



## Health Policy Briefing

May 17, 2021

### Senate Advances Top Health Nominees

The Senate confirmed Andrea Palm to serve as deputy secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) last week by a vote of 61-37. Palm most recently led the Wisconsin Department of Health Services and previously served as HHS chief of staff and senior counselor to the secretary during the Obama administration. In her new position as the number two official at the Department, Palm will be responsible for managing HHS' daily operations and the development and approval of regulations issued by its agencies.

The Senate voted 51-48 to discharge the nomination of Chiquita Brooks-LaSure to serve as Administrator of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) last week. Republican senators Susan Collins (Maine) and Jerry Moran (Kan.) joined Democrats in backing the discharge petition. The Senate could hold a final vote on her confirmation this week. Brooks-LaSure is a former Obama administration health official who helped implement the Affordable Care Act (ACA) while serving as deputy director for policy at the Center for Consumer Information and Insurance Oversight (CCIIO). She also chaired President Joe Biden's health transition team. Earlier in her career, she was a staffer for the House Ways and Means Committee where she helped to draft the ACA while working with HHS Secretary Xavier Becerra, who served on the panel during his time in Congress. A final vote on her confirmation could occur as early as this week. Her nomination has been slowed due to Republican opposition led by Sen. John Cornyn (R-Texas) in protest of the Biden administration's recent decision to revoke a 1115 Medicaid waiver extension for the state of Texas; the waiver was approved in January by the Trump administration.

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## House Passes Slate of Mental Health Legislation

The House of Representatives passed 13 pieces of legislation aimed at improving the nation's mental health care system. The measures include

- The *Family Support Services for Addiction Act* (H.R. 433)
- The *Pursuing Equity in Mental Health Act* (H.R. 1475)
- The *Suicide Training and Awareness Nationally Delivered for Universal Prevention (STANDUP) Act* (H.R. 586)
- The *Mental Health Services for Students Act* (H.R. 721)
- The *Bipartisan Solution to Cyclical Violence Act of 2021* (H.R. 126)
- The *Improving Mental Health Access from the Emergency Department Act* (H.R. 1205)
- The *Effective Suicide Screening and Assessment in the Emergency Department Act* (H.R. 1324)
- The *Helping Emergency Responders Overcome (HERO) Act* (H.R. 1480)
- The *Campaign to Prevent Suicide Act* (H.R. 2862)
- The *Suicide Prevention Lifeline Improvement Act* (H.R. 2981)
- The *Suicide Prevention Act* (H.R. 2955)
- The *Block, Report, And Suspend Suspicious Shipments Act* (H.R. 768)
- The *Behavioral Intervention Guidelines Act* (H.R. 2877)

The Senate also passed the *Improving Mental Health Access for Students Act* (S. 1585) by voice vote last week.

## Lawmakers Seek to Restore FDA LDT Oversight

The top Democrats on the House Energy and Commerce Committee have sent a [letter](#) to U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Xavier Becerra calling on him to restore the ability of the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to regulate COVID-19 laboratory developed tests (LDT). "Access to accurate diagnostic tests is a vital piece of our ongoing effort to stop the spread of COVID-19 and eventually ending the pandemic," they said. "We therefore request that you immediately reverse the Trump administration's shortsighted policy and restore FDA's premarket review authority and oversight over COVID-19 laboratory-developed tests." The letter was signed by Chairman Frank Pallone (D-N.J.), Health Subcommittee Chair Anna Eshoo (D-Calif.), and Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee Chair Diana DeGette (D-Colo.).

Reps. DeGette and Larry Bucshon (R-Ind.) plan to reintroduce a revised version of the *VALID Act* in the coming weeks that would restore FDA premarket review requirements for LDTs. The Trump administration issued a policy last year which asserted that the FDA did not have the authority to require review of LDTs over the objection of top agency officials. The *VALID Act* would create a new category of medical products called in-vitro clinical tests which would fall under the authority of the FDA regardless of whether they are developed by a laboratory or device company, while exempting LDTs that are already developed and on the market. It is unclear what changes have been made to the bill since it was first introduced during the 116th Congress.

## No Surprises Act Authors Comment on Congressional Intent

Sens. Bill Cassidy (R-La.) and Maggie Hassan (D-N.H.) and Reps. Larry Bucshon (R-Ind.) and Raul Ruiz (D-Calif.) have written to the Biden administration to clarify the congressional intent as the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) works to implement the *No Surprises Act*. The bill, which was enacted last year, aims to end the practice of surprise medical billing. The law tasks HHS with establishing an independent dispute resolution (IDR) process by Jan. 1, 2022 to settle payment disputes between health care providers and insurance companies. The legislation says that arbitrators shall consider the qualifying payment amount (QPA) in addition to several other factors, including providers' level of training, quality and patient outcomes, market share for providers and payers, patient acuity, teaching status, and prior contracted rates. While some stakeholders are arguing that Congress intended the QPA to be the primary consideration, the lawmakers assert that Congress intended equal weight to be given to all six factors outlined in the bill. "The law's arbitration framework is designed to ensure that neither payors nor providers have a financial incentive to remain out of network as a tool to establish leverage for contract negotiations," the lawmakers say. "To achieve this balance, we wrote this law with the intent that arbiters give each arbitration factor equal weight and consideration." They ask the administration to "refrain from issuing guidance or taking other action that would give preference to one factor over the other as it works to promulgate rules for the *No Surprises Act*."

## Pelosi Faces Democratic Opposition to H.R. 3 Drug Pricing Bill

A group of 10 moderate Democrats in the House of Representatives have sent a [letter](#) to Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) stating their opposition to the party's signature drug pricing legislation. Amongst other provisions, H.R. 3 would permit the Medicare program to negotiate the price of certain drugs. The letter urges leadership to instead advance drug pricing reforms that would "preserve our invaluable innovation ecosystem" such as capping Medicare beneficiaries' out-of-pocket drug costs. Eight of the 10 signatories voted for the *Lower Drug Costs Now Act* during the 116th Congress, when it had no chance of becoming law under President Donald Trump and the Republican-controlled Senate. Some Democrats had hoped to move H.R. 3 along with the President's infrastructure package that is expected to be passed along party lines later this year.

## Murray Reintroduces Public Health Infrastructure Measure

Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions (HELP) Committee Chair Patty Murray (D-Wash.) has reintroduced the *Public Health Infrastructure to Save Lives Act* (PHISLA) (S. 674). The legislation is aimed at maintaining and strengthening public health infrastructure beyond the conclusion of the COVID-19 pandemic through grants to state and local health departments and increased funding for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). It would establish a national public health accreditation system focused on eight core capabilities:

1. Public health assessment
2. Preparedness and response
3. Policy development and support
4. Communications
5. Community partnership development
6. Organizational competencies
7. Accountability
8. Equity

Sen. Murray also praised an announcement from the White House that the Biden administration would invest \$7.4 billion in funding from the *American Rescue Plan* to hire and train a public health workforce charged with responding to COVID-19 and preparing for future threats to the public health.

## ***Appropriations and Budget Update***

According to a new [analysis](#) from the Washington Post, more than 300 lawmakers in the House of Representatives are seeking more than \$20 billion in earmarks this year. Nearly every House Democrat contributed to \$14 billion in project requests, while over half of the chamber's Republicans requested \$7 billion in funding. In related news, the White House will submit its full fiscal year (FY) 2022 budget proposal by the end of the month, according to a report from *Politico*. The funding request will include additional details on discretionary spending, mandatory spending, and tax reform that were not included in the administration's previously released skinny budget. The President's initial proposal included \$769 billion in spending for non-defense programs.

## ***HHS Encouraged to Provide PRF Flexibility***

A bipartisan group of nearly 80 members of the House of Representatives has [written](#) to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) calling for increased flexibility and additional time for health care providers to use the financial assistance they have received from the Provider Relief Fund (PRF). The PRF was authorized by Congress in response to the COVID-19 pandemic to support health care providers in covering expenses and lost revenue resulting from the coronavirus. Providers currently have until June 30 to spend any unused funds. "Providers are still delivering complex care for patients with COVID-19 and coping with higher procurement costs for personal protective equipment (PPE)," the members wrote. "Providing much-needed flexibility, such as allowing providers to use a partial lookback window to calculate lost revenues when non-emergent and non-essential procedures were shuttered and, in particular, extending the deadline to use the PRF funds to June 30, 2022 would give these providers the ability to put more of their PRF award toward fighting COVID-19."

## ***Lawmakers Express Support for Bolstering MA Program***

A bipartisan group of 70 members of the House of Representatives has sent a [letter](#) to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) expressing their support for the Medicare Advantage (MA) program and encouraging Secretary Xavier Becerra to protect and strengthen it. "Collectively, we represent districts where the majority – over 50 percent, and in some cases over 60 percent – of seniors chose to enroll in MA," the lawmakers write. "MA is delivering high-quality, affordable coverage, and is uniquely positioned to ensure seniors receive the care and support they need during the pandemic and beyond while improving health outcomes and advancing health equity for over 26 million beneficiaries."

## ***Feinstein Requests Details about COVID Airborne Transmission***

Sen. Dianne Feinstein (D-Calif.) is [asking](#) the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) for more information about the agency's recently updated risk analysis of COVID-19 airborne transmission occurring in distances farther than six feet. "On June 5, 2020, I asked your predecessor, former CDC Director Dr. Robert Redfield, to publish guidance that accounts for asymptomatic spread and airborne transmission in order to protect individuals and families working and residing in higher risk, congregate settings," the lawmaker wrote to CDC Director Rochelle Walensky. "As we continue to fend off the spread of the new COVID-19 variants that threaten our ability to return to normal, and consistent with CDC's announcement last week, I ask that you finally release strong guidance to ensure the public is fully informed on how to best protect themselves against airborne transmission."

***Agreement Reached on Jan. 6 Commission***

Negotiators in the House of Representatives have reached an agreement on the establishment of a bipartisan commission to investigate the facts and circumstances of the January 6 insurrection at the U.S. Capitol. According to the House Homeland Security Committee, the bipartisan commission will be comprised of 10 individuals, with an equal number of members chosen by Democratic and Republican congressional leadership, who have significant expertise in the areas of law enforcement, civil rights, civil liberties, privacy, intelligence, and cyber security. The commission will be granted authority to issue subpoenas, which will require agreement between the chair and the vice chair or a vote by a majority of members, and it will be required to issue a final report with findings and recommendations to “prevent future attacks on our democratic institutions” by December 31, 2021. Legislation establishing the commission is expected to be considered by the House as early as this week.

The events of January 6 remain an issue of contention on the Hill. The House was scheduled to advance the *Fairness in Orphan Drug Exclusivity Act* (H.R. 1629) last week. The bill, which passed the chamber with bipartisan support in 2019, would prevent pharmaceutical manufacturers from receiving market exclusivity for certain rare disease treatments. Reps. Madeleine Dean (D-Pa.) and Buddy Carter (R-Ga.) sponsored the bill during the 116th Congress. Rep. Dean, however, did not allow Rep. Carter to be a co-lead on the bill this year because of his objection to certifying the electoral college vote on January 6. Republican opposition on behalf of Rep. Carter prevented H.R. 1629 from being advanced under suspension of the rules on Tuesday. House Majority Leader Steny Hoyer (D-Md.) has said that he will bring the bill for consideration on the floor this week.

***Masks to Remain in the House Despite CDC Guidance Update***

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) issued new [guidance](#) last week announcing that masks, face coverings, and physical distancing are no longer necessary for individuals who have been fully vaccinated against COVID-19, regardless of whether they are inside or outdoors, except where required by federal, state, local, tribal, or territorial laws, rules, and regulations, including local business and workplace guidance. The new recommendations are not recommended for health care settings. The guidance also notes special circumstances for correctional or detention facilities and homeless shelters. CDC further clarified that, as of now, masks and physical distancing should still be utilized in school settings. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) responded that masks will still be required on the floor of the House of Representatives because the vaccination rate of members and staff is not known.

***Changes to Senate Finance Committee Staff***

Senate Finance Committee Chairman Ron Wyden (D-Ore.) announced additions and changes to the panel’s Democratic health care staff members. Anna Kaltenboeck joins as senior health advisor, focusing on drug pricing and outpatient prescription drug coverage under Medicare Part D. Eva DuGoff will also serve as senior health advisor, focusing on health insurance coverage under the marketplaces established by the Affordable Care Act (ACA), as well as the Medicare Advantage (MA) program. Liz Dervan will lead the committee’s work on Medicaid and the Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP) as health counsel.

***Neera Tanden Appointed WH Senior Adviser***

President Joe Biden has appointed Neera Tanden as senior White House adviser. Tanden was previously nominated to lead the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) but withdrew from consideration after bipartisan objections to her use of Twitter to criticize political opponents. In this new position, she will plan for potential health policy changes should the Republican effort in the Supreme Court to strike down the Affordable Care Act (ACA) be successful. Tanden will also support a review of the U.S. Digital Service.

## **ACA SEP Sees More Than 1 Million Enrollees**

More than one million Americans have signed up for health insurance coverage through HealthCare.gov during the special enrollment period (SEP) opened by President Joe Biden at the start of his administration. “This milestone reinforces what we know to be true,” U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Xavier Becerra stated. “There is a real demand for quality, affordable health care across the United States.” The enrollment period remains open through August 15.

## ***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](#)
- [Hospice and Palliative Care](#)
- [Nursing Resources](#)
- [Personal Protective Equipment](#)
- [Physician Provisions](#)
- [Re-Opening America](#)
- [Small Business Resources](#)
- [Small Business - Paycheck Protection Program](#)
- [State Resources](#)
- [Tax Provisions](#)
- [Telehealth Overview](#)
- [Testing](#)
- [Vaccines](#)

## Upcoming Congressional Hearings and Markups

**House Oversight and Reform Committee hearing “Unsustainable Drug Prices (Part III): Testimony from AbbVie CEO Richard Gonzalez;” 10:00 a.m.; May 18**

**House Appropriations Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Member Day hearing; 10:00 a.m.; May 18**

**House Appropriations Subcommittee on Financial Services and General Government hearing “The Need for Universal Broadband: Lessons from the COVID-19 Pandemic;” 10:30 a.m.; May 18**

**House Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Member Day hearing; 12:30 p.m.; May 18**

**House Homeland Security Committee markup of H.R. 2795, The “DHS Blue Campaign Enhancement Act”; H.R. 2980, The “Cybersecurity Vulnerability Remediation Act”; H.R. 3138, The “State and Local Cybersecurity Improvement Act”; H.R. 3223, The “CISA Cyber Exercise Act”; H.R. \_\_\_, The “Pipeline Security Act”; H.R. \_\_\_, The “DHS Medical Countermeasures Act”; and H.R. \_\_\_, The “Domains Critical to Homeland Security Act”; 4:00 p.m.; May 18**

**House Appropriations Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Subcommittee Public Witness Day hearing for Fiscal Year 2022; 10:00 a.m.; May 19**

**Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies hearing “Review of the FY 2022 Budget Blueprint for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention;” 10:00 a.m.; 138 Dirksen Bldg.; May 19**

**Senate Finance Committee hearing “COVID-19 Health Care Flexibilities: Perspectives, Experiences, and Lessons Learned;” 10:00 a.m.; May 19**

**House Oversight and Reform Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Crisis hearing “Examining Emergent BioSolutions’ Failure to Protect Public Health and Public Funds;” 10:30 a.m.; May 19**

**Senate Homeland Security & Governmental Affairs hearing “COVID-19 Part II: Evaluating the Medical Supply Chain and Pandemic Response Gaps;” 2:30 p.m.; 342 Dirksen Bldg.; May 19**

**Senate Judiciary Subcommittee on Competition Policy, Antitrust, and Consumer Rights hearing “Antitrust Applied: Hospital Consolidation Concerns and Solutions;” 2:30 p.m.; 226 Dirksen Bldg.; May 19**

**Senate Special Committee on Aging hearing “Taking Aim at Alzheimer’s: Frontline Perspectives and Caregiver Challenges;” 9:30 a.m.; May 20**

**House Appropriations Subcommittee on Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies Member Day hearing; 10:00 a.m.; May 20**

**House Appropriations Subcommittee on Department of Homeland Security Member Day hearing; 10:00 a.m.; May 20**

**Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions (HELP) Subcommittee on Primary Health and Retirement Security hearing “A Dire Shortage and Getting Worse: Solving the Crisis in the Health Care Workforce;” 10:00 a.m.; May 20**

**House Veterans’ Affairs Subcommittee on Technology Modernization hearing “Cybersecurity and Risk Management at VA: Addressing Ongoing Challenges and Moving Forward;” 12:00 p.m.; May 20**

## Recently Introduced Health Legislation

*H.Res.372 — Expressing support for the designation of May as “National Bladder Cancer Awareness Month”; Sponsor: Rep. Cartwright, Matt [D-PA-8]; Committees: House - Energy and Commerce*

*H.Res.373 — Expressing support for the designation of May 10, 2021, as “National Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander Mental Health Day” and acknowledging the importance of raising awareness of mental health and improving the quality of mental health services for the Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander community; Sponsor: Rep. Chu, Judy [D-CA-27]; Committees: House - Energy and Commerce*

*H.R.3013 — To authorize the Secretary of Health and Human Services to award grants for removing transportation barriers to accessing vaccines for SARS-CoV-2, including booster vaccines, for individuals from low-income communities, minority communities, or other communities in which transportation poses a barrier to health care access, and for other purposes; Sponsor: Rep. Barragan, Nanette Diaz [D-CA-44]; Committees: House - Energy and Commerce*

*H.R.3020 — To direct the Secretary of the Treasury to establish a coronavirus fund to provide hazard payments to high-risk health care workers and essential workers, and for other purposes; Sponsor: Rep. Cartwright, Matt [D-PA-8]; Committees: House - Education and Labor; Ways and Means*

*H.R.3021 — To provide for liability protection for health care providers for damages with respect to any harm caused by any act or omission of such health care professional or related health care entity in the course of arranging for or providing health care services during the COVID-19 public health emergency period, and for other purposes; Sponsor: Rep. Correa, J. Luis [D-CA-46]; Committees: House - Judiciary*

*H.R.3027 — To amend the VA MISSION Act of 2018 to expand reporting on hiring in the Veterans Health Administration, and to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out a pilot program to expedite the onboarding process for new medical providers of the Veterans Health Administration, to reduce the duration of the hiring process for such medical providers, and for other purposes; Sponsor: Rep. Crow, Jason [D-CO-6]; Committees: House - Veterans' Affairs*

*H.R.3029 — To amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for hospital and insurer price transparency; Sponsor: Rep. Davidson, Warren [R-OH-8]; Committees: House - Energy and Commerce*

*H.R.3030 — To ensure that Members of Congress and Congressional staff receive health care from the Department of Veterans Affairs instead of under the Federal Health Benefits Program or health care exchanges; Sponsor: Rep. Davidson, Warren [R-OH-8]; Committees: House - House Administration; Veterans' Affairs*

*H.R.3032 — To increase funding for the 10-Year Pediatric Research Initiative Fund by eliminating taxpayer financing of presidential election campaigns; Sponsor: Rep. Davis, Rodney [R-IL-13]; Committees: House - Ways and Means; Energy and Commerce; House Administration*

*H.R.3035 — To prohibit the authorization of appropriations to the United States Trade Representative for supporting a measure at the World Trade Organization waiving certain intellectual property rights, and for other purposes; Sponsor: Rep. Donalds, Byron [R-FL-19]; Committees: House - Ways and Means*

*H.R.3040 — To amend the Family and Medical Leave Act and the Emergency Paid Sick Leave Act to extend paid leave, and for other purposes; Sponsor: Rep. Foster, Bill [D-IL-11]; Committees: House - Education and Labor; Oversight and Reform; House Administration*

**H.R.3043 — To direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to enter into a 10-year arrangement with the National Academy of Sciences to conduct and update biennially a study on the effects of State legalized marijuana programs, and for other purposes; Sponsor: Rep. Garcia, Sylvia R. [D-TX-29]; Committees: House - Energy and Commerce; Judiciary; Education and Labor**

**H.R.3047 — To amend title 10, United States Code, to improve postpartum care for members of the Armed Forces and dependents of such members, and for other purposes; Sponsor: Rep. Houlahan, Chrissy [D-PA-6]; Committees: House - Armed Services**

**H.R.3051 — To amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to establish a tobacco product standard prohibiting any e-liquid with a concentration of nicotine higher than 20 milligrams per milliliter, and for other purposes; Sponsor: Rep. Krishnamoorthi, Raja [D-IL-8]; Committees: House - Energy and Commerce**

**H.R.3055 — To amend the Public Health Service Act to entitle Members of the Ready Reserve Corps of the Public Health Service to certain rights and benefits that are provided for members of the Army Reserve; Sponsor: Rep. Luria, Elaine G. [D-VA-2]; Committees: House - Energy and Commerce; Oversight and Reform**

**H.R.3059 — To require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to enter into a contract or other agreement with a third party to review appointees in the Veterans Health Administration who had a license terminated for cause by a State licensing board for care or services rendered at a non-Veterans Health Administration facility and to provide individuals treated by such an appointee with notice if it is determined that an episode of care or services that they received was below the standard of care, and for other purposes; Sponsor: Rep. Norman, Ralph [R-SC-5]; Committees: House - Veterans' Affairs**

**H.R.3063 — To amend titles XIX and XXI of the Social Security Act to improve Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program for low-income mothers; Sponsor: Rep. Pressley, Ayanna [D-MA-7]; Committees: House - Energy and Commerce**

**H.R.3069 — To provide relief for small rural hospitals from inaccurate instructions provided by certain medicare administrative contractors; Sponsor: Rep. Tenney, Claudia [R-NY-22]; Committees: House - Ways and Means**

**H.R.3071 — To amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to authorize public safety officer death benefits to officers suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder or acute stress disorder, and for other purposes; Sponsor: Rep. Trone, David J. [D-MD-6]; Committees: House - Judiciary**

**S.1536 — A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to expand the availability of medical nutrition therapy services under the Medicare program; Sponsor: Sen. Collins, Susan M. [R-ME]; Committees: Senate - Finance**

**S.1542 — A bill to amend titles XIX and XXI of the Social Security Act to improve Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program for low-income mothers; Sponsor: Sen. Booker, Cory A. [D-NJ]; Committees: Senate - Finance**

**S.1543 — A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide best practices on student suicide awareness and prevention training and condition State educational agencies, local educational agencies, and tribal educational agencies receiving funds under section 520A of such Act to establish and implement a school-based student suicide awareness and prevention training policy; Sponsor: Sen. Hassan, Margaret Wood [D-NH]; Committees: Senate - Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions**

**S.Res.205 — A resolution promoting minority health awareness and supporting the goals and ideals of National Minority Health Month in April 2021, which include bringing attention to the health disparities faced by minority populations of the United States such as American Indians, Alaska Natives, Asian Americans, African Americans, Hispanics, and Native Hawaiians or other Pacific Islanders; Sponsor: Sen. Cardin, Benjamin L. [D-MD]; Submitted in the Senate, considered, and agreed to without amendment and with a preamble by Voice Vote.**

*S.1544 — A bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to streamline enrollment under the Medicaid program of certain providers across State lines, and for other purposes; Sponsor: Sen. Grassley, Chuck [R-IA]; Committees: Senate - Finance*

*S.1548 — A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to improve the diversity of participants in research on Alzheimer's disease, and for other purposes; Sponsor: Sen. Lujan, Ben Ray [D-NM]; Committees: Senate - Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions*

*S.1556 — A bill to require a report on the feasibility and benefits of establishing a supply chain center of excellence; Sponsor: Sen. Peters, Gary C. [D-MI]; Committees: Senate - Commerce, Science, and Transportation*

*S.1567 — A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to establish direct care registered nurse-to-patient staffing ratio requirements in hospitals, and for other purposes; Sponsor: Sen. Brown, Sherrod [D-OH]; Committees: Senate - Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions*

*S.1568 — A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide a waiver of the cap on annual payments for nursing and allied health education payments; Sponsor: Sen. Brown, Sherrod [D-OH]; Committees: Senate - Finance*

*S.1573 — A bill to require Federal law enforcement and prison officials to obtain or provide immediate medical attention to individuals in custody who display medical distress; Sponsor: Sen. Warren, Elizabeth [D-MA]; Committees: Senate - Judiciary*

*H.R.3085 — To amend the Public Health Service Act to improve the diversity of participants in research on Alzheimer's disease, and for other purposes; Sponsor: Rep. Blunt Rochester, Lisa [D-DE-At Large]; Committees: House - Energy and Commerce*

*H.R.3087 — To amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide coverage for custom fabricated breast prostheses following a mastectomy; Sponsor: Rep. Chu, Judy [D-CA-27]; Committees: House - Energy and Commerce; Ways and Means*

*H.R.3089 — To amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to streamline enrollment under the Medicaid program of certain providers across State lines, and for other purposes; Sponsor: Rep. Clark, Katherine M. [D-MA-5]; Committees: House - Energy and Commerce*

*H.R.3108 — To amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to expand the availability of medical nutrition therapy services under the Medicare program; Sponsor: Rep. Kelly, Robin L. [D-IL-2]; Committees: House - Energy and Commerce; Ways and Means*

*H.R.3109 — 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: Rep. Kind, Ron [D-WI-3]; Committees: House - Ways and Means*

*H.R.3117 — To require Federal law enforcement and prison officials to obtain or provide immediate medical attention to individuals in custody who display medical distress; Sponsor: Rep. Pressley, Ayanna [D-MA-7]; Committees: House - Judiciary*

*H.R.3124 — To amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for the application of Medicare secondary payer rules to certain workers' compensation settlement agreements and qualified Medicare set-aside provisions; Sponsor: Rep. Thompson, Mike [D-CA-5]; Committees: House - Ways and Means; Energy and Commerce*

**H.R.3125 — To enhance authorities under the Defense Production Act of 1950 to respond to the COVID-19 emergency, to provide additional oversight of such authorities, and for other purposes; Sponsor: Rep. Vargas, Juan [D-CA-51]; Committees: House - Financial Services**

**H.R.3126 — To amend title XXVII of the Public Health Service Act to provide for a special enrollment period for pregnant women, and for other purposes; Sponsor: Rep. Watson Coleman, Bonnie [D-NJ-12]; Committees: House - Energy and Commerce; Ways and Means; Education and Labor; Oversight and Reform**

**S.Res.208 — A resolution supporting the goals and ideals of National Nurses Week, to be observed from May 6 through May 12, 2021; Sponsor: Sen. Merkley, Jeff [D-OR]; Committees: Senate - Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions**

**S.Res.209 — A resolution recognizing the work and contributions of doulas towards improving pregnancy, birth, and postpartum outcomes; Sponsor: Sen. Durbin, Richard J. [D-IL]; Submitted in the Senate, considered, and agreed to without amendment and with a preamble by Voice Vote.**

**S.Res.210 — A resolution designating July 21, 2021, as “Glioblastoma Awareness Day”; Sponsor: Sen. Graham, Lindsey [R-SC]; Submitted in the Senate, considered, and agreed to without amendment and with a preamble by Unanimous Consent.**

**S.1574 — A bill to codify a statutory definition for long-term care pharmacies; Sponsor: Sen. Scott, Tim [R-SC]; Committees: Senate - Finance**

**S.1575 — A bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to encourage appropriate prescribing under Medicaid for victims of opioid overdose; Sponsor: Sen. Toomey, Pat [R-PA]; Committees: Senate - Finance**

**S.1578 — A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to authorize a loan repayment program for mental health professionals to relieve workforce shortages, and for other purposes; Sponsor: Sen. Smith, Tina [D-MN]; Committees: Senate - Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions**

**S.1585 — A bill to add suicide prevention resources to school identification cards; Sponsor: Sen. Kennedy, John [R-LA]; Introduced in the Senate, read twice, considered, read the third time, and passed without amendment by Voice Vote.**

**S.1593 — A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act with respect to the designation of general surgery shortage areas, and for other purposes; Sponsor: Sen. Schatz, Brian [D-HI]; Committees: Senate - Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions**

**S.1594 — A bill to clarify the congressional intent behind the requirements relating to immediate suspension orders and corrective action plans under the Controlled Substances Act that were added by the Ensuring Patient Access and Effective Drug Enforcement Act of 2016; Sponsor: Sen. Manchin, Joe, III [D-WV]; Committees: Senate - Judiciary**

**S.1602 — A bill to make demonstration grants to eligible local educational agencies or consortia of eligible local educational agencies for the purpose of increasing the numbers of school nurses in public elementary schools and secondary schools; Sponsor: Sen. Tester, Jon [D-MT]; Committees: Senate - Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions**

**H.Res.390 — Supporting the goals and ideals of National Nurses Week, to be observed from May 6 through May 12, 2021; Sponsor: Rep. Johnson, Eddie Bernice [D-TX-30]; Committees: House - Energy and Commerce**

**H.Res.391 — Supporting the designation of July 21, 2021, as “Glioblastoma Awareness Day”; Sponsor: Rep. Mast, Brian J. [R-FL-18]; Committees: House - Energy and Commerce**

**H.R.3140 — To provide that an individual may not occupy the position of the Director of National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases for more than 12 years, and for other purposes; Sponsor: Rep. Davidson, Warren [R-OH-8]; Committees: House - Energy and Commerce**

**H.R.3145 — To require Executive agency review of occupational licensing requirements, and for other purposes; Sponsor: Rep. Harshbarger, Diana [R-TN-1]; Committees: House - Oversight and Reform; Education and Labor**

**H.R.3146 — To amend the Defense Production Act of 1950 to ensure the supply of certain medical materials essential to national defense, and for other purposes; Sponsor: Rep. Hill, J. French [R-AR-2]; Committees: House - Financial Services**

**H.R.3149 — To expand access to health care services for immigrants by removing legal and policy barriers to health insurance coverage, and for other purposes; Sponsor: Rep. Jayapal, Pramila [D-WA-7]; Committees: House - Energy and Commerce; Ways and Means**

**H.R.3150 — To amend the Public Health Service Act to authorize a loan repayment program for mental health professionals to relieve workforce shortages, and for other purposes; Sponsor: Rep. Katko, John [R-NY-24]; Committees: House - Energy and Commerce**

**H.R.3165 — To amend the Public Health Service Act to establish direct care registered nurse-to-patient staffing ratio requirements in hospitals, and for other purposes; Sponsor: Rep. Schakowsky, Janice D. [D-IL-9]; Committees: House - Energy and Commerce; Ways and Means**

**S.1604 — A bill to codify the successes of rapid development of safe vaccines through Operation Warp Speed, for the next administration to use as a guide in the event of another pandemic; Sponsor: Sen. Cotton, Tom [R-AR]; Committees: Senate - Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions**

**S.1615 — A bill to limit the scope of regulations issued by the Secretary of Health and Human Services to control communicable diseases, and for other purposes; Sponsor: Sen. Paul, Rand [R-KY]; Committees: Senate - Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions**

**S.1622 — A bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to provide States with the option to provide coordinated care through a pregnancy medical home for high-risk pregnant women, and for other purposes; Sponsor: Sen. Portman, Rob [R-OH]; Committees: Senate - Finance**

**S.1623 — A bill 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: Sen. Menendez, Robert [D-NJ]; Committees: Senate - Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions**

**S.1624 — A bill to direct the Secretary of Energy to establish a National Laboratory Biotechnology Programs to address biotechnology threats, and for other purposes; Sponsor: Sen. Lujan, Ben Ray [D-NM]; Committees: Senate - Energy and Natural Resources**

**S.1634 — A bill to require the Food and Drug Administration to determine whether to permit the use of enriched enrollment randomized withdrawal methodology with respect to clinical trials; Sponsor: Sen. Manchin, Joe, III [D-WV]; Committees: Senate - Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions**

**S.1644 — A bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to establish a time-limited provisional approval pathway, subject to specific obligations, for certain drugs and biological products, and for other purposes; Sponsor: Sen. Braun, Mike [R-IN]; Committees: Senate - Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions**

*S.1645 — A bill to provide for an accelerated approval pathway for certain drugs that are authorized to be lawfully marketed in other countries; Sponsor: Sen. Braun, Mike [R-IN]; Committees: Senate - Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions*

*H.Res.395 — Recognizing the work and contributions of doulas towards improving pregnancy, birth, and postpartum outcomes; Sponsor: Rep. Moore, Gwen [D-WI-4]; Committees: House - Energy and Commerce*

*H.R.3173 — To amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to establish requirements with respect to the use of prior authorization under Medicare Advantage plans, and for other purposes; Sponsor: Rep. DelBene, Suzan K. [D-WA-1]; Committees: House - Ways and Means; Energy and Commerce*

*H.R.3174 — To increase transparency and accountability with respect to establishing and operating temporary influx facilities of the Department of Health and Human Services, and for other purposes; Sponsor: Rep. Pfluger, August [R-TX-11]; Committees: House – Judiciary*

*H.R.3183 — To amend title II of the Social Security Act to eliminate the waiting periods for disability insurance benefits and Medicare coverage for individuals with metastatic breast cancer, and for other purposes; Sponsor: Rep. Castor, Kathy [D-FL-14]; Committees: House - Ways and Means*

*H.R.3203 — 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: Rep. Matsui, Doris O. [D-CA-6]; Committees: House - Energy and Commerce*

*H.R.3219 — To provide funding relating to COVID-19 for high Medicaid providers, and for other purposes; Sponsor: Rep. Rush, Bobby L. [D-IL-1]; Committees: House - Appropriations*