmed by the Senate in a narrow 50-49 vote on Thursday with the support of only one Republican, Sen. Susan Collins (R-Maine). Collins stated that Becerra's commitment to rural health care and lowering drug prices was the reason for her support. As Secretary, Becerra has pledged to focus on ensuring that all Americans have health security and access to health care.

Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-N.Y.) has filed cloture on the nominations of Vivek H. Murthy to be surgeon general of the Public Health Service and Rachel Levine to be an assistant secretary of health. Murthy and Levine were advanced by the Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions (HELP) Committee with bipartisan support last week – the vote in favor of Murthy was 16-6, and the vote in favor of Levine was 13-9. The Senate is expected to vote to confirm the nominees early this week.

### House Passes Bill to Avert Medicare Sequester Cuts

The House of Representatives has passed legislation (H.R. 1868) to avert \$36 billion in Medicare sequestration cuts triggered by the *American Rescue Plan Act* and to extend the current moratorium on the 2% Medicare sequester. The bill passed by a vote of 246-175, with 29 Republicans joining Democrats in support of the legislation. The latest stimulus package triggered statutory pay-as-you-go (PAYGO) requirements that would

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result in a 4% sequester to the Medicare program in early 2022. H.R. 1868 would waive the PAYGO rules for the recently-passed reconciliation package and extend the temporary pandemic freeze on Medicare reimbursement cuts, set to expire at the end of this month, through the end of the year. The bill will require 60 votes for passage in the Senate. While other PAYGO waivers and the Medicare sequester freeze have previously been accomplished in a bipartisan manner, some Senate Republicans have indicated that they will not support H.R. 1868. Sens. Jeanne Shaheen (D-N.H.) and Susan Collins (R-Maine) have introduced their own legislation (S. 748, the *Medicare Sequester Relief Act*) to suspend the 2% sequester for the duration of the public health emergency (PHE) while also extending the 2% sequester for an additional calendar year.

### ***Democrats Urge WH to Waive Patent Protections for COVID Vaccine***

Congressional Democrats are continuing their effort to push the White House to increase the global availability of vaccine supplies. President Joe Biden has committed \$4 billion to COVAX and has offered Mexico and Canada access to the U.S. stockpile of the AstraZeneca vaccine. Some lawmakers, however, are urging the President to support a temporary waiver of patent protections for COVID-19 vaccines. This waiver would allow global manufacturers to replicate vaccine formulas to increase vaccine production across the world. The waiver, which was proposed by India and South Africa through the World Trade Organization (WTO) last year and is supported by 55 other countries, was opposed by the Trump administration. A letter to the President from House Democrats in support of the waiver has been signed by close to 100 members, including Appropriations Chair Rosa DeLauro (D-Conn.) and Ways and Means Trade Subcommittee Chair Earl Blumenauer (D-Ore.). Proponents of the waiver argue that any loss of profit by pharmaceutical companies resulting from the waiver would be offset by the global economic gains that result from pandemic recovery across the rest of the world, while opponents believe that strong intellectual property protections are necessary to incentivize continued innovation. The administration has said that it will make its decision based on its analysis of how effective the waiver would be. The WTO operates by consensus, meaning all 164 members would have to agree to support the waiver in order for it to take effect. A U.S. change of position, however, could carry weight with other opponents of the measure. The issue will next be examined at a WTO meeting in mid-April.

In a related effort, Joint Economic Committee Democrats sent a [letter](#) asking the Biden administration to develop a plan to share the nation's surplus Covid vaccines with low- and middle-income countries and the COVAX initiative.

### ***The Return of Congressional Earmarks***

The House Republican Conference has voted to bring back earmarks, following the decision by House and Senate Democrats to do the same. The decade-long ban on congressionally-directed spending was lifted during a closed door vote on Wednesday. Under the resolution adopted by the conference in a 102-84 vote, GOP members will be required to publicly disclose their earmark requests and affirm that they do not have a financial interest in the projects. They will also be required to explain why the earmark is an "appropriate use of taxpayer funds." Member seniority, committee assignments, and leadership positions will not be taken into consideration in the facilitation of an earmark request. Senate Republicans are still debating whether or not to lift their own ban on earmarks.

### ***HHS Personnel Update***

President Joe Biden has announced that he will nominate Dawn O'Connell to serve as Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (ASPR) within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). O'Connell has been working as a senior counselor for COVID response at HHS for the past two months. She previously worked as the director of the U.S. office of the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness and served in the Obama administration as a senior counselor to the HHS secretary on global health issues. If she receives Senate confirmation, she will lead the federal government's pandemic preparedness efforts and the Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority (BARDA) and oversee the Strategic National Stockpile.

### ***USPSTF Announces New Leadership***

The U.S. Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF) announced the appointment of Karina W. Davidson, Ph.D., M.A.Sc., as chair and Michael J. Barry, M.D., as vice chair last week. Carol M. Mangione, M.D., M.S.P.H., will remain in her role as vice chair. Dr. Davidson will assume the role of chair from Alex H. Krist, M.D., M.P.H., who will now serve as the immediate past chair. Professional biographies for Dr. Davidson, Dr. Barry, and all USPSTF members are available [here](#).

### ***CDC Releases Details on Vaccine Disparities***

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has released a new [report](#) finding vaccine disparities in 31 states across the nation. Vaccine coverage is lower in counties that have the highest social vulnerability, which is measured through an index taking into account social, economic, racial, and ethnic factors. The largest disparity among counties related to socioeconomic status. Alaska, Arizona, Minnesota, Montana, and West Virginia were found to have successfully achieved coverage in highly vulnerable counties across all or most measures. The report includes best practices from states with high equity, including early prioritization of minority groups, transportation support, and collaboration with community partners.

### ***MedPAC Issues Recommendations on Telehealth Flexibilities***

The Medicare Payment Advisory Commission (MedPAC) is [urging](#) an extension of telehealth flexibilities instituted in response to the COVID pandemic for up to two years after the public health emergency (PHE) concludes. According to the recommendations published on Monday, these telehealth expansion policies would allow more time for data to be gathered on the use of virtual care to inform a decision on which measures should be made permanent. Prior to the pandemic, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) generally only reimbursed telehealth care provided to rural patients at a health care setting. Coverage has since been expanded to include all patients regardless of location for the duration of the PHE. While some policymakers have raised concerns that the use of virtual care could increase health care costs across the board, MedPAC is recommending that payments for audio-only visits be extended beyond the PHE and that Medicare return to the previous lower payment rates for telehealth visits in comparison to in-person appointments. The Commission also recommends that providers be required to have in-person visits with a patient before ordering durable medical equipment (DME), which has been found to be a target for fraud and abuse.

### ***HHS Delays Trump-Era Regulations***

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) has decided to delay until 2023 a Trump-era rebate rule that would have altered payments made from pharmaceutical manufacturers to pharmacy benefit managers (PBMs). Under the rebate rule, PBMs would no longer be permitted to adjust rebate payments based on the price of a drug. The postponement of the regulation follows a court order from the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia placing the entire rule on hold for almost two years. HHS also announced that it would delay a regulation that would cause existing health regulations to expire if they are not reviewed by HHS every 10 years. The retrospective review regulation, which was scheduled to go into effect on March 19, 2021, will now be delayed until March 22, 2022. The administration explained that the postponement was made to allow a legal challenge to the measure to proceed.

### ***NIH Quantifies Research Losses Stemming from Pandemic***

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) lost \$16 billion in research as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. This constitutes more than a third of the NIH's current spending level of \$42.9 billion, and is a \$6 billion increase over a previous projection from agency director Francis Collins. In his testimony before the Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions (HELP) Committee last week, National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) Director Anthony Fauci told panel members that the pandemic has impacted the ability to conduct research in areas other than COVID-19.

## ***Hart Health Strategies COVID-19 Resources***

Hart Health Strategies Inc. continues to update the following resources related to the coronavirus pandemic. Please remember to clear your cache to ensure you download the most recent documents.

- [Disaster Primer](#)
- [Federal Relief Overview](#)
- [Health Care Workers on the Front Lines](#)
- [Hospice and Palliative Care](#)
- [Nursing Resources](#)
- [Personal Protective Equipment](#)
- [Physician Provisions](#)
- [Re-Opening America](#)
- [Small Business Resources](#)
- [Small Business - Paycheck Protection Program](#)
- [Small Business – PPP FAQ](#)
- [State Resources](#)
- [Tax Provisions](#)
- [Telehealth Overview](#)
- [Testing](#)
- [Vaccines](#)

## ***Upcoming Congressional Committee Activity***

***House Energy and Commerce hearing “LIFT America: Revitalizing our Nation’s Infrastructure and Economy;” 11:00 a.m., Cisco Webex; March 22***

***Senate HELP Subcommittee on Primary Health and Retirement Security hearing “Why Does the US Pay the Highest Prices in the World for Prescription Drugs?;” 10:00 a.m., 430 Dirksen Bldg.; March 23***

***House Appropriations Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies Subcommittee hearing “Addressing the Maternal Health Crisis;” 10:00 a.m.; March 23***

***Senate Judiciary Committee hearing “Constitutional and Common Sense Steps to Reduce Gun Violence;” 10:00 a.m., 216 Hart Bldg.; March 23***

***Senate Foreign Relations Committee hearing on the nomination of Samantha Power to be Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID); 10:00 a.m., 106/VTC Dirksen Bldg.; March 23***

***House Energy and Commerce Health Subcommittee hearing “Building on the ACA: Legislation to Expand Health Coverage and Lower Costs;” 11:00 a.m., Virtual; March 23***

***House Veterans’ Affairs Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations hearing “The Pandemic and VA’s Medical Supply Chain: Evaluating the Year-Long Response and Modernization;” 2:00 p.m.; March 24***

***Senate Veterans’ Affairs Committee hearing to examine veterans’ mental health and implementation of the Hannon Act, focusing on coping during Covid; 3:00 p.m.; March 24***

***Senate Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry Committee hearing “Child Nutrition Reauthorization: Healthy Meals and Healthy Futures;” 9:30 a.m., 106 Dirksen Bldg.; March 25***

***Senate HELP Committee hearing “Examining Our COVID-19 Response: Improving Health Equity and Outcomes by Addressing Health Disparities;” 10:00 a.m., 430 Dirksen Bldg.; March 25***

*Senate Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs Committee hearing “American Rescue Plan: Shots in Arms and Money in Pockets;” 10:00 a.m.; March 25*

*Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs hearing to examine the nomination of Deanne Bennett Criswell, of New York, to be Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, Department of Homeland Security; 10:15 a.m., 342/VTC Dirksen Bldg., Cisco Webex; March 25*

*House Foreign Affairs Committee markup of legislation Including H.R. 391, Global Health Security Act; 1:00 p.m.; March 25*

## **Recently Introduced Health Legislation**

*H.R.1868 — To prevent across-the-board direct spending cuts, and for other purposes; Sponsor: Rep. Yarmuth, John A. [D-KY-3]; Committees: House - Budget; Energy and Commerce; Ways and Means*

*H.R.1872 — To amend the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act to provide for Federal Exchange outreach and educational activities, and for other purposes; Sponsor: Rep. Blunt Rochester, Lisa [D-DE-At Large]; Committees: House - Energy and Commerce*

*H.R.1873 — To educate health care providers and the public on biosimilar biological products, and for other purposes; Sponsor: Rep. Bucshon, Larry [R-IN-8]; Committees: House - Energy and Commerce*

*H.R.1874 — To amend the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act to provide for additional requirements with respect to the navigator program, and for other purposes; Sponsor: Rep. Castor, Kathy [D-FL-14]; Committees: House - Energy and Commerce*

*H.R.1875 — To amend title XXVII of the Public Health Service Act to eliminate the short-term limited duration insurance exemption with respect to individual health insurance coverage; Sponsor: Rep. Castor, Kathy [D-FL-14]; Committees: House - Energy and Commerce*

*H.R.1878 — To amend the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act to establish a health insurance affordability fund, and for other purposes; Sponsor: Rep. Craig, Angie [D-MN-2]; Committees: House - Energy and Commerce*

*H.R.1880 — To amend the Deficit Reduction Act of 2005 to make permanent the Money Follows the Person Rebalancing Demonstration; Sponsor: Rep. Dingell, Debbie [D-MI-12]; Committees: House - Energy and Commerce*

*H.R.1885 — To amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to adjust certain rural health clinic payments under the Medicare program; Sponsor: Rep. Kind, Ron [D-WI-3]; Committees: House - Energy and Commerce; Ways and Means*

*H.R.1887 — To amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to rebase the calculation of payments for sole community hospitals and Medicare-dependent hospitals, and for other purposes; Sponsor: Rep. Reed, Tom [R-NY-23]; Committees: House - Ways and Means*

*H.R.1888 — To amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to require a Federal medical assistance percentage of 100 percent for Indian health care providers, and for other purposes; Sponsor: Rep. Ruiz, Raul [D-CA-36]; Committees: House - Energy and Commerce*

*H.R.1890 — To amend the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act to require Exchanges to establish network adequacy standards for qualified health plans and amend the Public Health Service Act to provide protections for consumers against excessive, unjustified, or unfairly discriminatory increases in premium rates; Sponsor: Rep. Schakowsky, Janice D. [D-IL-9]; Committees: House - Energy and Commerce*

*S.748 — A bill to provide for an extension of the temporary suspension of Medicare sequestration during the COVID-19 public health emergency; Sponsor: Sen. Shaheen, Jeanne [D-NH]; Committees: Senate – Finance*

*S.749 — A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to enhance tax benefits for research activities; Sponsor: Sen. Hassan, Margaret Wood [D-NH]; Committees: Senate – Finance*

*S.754 — A bill to provide health insurance benefits for outpatient and inpatient items and services related to the diagnosis and treatment of a congenital anomaly or birth defect; Sponsor: Sen. Baldwin, Tammy [D-WI]; Committees: Senate - Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions*

*S.756 — A bill to amend the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act to ensure that preexisting condition exclusions with respect to enrollment in health insurance coverage and group health plans continue to be prohibited; Sponsor: Sen. Kennedy, John [R-LA]; Committees: Senate - Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions*

*S.764 — A bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to encourage State Medicaid programs to provide community-based mobile crisis intervention services, and for other purposes; Sponsor: Sen. Wyden, Ron [D-OR]; Committees: Senate – Finance*

*S.771 — A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to modify authorities relating to the collective bargaining of employees in the Veterans Health Administration, and for other purposes; Sponsor: Sen. Brown, Sherrod [D-OH]; Committees: Senate - Veterans' Affairs*

*S.773 — A bill to enable certain hospitals that were participating in or applied for the drug discount program under section 340B of the Public Health Service Act prior to the COVID-19 public health emergency to temporarily maintain eligibility for such program, and for other purposes; Sponsor: Sen. Thune, John [R-SD]; Committees: Senate - Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions*

*S.777 — A bill to prohibit taxpayer-funded gender reassignment medical interventions, and for other purposes; Sponsor: Sen. Marshall, Roger W. [R-KS]; Committees: Senate – Finance*

*S.778 — A bill to amend chapter 110 of title 18, United States Code, to prohibit gender reassignment medical interventions on minors, and for other purposes; Sponsor: Sen. Marshall, Roger W. [R-KS]; Committees: Senate – Judiciary*

*S.779 — A bill to provide that certain rules and guidance related to waivers for State innovation under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act shall have no force or effect; Sponsor: Sen. Warner, Mark R. [D-VA]; Committees: Senate – Finance*

*S.782 — A bill to amend titles XVIII and XIX of the Social Security Act to modernize Federal nursing home protections and to enhance care quality and transparency for nursing home residents and their families; Sponsor: Sen. Casey, Robert P., Jr. [D-PA]; Committees: Senate – Finance*

*H.Res.242 — Raising awareness of the racial disparities in the impact of colorectal cancer on the Black community; Sponsor: Rep. Watson Coleman, Bonnie [D-NJ-12]; Committees: House - Energy and Commerce*

*H.R.1896 — To amend title I of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act to provide for additional grants for States to conduct activities related to establishing American Health Benefit Exchanges; Sponsor: Rep. Kim, Andy [D-NJ-3]; Committees: House - Energy and Commerce*

*H.R.1899 — Ensuring Compliance Against Drug Diversion Act of 2021; Sponsor: Rep. Griffith, H. Morgan [R-VA-9]; Committees: House - Energy and Commerce; Judiciary; Budget*

*H.R.1900 — To require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the health care professionals, first responders, scientists, researchers, all essential workers, and individuals who provided care and services during the coronavirus pandemic; Sponsor: Rep. Bergman, Jack [R-MI-1]; Committees: House - Financial Services*

*H.R.1905 — To amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to allow the sponsor of a drug to use a non-animal test as an alternative to an animal test for purposes of demonstrating the safety and effectiveness of a drug if such approach satisfies the requirements of the applicable statutes and regulations; Sponsor: Rep. Boyle, Brendan F. [D-PA-2]; Committees: House - Energy and Commerce*

*H.R.1910 — To amend the Controlled Substances Act to list fentanyl-related substances as schedule I controlled substances; Sponsor: Rep. Chabot, Steve [R-OH-1]; Committees: House - Energy and Commerce; Judiciary*

*H.R.1914 — To amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to encourage State Medicaid programs to provide community-based mobile crisis intervention services, and for other purposes; Sponsor: Rep. DeFazio, Peter A. [D-OR-4]; Committees: House - Energy and Commerce*

*H.R.1916 — To provide health insurance benefits for outpatient and inpatient items and services related to the diagnosis and treatment of a congenital anomaly or birth defect; Sponsor: Rep. Eshoo, Anna G. [D-CA-18]; Committees: House - Energy and Commerce; Ways and Means; Education and Labor*

*H.R.1926 — To amend chapter 110 of title 18, United States Code, to prohibit gender reassignment medical interventions on minors, and for other purposes; Sponsor: Rep. LaMalfa, Doug [R-CA-1]; Committees: House - Judiciary*

*H.R.1927 — To prohibit taxpayer-funded gender reassignment medical interventions, and for other purposes; Sponsor: Rep. LaMalfa, Doug [R-CA-1]; Committees: House - Energy and Commerce; Judiciary; Ways and Means*

*H.R.1946 — To amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for Medicare coverage of multi-cancer early detection screening tests; Sponsor: Rep. Sewell, Terri A. [D-AL-7]; Committees: House - Energy and Commerce; Ways and Means*

*H.R.1948 — To amend title 38, United States Code, to modify authorities relating to the collective bargaining of employees in the Veterans Health Administration; Sponsor: Rep. Takano, Mark [D-CA-41]; Committees: House - Veterans' Affairs*

*S.796 — A bill to codify maternity care coordination programs at the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes; Sponsor: Sen. Duckworth, Tammy [D-IL]; Committees: Senate - Veterans' Affairs*

*S.800 — A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to permit nurse practitioners and physician assistants to satisfy the documentation requirement under the Medicare program for coverage of certain shoes for individuals with diabetes; Sponsor: Sen. Brown, Sherrod [D-OH]; Committees: Senate - Finance*

*S.801 — A bill to identify and address barriers to coverage of remote physiologic devices under State Medicaid programs to improve maternal and child health outcomes for pregnant and postpartum women; Sponsor: Sen. Cassidy, Bill [R-LA]; Committees: Senate - Finance*

*S.810 — A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to expand the list of diseases associated with exposure to certain herbicide agents for which there is a presumption of service connection for veterans who served in the Republic of Vietnam to include hypertension, and for other purposes; Sponsor: Sen. Tester, Jon [D-MT]; Committees: Senate - Veterans' Affairs*

*S.815 — A bill to amend the Small Business Act and the CARES Act to extend the covered period for the paycheck protection program, and for other purposes; Sponsor: Sen. Rubio, Marco [R-FL]; Committees: Senate - Small Business and Entrepreneurship*

*H.R.1955 — To temporarily modify the application of the sequester under the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010, and for other purposes; Sponsor: Rep. Donalds, Byron [R-FL-19]; Committees: House - Budget*

*H.R.1956 — To amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act and the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018 to expand and expedite access to cardiac rehabilitation programs and pulmonary rehabilitation programs under the Medicare program, and for other purposes; Sponsor: Rep. Blunt Rochester, Lisa [D-DE-At Large]; Committees: House - Energy and Commerce; Ways and Means*

*H.R.1957 — To amend title 38, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to provide coverage for infertility treatment and standard fertility preservation services, and for other purposes; Sponsor: Rep. Brownley, Julia [D-CA-26]; Committees: House - Veterans' Affairs*

*H.R.1969 — To amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to address disparity in Medicare Advantage benchmark rates for regions with low Medicare fee-for-service penetration; Sponsor: Resident Commissioner Gonzalez-Colon, Jennifer [R-PR-At Large]; Committees: House - Ways and Means; Energy and Commerce*

*H.R.1972 — To amend title 38, United States Code, to expand the list of diseases associated with exposure to certain herbicide agents for which there is a presumption of service connection for veterans who served in the Republic of Vietnam to include hypertension, and for other purposes; Sponsor: Rep. Harder, Josh [D-CA-10]; Committees: House - Veterans' Affairs*

*H.R.1976 — To establish an improved Medicare for All national health insurance program; Sponsor: Rep. Jayapal, Pramila [D-WA-7]; Committees: House - Energy and Commerce; Ways and Means; Education and Labor; Rules; Oversight and Reform; Armed Services; Judiciary*

*H.R.1978 — To amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide information regarding vaccines for seniors as part of the Medicare & You handbook and to ensure that the treatment of cost sharing for vaccines under Medicare part D is consistent with the treatment of vaccines under Medicare part B, and for other purposes; Sponsor: Rep. Kuster, Ann M. [D-NH-2]; Committees: House - Energy and Commerce; Ways and Means*

*H.R.1985 — To amend titles XVIII and XIX of the Social Security Act to modernize Federal nursing home protections and to enhance care quality and transparency for nursing home residents and their families; Sponsor: Rep. Pascrell, Bill, Jr. [D-NJ-9]; Committees: House - Ways and Means; Energy and Commerce*

*H.R.1990 — To amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to protect beneficiaries with limb loss and other orthopedic conditions by providing access to appropriate, safe, effective, patient-centered orthotic and prosthetic care, to reduce fraud, waste, and abuse with respect to orthotics and prosthetics, and for other purposes; Sponsor: Rep. Thompson, Mike [D-CA-5]; Committees: House - Energy and Commerce; Ways and Means*

*S.826 — A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to establish a Medicare payment option for patients and eligible professionals to freely contract, without penalty, for Medicare fee-for-service items and services, while allowing Medicare beneficiaries to use their Medicare benefits; Sponsor: Sen. Paul, Rand [R-KY]; Committees: Senate - Finance*



**S.828 — A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for the coverage of marriage and family therapist services and mental health counselor services under part B of the Medicare program, and for other purposes; Sponsor: Sen. Barrasso, John [R-WY]; Committees: Senate – Finance**

**S.833 — A bill to amend XVIII of the Social Security Act to allow the Secretary of Health and Human Services to negotiate fair prescription drug prices under part D of the Medicare program; Sponsor: Sen. Klobuchar, Amy [D-MN]; Committees: Senate – Finance**

**S.834 — A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for the distribution of additional residency positions, and for other purposes; Sponsor: Sen. Menendez, Robert [D-NJ]; Committees: Senate – Finance**

**S.844 — A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to treat certain amounts paid for physical activity, fitness, and exercise as amounts paid for medical care; Sponsor: Sen. Thune, John [R-SD]; Committees: Senate – Finance**

**S.849 — A bill to require the Director of National Intelligence and the Director of the Central Intelligence Agency to conduct a study to identify supply chains critical to national security, and for other purposes; Sponsor: Sen. Cornyn, John [R-TX]; Committees: Senate - Intelligence (Select)**

**S.851 — A bill to address social determinants of maternal health; Sponsor: Sen. Blumenthal, Richard [D-CT]; Committees: Senate - Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions**

**S.852 — A bill to provide for further comprehensive research at the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke on unruptured intracranial aneurysms; Sponsor: Sen. Blumenthal, Richard [D-CT]; Committees: Senate - Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions**

**S.861 — A bill to establish an interagency One Health Program, and for other purposes; Sponsor: Sen. Smith, Tina [D-MN]; Committees: Senate - Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions**

**S.868 — A bill to amend title II of the Social Security Act to eliminate the five-month waiting period for disability insurance benefits under such title and waive the 24-month waiting period for Medicare eligibility for individuals with Huntington's disease; Sponsor: Sen. Gillibrand, Kirsten E. [D-NY]; Committees: Senate – Finance**

**S.869 — A bill to establish the Office of Supply Chain Preparedness within the Department of Commerce to manage the partnership of the United States with private industry and State and local governments with respect to the manufacturing of critical resources, and for other purposes; Sponsor: Sen. Coons, Christopher A. [D-DE]; Committees: Senate - Commerce, Science, and Transportation**

**S.870 — A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to improve access to mental health services under the Medicare program; Sponsor: Sen. Stabenow, Debbie [D-MI]; Committees: Senate – Finance**

**H.R.1999 — To delay and offset the sequester under the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010 as a result of the enactment of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, and for other purposes; Sponsor: Rep. Smith, Jason [R-MO-8]; Committees: House - Ways and Means; Energy and Commerce; Oversight and Reform; Budget; Education and Labor**

**H.R.2006 — To authorize the Secretary of Health and Human Services to award grants to States to expand or maintain a strategic stockpile of products deemed to be essential in the event of a public health emergency, and for other purposes; Sponsor: Rep. Carter, Earl L. "Buddy" [R-GA-1]; Committees: House - Energy and Commerce**

**H.R.2007 — To provide for research and education with respect to uterine fibroids, and for other purposes; Sponsor: Rep. Clarke, Yvette D. [D-NY-9]; Committees: House - Energy and Commerce**

*H.R.2010 — To amend the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act to establish a public health insurance option; Sponsor: Rep. DeFazio, Peter A. [D-OR-4]; Committees: House - Energy and Commerce*

*H.R.2032 — To direct the President to use authority under the Defense Production Act of 1950 to ensure an adequate supply equipment necessary for limiting the spread of COVID-19, to require the Director of the Defense Logistics Agency to establish a system for States and localities to access covered items during a covered emergency, and for other purposes; Sponsor: Rep. Larson, John B. [D-CT-1]; Committees: House - Armed Services; Financial Services*

*H.R.2035 — To amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to improve access to mental health services under the Medicare program; Sponsor: Rep. Lee, Barbara [D-CA-13]; Committees: House - Energy and Commerce; Ways and Means*

*H.R.2036 — To direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services, in consultation with the Secretary of State, to formulate a strategy for entering into agreements with foreign countries to develop and commercialize new drugs to address pandemics, and for other purposes; Sponsor: Rep. Levin, Mike [D-CA-49]; Committees: House - Foreign Affairs*

*H.R.2041 — To amend the Controlled Substances Act to list fentanyl-related substances as schedule I controlled substances; Sponsor: Rep. Luetkemeyer, Blaine [R-MO-3]; Committees: House - Energy and Commerce; Judiciary*

*H.R.2050 — To amend title II of the Social Security Act to eliminate the five-month waiting period for disability insurance benefits under such title and waive the 24-month waiting period for Medicare eligibility for individuals with Huntington's disease; Sponsor: Rep. Pascrell, Bill, Jr. [D-NJ-9]; Committees: House - Ways and Means*

*H.R.2054 — To amend the Public Health Service Act, the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, and the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for certain health coverage of newborns; Sponsor: Rep. Porter, Katie [D-CA-45]; Committees: House - Energy and Commerce; Ways and Means; Education and Labor*

*H.R.2061 — To establish an interagency One Health Program, and for other purposes; Sponsor: Rep. Schrader, Kurt [D-OR-5]; Committees: House - Energy and Commerce; Agriculture; Natural Resources; Foreign Affairs*

*H.R.2067 — To amend the Controlled Substances Act to require physicians and other prescribers of controlled substances to complete training on treating and managing patients with opioid and other substance use disorders, and for other purposes; Sponsor: Rep. Trahan, Lori [D-MA-3]; Committees: House - Energy and Commerce; Judiciary*

*H.R.2071 — To amend part D of title XVIII of the Social Security Act to require the Secretary of Health and Human Services to negotiate covered part D drug prices on behalf of Medicare beneficiaries; Sponsor: Rep. Welch, Peter [D-VT-At Large]; Committees: House - Energy and Commerce; Ways and Means*

*H.R.2073 — To place a moratorium on permitting for mountaintop removal coal mining until health studies are conducted by the Department of Health and Human Services, and for other purposes; Sponsor: Rep. Yarmuth, John A. [D-KY-3]; Committees: House - Natural Resources; Energy and Commerce*