



Health Policy Briefing

May 28, 2019

Congress Fails to Reach Budget Caps, Debt Ceiling Agreement Before Memorial Day Recess

Before adjourning for Memorial Day recess, lawmakers appeared to make progress in negotiations on a deal to increase spending caps over the next two years and to raise the debt ceiling beyond 2020. Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.), Minority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-N.Y.), House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.), and Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy (R-Calif.) met with Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin, acting White House chief of staff Mick Mulvaney, and acting White House budget director Russell Vought last week. While the meeting concluded without a final agreement, lawmakers seemed optimistic about moving forward with a two-year bipartisan deal to raise spending caps and avoid the potential for another government shutdown. Addressing the debt ceiling deadline, which is projected to occur in September or October, would be a part of the eventual spending deal. The administration appears supportive of bundling a spending caps deal with the debt limit increase. The White House had previously indicated support for a year-long continuing resolution (CR) in the absence of a spending deal, or a one-year instead of two-year agreement, while moving separately on the debt ceiling. Senate Appropriations Chairman Richard Shelby (R-Ala.) also met with the President and senior officials last week to urge the White House not to let sequestration take effect. Sequestration spending cuts are due to take place in January if no deal is reached. As Congress and the administration continue to work toward a consensus on overall spending levels, Democrats have stated that they remain committed to parity between any spending increases for defense and domestic spending.

Some on Capitol Hill have expressed concerns about the potential impact of the President's recent threat to shut down all bipartisan negotiations in the midst of Democratic investigations into his businesses and taxes. White House officials, however, have stated that the President is still willing to negotiate a budget

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agreement with Congress.

While the President's declaration may possibly threaten bipartisan negotiations between Congress and the White House on drug pricing, Senate Finance Committee Chairman Chuck Grassley (R-Iowa) has stated that work to strike a bipartisan deal among members of his panel continues. His package, which is expected to be unveiled sometime in June, will focus on increasing generic competition and possibly include a cap on seniors' Part D out-of-pocket expenses. Sen. Grassley has previously criticized measures to allow Medicare to negotiate prices in Part D, an idea that was being discussed by House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) in her talks with the White House.

The Senate is scheduled to return from Memorial Day recess on June 3; the House of Representatives will reconvene on June 4.

HELP Releases Wide-Ranging Health Care Cost Legislation

Leadership of the Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions (HELP) Committee [released](#) a draft bipartisan health care [package](#) last week that aims to contain health costs. The bill includes measures to address surprise insurance gaps, reduce the cost of prescription drugs, create more transparency in the health care system, improve public health, and increase health information exchange.

Under the legislation, patients would be required to pay only their in-network cost-sharing amount for out-of-network emergency care and treatments provided by ancillary out-of-network providers. The proposal outlines three options for resolving payment disputes between providers and insurers: an in-network guarantee under which providers can join a health plan's network or bill through the facility where they practice; use of an independent dispute resolution process; or payment based on the median contracted rate for the services rendered. States would have the option of enacting or continuing with current state laws or regulations. If a patient is stabilized after entering a facility through the emergency department, the patient must be given advance notice of any out-of-network care, an estimate of the cost, and referrals for alternative options for in-network care. Health plans and providers would also be required to provide patients with estimates of their out-of-pocket costs for a service within 48 hours of a request, and to send any medical bills within 30 days of the service. Insurers would be mandated to keep their provider directories up to date.

In regard to rising drug costs, the bill would ban the practice of spread pricing by pharmacy benefit managers (PBMs) and require that PBMs provide quarterly reports on costs, fees, and rebates. PBMs would also be required to pass on 100 percent of the rebates negotiated to their client. The HELP proposal would prevent the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) from delaying applications for new insulin products. It also includes provisions to update drug patent registries, increase competition by preventing generic manufacturers from blocking competitors from coming to market, and give the FDA more flexibility in how the agency deals with petitions from brand manufacturers.

The package would prohibit gap clauses between providers and insurers that hide cost and quality information from consumers, as well as anti-tiering and anti-steering clauses in contracts between providers and health plans. It includes funding for programs related to vaccine education, maternal mortality, health care professional discrimination and bias training, and to improve the privacy and security of health information and electronic medical records.

Chairman Alexander has indicated that he is working with members of his panel to add a provision to tie patient costs to a drug's negotiated price rather than its list price, and a measure to require more detailed disclosures from pharmaceutical manufacturers. The HELP Committee plans to hold a hearing on the discussion draft in June before marking it up prior to July 4. The current plan is for the bill to be combined with legislation being drafted by the Finance Committee before being brought to the Senate floor in July. The HELP Committee is seeking feedback on the discussion draft no later than 5 pm on June 5. Comments may be submitted to LowerHealthCareCosts@help.senate.gov.

House Committees Seek Feedback on Part D Reforms

Bipartisan leadership of the House Energy and Commerce and Ways and Means committees are requesting feedback on [draft legislation](#) to reform how Medicare pays for Part D drugs. The bill would place a cap on out-of-pocket prescription drug costs for Medicare beneficiaries based on the current catastrophic threshold and reduce the share of catastrophic coverage costs that the federal government covers from 80 percent to 20 percent over four years. Such reforms generally have bipartisan support among lawmakers. The panels are also soliciting comments on other policies to modernize the Part D benefit structure. Comments may be submitted to PartDImprovements@mail.house.gov no later than June 6, 2019.

Doc Caucus Urges Administration to Reconsider Arbitration

The House GOP Doctors Caucus sent a [letter](#) to HHS Secretary Alex Azar, Director of the Domestic Policy Council Joe Grogan, and Labor Secretary Alexander Acosta last week regarding surprise insurance gaps. The letter praises the administration for acknowledging surprise medical billing as a significant problem facing American patients and urges the White House officials to look toward successful state models such as the ones enacted in New York and Maryland. The lawmakers argue that the arbitration model based on a third-party charge system is the most appropriate way to address surprise insurance gaps, and request that the administration “reconsider its comments that arbitration would be a disruptive and unnecessary distraction.” The letter also highlights the Caucus’s concerns with bundled billing and network matching approaches.

Hart Health Strategies Inc. has prepared an updated [side-by-side comparison](#) of current legislative proposals to address surprise insurance gaps and out-of-network care.

FDA Appropriations Bill Advances

The House Appropriations Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration (FDA), and Related Agencies approved its fiscal year (FY) 2020 spending bill by voice vote last week. The legislation would increase spending for the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the FDA by \$1 billion for a total of \$24.3 billion in discretionary funding. The FDA would receive \$3.3 billion, \$184 million more in discretionary funding over FY 2019.

Lawmakers Request Details on Rates of Maternal Mortality

Bipartisan leadership of the House Ways and Means Committee have written to U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary [Alex Azar](#) and Government Accountability Office (GAO) Comptroller General [Gene Dodaro](#) requesting information to better understand the nation’s high rate of maternal mortality and the federal government’s efforts to address it. Chairman Richard Neal (D-Mass.) and Ranking Member Kevin Brady (R-Texas) ask HHS to provide a comprehensive review of programs and models that combat maternal mortality. They urge the GAO to compile a report detailing the extent of gaps in currently reported maternal mortality data, key inconsistencies in state data reporting, the degree to which such inconsistencies apply to measures of severe maternal morbidity, and the level of federal support necessary to correct them.

Senate Finance Continues Insulin Pricing Investigation

Leadership of the Senate Finance Committee have requested information about federal spending on insulin and average out-of-pocket costs for beneficiaries as a part of their investigation into the rising cost of insulin. Chairman Chuck Grassley (R-Iowa) and Ranking Member Ron Wyden (D-Ore.) [wrote](#) to Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) Administrator Seema Verma to ask for data on the impact of insulin prices and other diabetes-related costs on both patients and federal health care program spending. The lawmakers also ask for details on how much money pharmacy benefit managers (PBMs) make from insulin rebates and the administrative fees paid by insulin manufacturers.

Dems Push Acosta on ACA Information Collection

Democrats in the House are calling attention to the Department of Labor's (DOL) failure to collect transparency data from employer plans as required by the Affordable Care Act (ACA). The ACA requires the Department to collect information on health plans' claims practices, financial disclosures, and enrollment, but the DOL has halted efforts to collect this data from employer-sponsored plans. Chairwoman of the Education and Labor Committee Frederica Wilson (D-Fla.) and Health, Employment, Labor, and Pensions Subcommittee Chairman Bobby Scott (D-Va.) have [written](#) to Secretary Alexander Acosta arguing that the missing data inhibits federal enforcement efforts and could be used to protect the 150 million individuals in employer-sponsored plans. They call on the Secretary to come into compliance with the Department's statutory obligations.

Lawmakers Release Bipartisan Report on WHO's Use of Opioid Data

Reps. Katherine Clark (D-Mass.) and Hal Rogers (R-Ky.) have released a [report](#) detailing the World Health Organization's (WHO) use of data from Purdue Pharma LP in its 2011 and 2012 opioid-related guidance. The report concludes that Purdue-funded organizations and research steered the WHO in its consideration of the safety and efficacy of prescription opioids. The guidance includes the disproven claim that opioid dependency occurs in less than one percent of patients, according to Reps. Clark and Rogers. The lawmakers ask WHO to rescind the guidance, arguing that "a trusted public health organization is trafficking dangerous misinformation that could lead to a global opioid epidemic."

New MedPAC, MACPAC Commissioners Announced

The Government Accountability Office (GAO) has announced the appointment of two new members to the Medicare Payment Advisory Commission (MedPAC): Lawrence Casalino, MD, PhD, Livingston Professor of Public Health and Chief of the Division of Healthcare Policy and Economics in the Weill Cornell Department of Healthcare Policy and Research, and Amol Navathe, MD, PHD, co-Director of the Healthcare Transformation Institute and Associate Director of the Center for Health Incentives and Behavioral Economics in the Department of Medical Ethics and Health Policy at the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine. Their terms will expire in April 2022. The newly appointed MedPAC vice-chair will be Paul Ginsburg, PhD.

The GAO also announced the new members that will be joining the Medicaid and CHIP Payment and Access Commission (MACPAC): Tricia Brooks of Georgetown University and Thomas Barker of Foley Hoag. Melanie Bella, Cityblock Health, was named the new MACPAC chair, while Charles Miligan, UnitedHealthcare, will serve as vice-chair.

Health Care Organizations Oppose WH Nondiscrimination Rule

A group of more than 30 health professional associations wrote to U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Alex Azar in opposition of the Department's plans to weaken nondiscrimination protections for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and questioning (LGBTQ) individuals. Section 1557 of the Affordable Care Act protects LGBTQ populations' access to health care and health coverage and clarifies that discrimination based on gender identity and sex stereotyping is prohibited in health care coverage and access. HHS has proposed to remove the explicit protections from discrimination based on sex stereotyping and gender identity. The organizations underscore the continued stigma and discrimination facing sexual and gender minorities and express opposition to any modifications to regulation that would jeopardize the health and well-being of LGBTQ populations.

Upcoming Congressional Hearings and Markups

House Veterans' Affairs Subcommittee on Technology Modernization hearing "Modernizing Health Records for Servicemembers and Veterans: The Contractor Perspective;" 2:00 p.m., 210 Capitol Bldg.; June 4

House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Africa, Global Health, Global Human Rights, and International Organizations hearing "Eradicating Ebola: Building on Lessons Learned and Medical Advancements;" 2:00 p.m., place TBD; June 4

Recently Introduced Health Legislation

H.R.2822 — To amend title V of the Social Security Act to provide for an extension of funding for family-to-family health information centers, and for other purposes; Sponsor: Rep. Sherrill, Mikie [D-NJ-11]; Committees: House - Energy and Commerce

H.R.2826 — To amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for behavioral and mental health outreach and education strategies to reduce stigma associated with mental health among the Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander population; Sponsor: Rep. Chu, Judy [D-CA-27]; Committees: House - Energy and Commerce

H.R.2848 — To amend the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 to strengthen parity in mental health and substance use disorder benefits, and for other purposes; Sponsor: Rep. Norcross, Donald [D-NJ-1]; Committees: House - Education and Labor

H.R.2855 — To deem the application submitted by Jaci Hermstad to the Food and Drug Administration for compassionate use of the gene therapy antisense oligonucleotides to be approved; Sponsor: Rep. King, Steve [R-IA-4]; Committees: House - Energy and Commerce

S.1541 — A bill to increase the minimum age for sale of tobacco products to 21; Sponsor: Sen. McConnell, Mitch [R-KY]; Committees: Senate - Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

S.1544 — A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for payment for services of radiologist assistants under the Medicare program, and for other purposes; Sponsor: Sen. Boozman, John [R-AR]; Committees: Senate - Finance

S.1549 — A bill to amend the Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993 to ensure that employees on leave under the Act maintain health coverage during an employer lockout; Sponsor: Sen. Tester, Jon [D-MT]; Committees: Senate - Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

H.Con.Res.40 — Supporting reproductive health care in the United States; Sponsor: Rep. Pressley, Ayanna [D-MA-7]; Committees: House - Energy and Commerce

H.R.2858 — *To support endemic fungal disease research, incentivize fungal vaccine development, discover new antifungal therapies and diagnostics, and for other purposes; Sponsor: Rep. McCarthy, Kevin [R-CA-23]; Committees: House - Energy and Commerce*

H.R.2862 — *To amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for a national system for surveillance of vaccine rates, to authorize research on vaccine hesitancy, to increase public understanding of the benefits of immunizations, and for other purposes; Sponsor: Rep. Schrier, Kim [D-WA-8]; Committees: House - Energy and Commerce*

H.R.2872 — *To direct the Secretary of Labor to revise regulations concerning the recording and reporting of occupational injuries and illnesses under the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970; Sponsor: Rep. Garcia, Sylvia R. [D-TX-29]; Committees: House - Education and Labor*

H.R.2874 — *To strengthen parity in mental health and substance use disorder benefits; Sponsor: Rep. Kennedy, Joseph P., III [D-MA-4]; Committees: House - Energy and Commerce, Ways and Means, Education and Labor*

H.R.2878 — *To amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow qualified distributions from health savings account for certain home care expenses; Sponsor: Rep. Porter, Katie [D-CA-45]; Committees: House - Ways and Means*

H.R.2883 — *To amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to allow chiropractors to provide items and services through private contracts with Medicare beneficiaries; Sponsor: Rep. Walorski, Jackie [R-IN-2]; Committees: House - Energy and Commerce, Ways and Means*

H.R.2884 — *To improve the provision of health care by the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes; Sponsor: Rep. Wittman, Robert J. [R-VA-1]; Committees: House - Veterans' Affairs*

H.R.2887 — *To include nonprofit and volunteer ground and air ambulance crew members and first responders for certain benefits; Sponsor: Rep. Zeldin, Lee M. [R-NY-1]; Committees: House - Judiciary*

S.Con.Res.18 — *A concurrent resolution supporting reproductive health care in the United States; Sponsor: Sen. Murray, Patty [D-WA]; Committees: Senate - Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions*

S.1556 — *A bill to provide that the rule entitled "Short-Term, Limited Duration Insurance" shall have no force or effect; Sponsor: Sen. Baldwin, Tammy [D-WI]; Committees: Senate - Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions*

S.1563 — *A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act with respect to the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry's review and publication of illness and conditions relating to veterans stationed at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, and their family members, and for other purposes; Sponsor: Sen. Burr, Richard [R-NC]; Committees: Senate - Veterans' Affairs*

S.1567 — *A bill to support endemic fungal disease research, incentivize fungal vaccine development, discover new antifungal therapies and diagnostics, and for other purposes; Sponsor: Sen. McSally, Martha [R-AZ]; Committees: Senate - Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions*

S.1573 — *A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to eliminate copayments by the Department of Veterans Affairs for medicines relating to preventive health services, and for other purposes; Sponsor: Sen. Duckworth, Tammy [D-IL]; Committees: Senate - Veterans' Affairs*

S.1576 — *A bill to strengthen parity in mental health and substance use disorder benefits; Sponsor: Sen. Warren, Elizabeth [D-MA]; Committees: Senate - Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions*

S.1577 — A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to prohibit certain contracts between health insurance plans or issuers and health care providers; Sponsor: Sen. Cassidy, Bill [R-LA]; Committees: Senate - Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

S.1581 — A bill to amend the Fair Credit Reporting Act to institute a 1-year waiting period before medical debt will be reported on a consumer's credit report and to remove paid-off and settled medical debts from credit reports that have been fully paid or settled, to amend the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act to provide a timetable for verification of medical debt and to increase the efficiency of credit markets with more perfect information, and for other purposes; Sponsor: Sen. Merkley, Jeff [D-OR]; Committees: Senate - Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

S.1584 — A bill to hold pharmaceutical companies accountable for dubious marketing and distribution of opioid products and for their role in creating and exacerbating the opioid epidemic in the United States; Sponsor: Sen. Sanders, Bernard [I-VT]; Committees: Senate - Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

H.Res.399 — Supporting the goals and ideals of International Myalgic Encephalomyelitis/Chronic Fatigue Syndrome Awareness Day; Sponsor: Rep. Lofgren, Zoe [D-CA-19]; Committees: House - Energy and Commerce

H.R.2891 — To provide for the publication by the Secretary of Health and Human Services of physical activity recommendations for Americans; Sponsor: Rep. Kind, Ron [D-WI-3]; Committees: House - Energy and Commerce

H.R.2895 — To provide incentives to physicians to practice in rural and medically underserved communities, and for other purposes; Sponsor: Rep. Schneider, Bradley Scott [D-IL-10]; Committees: House - Judiciary

H.R.2898 — To direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to designate a week as "Buddy Check Week" for the purpose of outreach and education concerning peer wellness checks for veterans, and for other purposes; Sponsor: Rep. Jackson Lee, Sheila [D-TX-18]; Committees: House - Veterans' Affairs

H.R.2902 — To support States in their work to end preventable morbidity and mortality in maternity care by using evidence-based quality improvement to protect the health of mothers during pregnancy, childbirth, and in the postpartum period and to reduce neonatal and infant mortality, to eliminate racial disparities in maternal health outcomes, and for other purposes; Sponsor: Rep. Adams, Alma S. [D-NC-12]; Committees: House - Energy and Commerce

H.R.2907 — To require the Secretary of Defense to award grants to fund research on orthotics and prosthetics; Sponsor: Rep. Cartwright, Matt [D-PA-8]; Committees: House - Armed Services

H.R.2915 — To amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to require physicians and physician's offices to be treated as covered device users required to report on certain adverse events involving medical devices, and for other purposes; Sponsor: Rep. Fitzpatrick, Brian K. [R-PA-1]; Committees: House - Energy and Commerce

H.R.2917 — To hold pharmaceutical companies accountable for dubious marketing and distribution of opioid products and for their role in creating and exacerbating the opioid epidemic in the United States; Sponsor: Rep. Gabbard, Tulsi [D-HI-2]; Committees: House - Energy and Commerce, Education and Labor

H.R.2922 — To address the opioid epidemic, and for other purposes; Sponsor: Rep. Kuster, Ann M. [D-NH-2]; Committees: House - Energy and Commerce, Judiciary, Ways and Means, Budget, Education and Labor

H.R.2931 — To amend title 38, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to provide hospital care, medical services, and nursing home care for certain individuals discharged from service in the Armed Forces by reason of sexual orientation or gender identity, and for other purposes; Sponsor: Rep. Pappas, Chris [D-NH-1]; Committees: House - Veterans' Affairs

H.R.2935 — To amend the Controlled Substances Act to list fentanyl-related substances as schedule I controlled substances; Sponsor: Rep. Sensenbrenner, F. James, Jr. [R-WI-5]; Committees: House - Energy and Commerce, Judiciary

S.1594 — A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for unlimited eligibility for health care for mental illnesses for veterans of combat service during certain periods of hostilities and war; Sponsor: Sen. Cortez Masto, Catherine [D-NV]; Committees: Senate - Veterans' Affairs

S.1600 — A bill to support States in their work to end preventable morbidity and mortality in maternity care by using evidence-based quality improvement to protect the health of mothers during pregnancy, childbirth, and in the postpartum period and to reduce neonatal and infant mortality, to eliminate racial disparities in maternal health outcomes, and for other purposes; Sponsor: Sen. Harris, Kamala D. [D-CA]; Committees: Senate - Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

S.1607 — A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide protections for patients scheduling non-emergency procedures at in-network hospitals, and for other purposes; Sponsor: Sen. Kennedy, John [R-LA]; Committees: Senate - Finance

S.1608 — A bill to provide for the publication by the Secretary of Health and Human Services of physical activity recommendations for Americans; Sponsor: Sen. Wicker, Roger F. [R-MS]; Committees: Senate - Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

S.1617 — A bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act with respect to the listing of patents in the Orange Book; Sponsor: Sen. Murray, Patty [D-WA]; Committees: Senate - Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

S.1618 — A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to expand the capacity to improve health outcomes and increase access to specialized care; Sponsor: Sen. Schatz, Brian [D-HI]; Committees: Senate - Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

S.1619 — A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for a national campaign to raise awareness of the importance of, and combat misinformation about, vaccines in order to increase vaccination rates; Sponsor: Sen. Peters, Gary C. [D-MI]; Committees: Senate - Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

S.1622 — A bill to amend the Controlled Substances Act to list fentanyl-related substances as schedule I controlled substances; Sponsor: Sen. Johnson, Ron [R-WI]; Committees: Senate - Judiciary

H.R.2951 — To amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for coverage of dental services under the Medicare program; Sponsor: Rep. Barragan, Nanette Diaz [D-CA-44]; Committees: House - Energy and Commerce, Ways and Means

H.R.2958 — To increase the recruitment and retention of school-based mental health services providers by low-income local educational agencies; Sponsor: Rep. Chu, Judy [D-CA-27]; Committees: House - Education and Labor

H.R.2967 — To provide greater support for grandfamilies and older caretaker relatives; Sponsor: Rep. Davis, Danny K. [D-IL-7]; Committees: House - Ways and Means, Education and Labor, Energy and Commerce, Financial Services

H.R.2975 — To protect a woman's ability to determine whether and when to bear a child or end a pregnancy, and to protect a health care provider's ability to provide reproductive health care services, including abortion services; Sponsor: Rep. Chu, Judy [D-CA-27]; Committees: House - Energy and Commerce

H.R.2982 — To direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to conduct a study of the barriers for women veterans to health care from the Department of Veterans Affairs; Sponsor: Rep. Cunningham, Joe [D-SC-1]; Committees: House - Veterans' Affairs

H.R.2990 — To amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to permit States to designate without any mileage limitations facilities that are located in rural areas as critical access hospitals, and for other purposes; Sponsor: Rep. Green, Mark E. [R-TN-7]; Committees: House - Ways and Means

H.R.2997 — To amend title 38, United States Code, to ensure that certain veterans receive in-patient psychiatric care provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs; Sponsor: Rep. Loeb sack, David [D-IA-2]; Committees: House - Veterans' Affairs

H.R.3003 — To amend the Public Health Service Act to increase the maximum limit on the number of special masters allowed in the United States Court of Federal Claims, and for other purposes; Sponsor: Rep. Norton, Eleanor Holmes [D-DC-At Large]; Committees: House - Energy and Commerce

H.R.3012 — To direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to conduct outreach to veterans regarding the effect of delayed payments of claims for emergency medical care furnished by non-Department of Veterans Affairs medical providers by the Office of Community Care and to direct the Secretary to submit to Congress an annual report regarding such delayed payments; Sponsor: Rep. Rouzer, David [R-NC-7]; Committees: House - Veterans' Affairs

H.R.3016 — To amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for and support liver illness visibility, education, and research, and for other purposes; Sponsor: Rep. Velazquez, Nydia M. [D-NY-7]; Committees: House - Energy and Commerce

S.Res.222 — A resolution recognizing Vision To Learn as a national leader in improving access to prescription eyeglasses for students in low-income communities, thereby helping those students succeed in school, and for providing vision exams to 200,000 students since its founding; Sponsor: Sen. Coons, Christopher A. [D-DE]; Submitted in the Senate, considered, and agreed to without amendment and with a preamble by Voice Vote.

S.Res.223 — A resolution expressing support for the designation of May 17, 2019, as "DIPG Pediatric Brain Cancer Awareness Day" to raise awareness of and encourage research on diffuse intrinsic pontine glioma tumors and pediatric cancers in general; Sponsor: Sen. Rubio, Marco [R-FL]; Submitted in the Senate, considered, and agreed to without amendment and with a preamble by Voice Vote.

S.Res.224 — A resolution supporting the goals and ideals of National Nurses Week, to be observed from May 6 through May 12, 2019; Sponsor: Sen. Wicker, Roger F. [R-MS]; Submitted in the Senate, considered, and agreed to without amendment and with a preamble by Voice Vote.

S.Res.225 — A resolution supporting the goals of International Myalgic Encephalomyelitis/Chronic Fatigue Syndrome Awareness Day; Sponsor: Sen. Markey, Edward J. [D-MA]; Submitted in the Senate, considered, and agreed to without amendment and with a preamble by Voice Vote.

S.1628 — A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the employer credit for paid family and medical leave, and for other purposes; Sponsor: Sen. Fischer, Deb [R-NE]; Committees: Senate - Finance

S.1636 — A bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act with respect to the scope of new chemical exclusivity; Sponsor: Sen. Roberts, Pat [R-KS]; Committees: Senate - Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

- S.1638 — *A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to increase the maximum limit on the number of special masters allowed in the United States Court of Federal Claims, and for other purposes; Sponsor: Sen. Casey, Robert P., Jr. [D-PA]; Committees: Senate - Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions*
- S.1642 — *A bill to increase the recruitment and retention of school-based mental health services providers by low-income local educational agencies; Sponsor: Sen. Tester, Jon [D-MT]; Committees: Senate - Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions*
- S.1645 — *A bill to protect a woman's ability to determine whether and when to bear a child or end a pregnancy, and to protect a health care provider's ability to provide reproductive health care services, including abortion services; Sponsor: Sen. Blumenthal, Richard [D-CT]; Committees: Senate - Judiciary*
- S.1647 — *A bill to amend title V of the Social Security Act to extend funding for family-to-family health information centers, and for other purposes; Sponsor: Sen. Grassley, Chuck [R-IA]; Committees: Senate - Finance*
- S.1654 — *A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide authority to add additional vaccines to the list of taxable vaccines; Sponsor: Sen. Casey, Robert P., Jr. [D-PA]; Committees: Senate - Finance*
- S.1656 — *A bill to modify the transition period between care and services provided under the Veterans Choice Program and care and services provided under the Veterans Community Care Program, and for other purposes; Sponsor: Sen. Manchin, Joe, III [D-WV]; Committees: Senate - Veterans' Affairs*
- S.1657 — *A bill to provide assistance to combat the escalating burden of Lyme disease and other tick and vector-borne diseases and disorders; Sponsor: Sen. Collins, Susan M. [R-ME]; Committees: Senate - Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions*
- S.1659 — *A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for the participation of pediatric subspecialists in the National Health Service Corps program, and for other purposes; Sponsor: Sen. Blunt, Roy [R-MO]; Committees: Senate - Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions*
- S.1660 — *A bill to provide greater support for grandfamilies and older caretaker relatives; Sponsor: Sen. Casey, Robert P., Jr. [D-PA]; Committees: Senate - Finance*
- S.1662 — *A bill to establish an annual fee applicable to opioid manufacturers; Sponsor: Sen. Merkley, Jeff [D-OR]; Committees: Senate - Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions*
- S.1664 — *A bill to require reporting on prescription drug expenditures under group health plans and on prescription drug price changes, and for other purposes; Sponsor: Sen. Scott, Rick [R-FL]; Committees: Senate - Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions*
- S.1668 — *A bill to clarify that participants in the National Health Service Corps Loan Repayment Program may be assigned to serve in pediatric inpatient mental health facilities; Sponsor: Sen. Tester, Jon [D-MT]; Committees: Senate - Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions*
- S.1676 — *A bill to improve the understanding of, and promote access to treatment for, chronic kidney disease, and for other purposes; Sponsor: Sen. Cardin, Benjamin L. [D-MD]; Committees: Senate - Finance*
- S.1681 — *A bill to educate health care providers and the public on biosimilar biological products, and for other purposes; Sponsor: Sen. Enzi, Michael B. [R-WY]; Committees: Senate - Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions*

S.1688 — A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for the full disclosure of billing and service information to patients; Sponsor: Sen. Enzi, Michael B. [R-WY]; Committees: Senate - Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions