



Health Policy Briefing

June 28, 2021

WH Reaches Bipartisan Deal on Infrastructure

President Joe Biden announced last week that a bipartisan agreement had been reached on a pared-back infrastructure proposal. The bipartisan outline would total \$973 billion over five years, or \$1.2 trillion over eight years. In addition to investments in roads, highways, electric vehicles, and transit systems, the bill includes \$65 billion for broadband and \$47 billion to address climate change. While the full list of pay-fors has not been released, some spending will be offset by repurposing \$125 billion in unspent coronavirus funding. The deal was struck by a bipartisan group led by Sens. Rob Portman (R-Ohio) and Kyrsten Sinema (D-Ariz.).

The President acknowledged that Democrats would likely have to move ahead with the other policy priorities contained in the *American Jobs Plan* and the *American Families Plan* on their own through the reconciliation process. According to the President and to congressional Democratic leadership, the two plans – a bipartisan infrastructure bill and a larger reconciliation package – will move in tandem. The broader reconciliation bill would likely include the President’s priorities for the environment, child care, family tax breaks, and increase in taxes on the wealthy and corporations. The Senate is expected to consider the bipartisan package in July, with the larger reconciliation bill receiving a final vote this fall.

A preliminary outline of Senate Budget Committee Chairman Bernie Sanders’ (I-Vt.) budget resolution began circulating on Capitol Hill last week. The budget resolution is necessary to provide the reconciliation instructions to allow Congress to pass legislation through the Senate with a simple majority. The document calls for nearly \$6 trillion in spending. It includes an expansion of dental, vision, and hearing care within the Medicare program (\$300 billion) and would lower the Medicare eligibility age from 65 to 60 (\$200 billion). These costs would be offset by allowing Medicare to negotiate drug prices. Senate Democrats are expected to vote on a budget in July in order to use the budget reconciliation process to pass major items on the President’s agenda this fall.

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Senate Confirms ASPR, Assistant Secretary for Mental Health and Substance Use

The Senate confirmed the nominations of Dawn O’Connell to serve as Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (ASPR) and Miriam Delphin-Rittmon as Assistant Secretary for Mental Health and Substance Use by voice vote last week. O’Connell has been a senior counselor for the COVID-19 response since the start of the Biden administration, having previously served as the director of the U.S. Office of the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations. Delphin-Rittmon most recently worked as Associate Professor Adjunct of Psychiatry at Yale School of Medicine and Commissioner of the Connecticut Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services.

Recently Passed Health Legislation

The House of Representatives passed H.R. 482, the ***Newborn Screening Saves Lives Reauthorization Act*** by an en bloc vote of 325-103 last week. The bill would reauthorize newborn screening programs for five years and revise several programs and activities relating to newborn screening for certain conditions and genetic, endocrine, and metabolic diseases. The House also passed H.R. 3841, the ***Tribal Health Data Improvement Act***. The bill would expand tribal access to public health care data and surveillance and would require the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to address the collection and availability of health data for American Indians and Alaska Natives. In addition, the bill provides grants to tribal epidemiology and public health centers to address under-sampling and misclassification of tribal populations and to improve quality and accuracy of health data. The Senate passed S. 1662, the ***Supporting the Foundation for the National Institutes of Health and the Reagan-Udall Foundation for the Food and Drug Administration Act*** by voice vote last week. The bill would increase funding for the Reagan-Udall Foundation for the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and for the Foundation for the National Institutes of Health (NIH).

Latest Cures 2.0 Discussion Draft Unveiled

Reps. Diana DeGette (D-Colo.) and Fred Upton (R-Mich.) have released the latest version of their [Cures 2.0 Act](#) discussion draft, which aims to build upon 2015’s landmark ***21st Century Cures Act***. The bill includes more than 500 provisions to increase biomedical innovation and improve the delivery of breakthrough therapies. The bill would establish the Advanced Research Projects Agency for Health (ARPA-H), a medical research agency housed within the National Institutes of Health (NIH) responsible for accelerating new medical breakthroughs. ARPA-H was first proposed by President Joe Biden in his budget. ***Cures 2.0*** also contains provisions to improve Medicare coverage of innovative technologies, increase diversity in clinical trials, expand the collection and use of real-world evidence by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), provide training and educational programs for caregivers, increase patient access to health information, and increase access to telehealth services. The initial Cures 2.0 proposal - released prior to the coronavirus pandemic - was largely focused on the delivery of care. The discussion draft still contains these provisions, along with added requirements for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to conduct a nationwide study on the impact of long COVID and to develop a testing and vaccine distribution strategy in preparation for future pandemics. DeGette and Upton plan to hold roundtables on the ***Cures 2.0*** draft this summer, with the goal of releasing a final bill when Congress returns from August recess and passing the legislation before the end of the year.

The release of the Cures 2.0 discussion draft coincided with the publication of an [article](#) in ***Science*** by White House Office of Science and Technology Policy Director Eric Lander, NIH Director Francis Collins, and other leaders describing their vision for ARPA-H. The scientists write that ARPA-H should be modeled after the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) while focusing on solving practical problems that foster breakthroughs to serve patients equitably. The article proposes the following initial mission statement for ARPA-H: “To make pivotal investments in breakthrough technologies and broadly applicable platforms, capabilities, resources, and solutions that have the potential to transform important areas of medicine and health for the benefit of all patients and that cannot readily be accomplished through traditional research or commercial activity.”

House Appropriations Begins to Move FY 22 Bills

The House of Representatives has jumpstarted the appropriations process for fiscal year (FY) 2022. Four appropriations subcommittees released and advanced their spending bills last week: Agriculture-FDA, Financial Services-General Government, Legislative Branch, and Military Construction-VA. Appropriators are expected to move six bills through the full committee the week of June 28, with the panel completing its work the week of July 12. Leadership plans to bring the bills to the floor for a vote during the last two weeks of July. The Senate Appropriations Committee has not yet announced a markup schedule. A continuing resolution (CR) will likely be necessary to avoid a government shutdown at the end of the fiscal year on September 30.

Senate HELP Leadership Continues Work on Pandemic Preparedness

Bipartisan leadership of the Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions (HELP) Committee announced three new areas of oversight as a part of the panel's work on pandemic preparedness. Committee staff will now begin oversight and investigations aimed at:

- Identifying the greatest barriers to vaccination among communities of color, rural communities, Tribes, and other underserved communities, with the goal of identifying the most effective strategies to increase vaccine equity;
- Assessing the root causes of supply shortages within the Strategic National Stockpile (SNS) during H1N1, Ebola, and COVID-19; and
- Reviewing information from federal agencies and relevant experts regarding the origins of the virus that causes COVID-19, and regarding how to improve the nation's ability to assess the safety and security of biosafety laboratories.

Earlier this year, Chair Patty Murray (D-Wash.) and Ranking Member Richard Burr (R-N.C.) announced an effort to develop bipartisan policy proposals based on lessons learned during the COVID-19 pandemic to improve the nation's public health infrastructure, medical preparedness, and response programs.

Ranking Member Burr also released a report last week on the role of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (ASPR) during the COVID-19 pandemic – the second in a series of policy briefs making recommendations related to the federal government's pandemic response. [*Reforming and Strengthening ASPR: Ensuring Specialized Capabilities, Sufficient Capacity, and Specific Authorities to Meet 21st Century Public Health Security Threats*](#) includes the following recommended reforms:

- The Department Secretary's and the ASPR's authorities should be made clearer and more specific about the operational role of executing a coordinated response to any future public health emergency, and should be routinely exercised.
- ASPR needs to expand, strengthen, and sustain public-private partnerships in the medical countermeasure, health care system, and medical supply chain sectors.
- ASPR should leverage innovation to expand public health and medical preparedness and response capacity and capabilities, including those of the medical countermeasures enterprise, health care system, and public health programs.

Wyden Releases Drug Pricing Principles

Senate Finance Committee Chairman Ron Wyden (D-Ore.) released a [document](#) outlining principles for drug pricing reform last week. The goal of the paper is to outline "a series of principles that demonstrate that making prescription drugs more affordable while encouraging innovation and scientific breakthroughs are not mutually exclusive." The following principles are detailed in the document:

1. Medicare must have the authority to negotiate with pharmaceutical companies, especially when competition and market practices are not keeping prices in check.
2. American consumers must pay less at the pharmacy counter.
3. Prices of drugs that increase faster than inflation will not be subsidized by patients and taxpayers.
4. Drug pricing reforms that keep prices and patient costs in check should extend beyond Medicare to all Americans, including those covered by employer and commercial health plans.
5. Drug pricing should reward scientific innovation, not gaming of the patent system.

Chairman Wyden stated his intention to propose legislation that builds on bipartisan proposals to reduce pharmaceutical prices already passed by his committee.

Lawmakers to Probe Biogen Alzheimer's Drug

The House Oversight and Reform Committee and the House Energy and Commerce Committee are opening a joint investigation into Biogen Inc.'s Alzheimer's drug Aduhelm. Oversight Chair Carolyn Maloney (D-N.Y.) and Energy and Commerce Chair Frank Pallone (D-N.J.) stated that the process which led to the drug's approval and its price tag warrant closer examination. They plan to probe the impact of Aduhelm's approval on research for future Alzheimer's treatments and on federal health care programs. Sens. Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.) and Bill Cassidy (R-La.) are also [urging](#) Senate Finance Committee leadership to convene a hearing examining the cost of Aduhelm. "Approval of the new product has dramatic implications for our health care system that stretch well beyond the scope of FDA's jurisdiction," the lawmakers write.

Lawmakers Look to Curb Vaccine Misinformation

Sens. Bob Menendez (D-N.J.), Mark Warner (D-Va.), and Mazie Hirono (D-Hawaii) have sent a [letter](#) asking Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg for details about plans to remove COVID-19 vaccine misinformation from his social media platform. "As the U.S. struggles to reach vaccine hesitant individuals and the world grapples with new variants, it is more important than ever that social media companies such as Facebook ensure that its platforms are free from disinformation," the letter states. The lawmakers request data regarding how many users have viewed vaccine-related misinformation and how many posts have been removed from the site by July 5. In related news, Sen. Chris Murphy (D-Conn.) announced that he is working with the American Medical Association (AMA) to draft a bill to combat vaccine misinformation on social media. The legislation aims to use the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to track and evaluate medical misinformation online.

Democrats Call for CFPB Action on Medical Debt

Six Democratic senators have sent a [letter](#) to the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) urging the agency to place restrictions on medical debt collectors. The lawmakers outline a series of policies for consideration, including restrictions on the reporting of medical debt to credit agencies, a limit on how often debt collectors can call someone, requirements to inform debtors about financial assistance programs, and a ban on collecting from patients while they are appealing coverage denial, disputing charges, or seeking financial aid. "The COVID-19 pandemic highlighted the many cracks that remain in our health care system into which people fall, sometimes plummet, regarding debt incurred for their health care," the letter states. "The CFPB has an opportunity to strengthen protections for and improve the economic wellbeing and health of Americans."

Eshoo to Introduce Clinical Trial Diversity Bill

House Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Health Chair Anna Eshoo (D-Calif.) previewed legislation she is drafting on clinical trial diversity during the Milken Institute's Future of Health Summit last week. The bill would require pharmaceutical manufacturers to report to the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) their demographic enrollment targets and to develop a diversity action plan outlining how those targets would be met. While Eshoo stated that the bill is still in the early stages of being drafted, she said that she expects something to be introduced soon.

Statement on COVID Vaccine and Myocarditis

A [statement](#) co-signed by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and organizations representing the nation's doctors, nurses, and public health leaders was released last week following the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) meeting to discuss the latest data on reports of mild cases of myocarditis and pericarditis following COVID-19 vaccination among younger people. "The facts are clear: this is an extremely rare side effect, and only an exceedingly small number of people will experience it after vaccination. Importantly, for the young people who do, most cases are mild, and individuals recover often on their own or with minimal treatment. In addition, we know that myocarditis and pericarditis are much more common if you get COVID-19, and the risks to the heart from COVID-19 infection can be more severe," the statement reads. The organizations go on to underscore the safety and effectiveness of COVID-19 vaccines, and urge individuals to get vaccinated right away if they have not yet done so.

CMS Releases New Medicaid, CHIP Enrollment Data

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) has [released](#) new data showing that nearly 9.9 million individuals enrolled in coverage through Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) between February 2020 and January 2021. CMS attributes the 13.9% increase in enrollment to the impact of the COVID-19 public health emergency (PHE) and the subsequent enactment of the temporary 6.2% increase in Federal Medical Assistance Percentage (FMAP) funding in the *Families First Coronavirus Response Act*. Approximately 50% of Medicaid and CHIP's 80 million beneficiaries are children.

Upcoming Congressional Hearings and Markups

House Appropriations Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs markup of fiscal year 2022 appropriations legislation; 7:30 p.m.; June 28

House Appropriations markup of fiscal year 2022 Homeland Security appropriations; 11:30 a.m.; June 30

House Appropriations Committee markup of fiscal year 2022 appropriations legislation for Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies; Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies; 1:00 p.m.; June 30

House Oversight and Reform Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Crisis hearing "Building Trust and Battling Barriers: The Urgent Need to Overcome Vaccine Hesitancy;" 9:30 a.m.; July 1

House Veterans' Affairs Subcommittee on Technology Modernization hearing "Review of the FY22 Veterans Affairs Information Technology Budget;" 10:30 a.m.; July 1

House Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies markup of fiscal year 2022 appropriations legislation; time TBD; July 12

House Appropriations Committee markup of fiscal year 2022 appropriations legislation for Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies; time TBD; July 15

Recently Introduced Health Legislation

S.2144 — *A bill to clarify the eligibility for participation of peer support specialists in the furnishing of behavioral health integration services under the Medicare program; Sponsor: Sen. Cortez Masto, Catherine [D-NV]; Committees: Senate – Finance*

S.2146 — *A bill to establish within the Office of the Secretary of Health and Human Services a special task force on ensuring Medicare beneficiary access to innovative diabetes technologies and services; Sponsor: Sen. Collins, Susan M. [R-ME]; Committees: Senate – Finance*

S.2149 — *A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide coverage under the Medicare program for FDA-approved qualifying colorectal cancer screening blood-based tests, to increase participation in colorectal cancer screening in under-screened communities of color, to offset the COVID-19 pandemic driven declines in colorectal cancer screening, and for other purposes; Sponsor: Sen. Heinrich, Martin [D-NM]; Committees: Senate – Finance*

S.Res.281 — *A resolution recognizing the 25th anniversary of the Foundation for the National Institutes of Health and its critical role in America’s biomedical research strategy by advancing biomedical research and the mission of the National Institutes of Health, the world’s premier biomedical research agency; Sponsor: Sen. Murray, Patty [D-WA]; Committees: Senate - Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions*

S.2157 — *A bill to authorize the Secretary of Health and Human Services, acting through the Director of the Center for Mental Health Services of the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, to award grants to implement innovative approaches to securing prompt access to appropriate follow-on care for individuals who experience an acute mental health episode and present for care in an emergency department, and for other purposes; Sponsor: Sen. Capito, Shelley Moore [R-WV]; Committees: Senate - Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions*

S.2164 — *A bill to provide for certain reforms with respect to the Medicare program under title XVIII of the Social Security Act, and for other purposes; Sponsor: Sen. Crapo, Mike [R-ID]; Committees: Senate – Finance*

S.2173 — *A bill to permit Centers for Disease Control and Prevention-recognized virtual diabetes prevention program suppliers to be included in the Medicare Diabetes Prevention Program Expanded Model conducted by the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation under section 1115A of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1315a); Sponsor: Sen. Scott, Tim [R-SC]; Committees: Senate – Finance*

S.2174 — *A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to improve the annual wellness visit under the Medicare program; Sponsor: Sen. King, Angus S., Jr. [I-ME]; Committees: Senate – Finance*

S.2175 — *A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide coverage of preventive home visits under Medicare, and for other purposes; Sponsor: Sen. King, Angus S., Jr. [I-ME]; Committees: Senate – Finance*

H.Res.487 — *Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives the President of the United States should remove Dr. Anthony Fauci from his positions as the President’s Chief Medical Advisor and as the Director of the United States National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases; Sponsor: Rep. Carl, Jerry L. [R-AL-1]; Committees: House - Energy and Commerce*

H.R.4026 — *To require the Comptroller General of the United States to submit to Congress a report on actions taken by the Secretary of Health and Human Services to address social determinants of health; Sponsor: Rep. Burgess, Michael C. [R-TX-26]; Committees: House - Energy and Commerce*

H.R.4034 — To ensure that pre-apprenticeship programs are considered when planning health professions opportunity grant career pathway demonstration projects; Sponsor: Rep. Beyer, Donald S., Jr. [D-VA-8]; Committees: House - Ways and Means

H.R.4036 — To amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act and the SUPPORT for Patients and Communities Act to provide for Medicare and Medicaid mental and behavioral health treatment through telehealth; Sponsor: Rep. Bilirakis, Gus M. [R-FL-12]; Committees: House - Energy and Commerce; Ways and Means

H.R.4040 — To amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to extend telehealth flexibilities under the Medicare program, and for other purposes; Sponsor: Rep. Cheney, Liz [R-WY-At Large]; Committees: House - Energy and Commerce; Ways and Means

H.R.4043 — To amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to ensure prompt coverage of breakthrough devices under the Medicare program, and for other purposes; Sponsor: Rep. DelBene, Suzan K. [D-WA-1]; Committees: House - Ways and Means; Energy and Commerce

H.R.4049 — To amend the Public Health Service Act to give a preference, with respect to project grants for preventive health services, for States that allow trained individuals to carry and administer epinephrine, and for other purposes; Sponsor: Rep. Grothman, Glenn [R-WI-6]; Committees: House - Energy and Commerce

H.R.4051 — To make opioid treatment programs eligible for grants under section 2008 of the Social Security Act; Sponsor: Rep. Higgins, Brian [D-NY-26]; Committees: House - Ways and Means

H.R.4058 — To amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to ensure coverage of mental and behavioral health services furnished through telehealth; Sponsor: Rep. Matsui, Doris O. [D-CA-6]; Committees: House - Energy and Commerce; Ways and Means

H.R.4062 — To amend the Public Health Service Act to ensure the consensual donation and respectful disposition of human bodies and human body parts donated or transferred for education, research, or the advancement of medical, dental, or mortuary science and not for use in human transplantation, and for other purposes; Sponsor: Rep. Rush, Bobby L. [D-IL-1]; Committees: House - Energy and Commerce

H.R.4065 — To improve the understanding of, and promote access to treatment for, chronic kidney disease, and for other purposes; Sponsor: Rep. Sewell, Terri A. [D-AL-7]; Committees: House - Energy and Commerce; Ways and Means

H.R.4066 — To amend the title XVIII of the Social Security Act to preserve access to rural health care by ensuring fairness in Medicare hospital payments; Sponsor: Rep. Sewell, Terri A. [D-AL-7]; Committees: House - Ways and Means; Energy and Commerce

S.2187 — A bill to establish the “Biomedical Innovation Fund”, and for other purposes; Sponsor: Sen. Warren, Elizabeth [D-MA]; Committees: Senate - Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

S.2189 — A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to furnish hyperbaric oxygen therapy to certain veterans with traumatic brain injury or post-traumatic stress disorder; Sponsor: Sen. Tuberville, Tommy [R-AL]; Committees: Senate - Veterans’ Affairs

S.2197 — A bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to increase the Federal medical assistance percentage for States that provide Medicaid coverage for telehealth services; Sponsor: Sen. Rosen, Jacky [D-NV]; Committees: Senate - Finance

S.2201 — A bill to manage supply chain risk through counterintelligence training, and for other purposes; Sponsor: Sen. Peters, Gary C. [D-MI]; Committees: Senate - Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

H.Res.494 — Expressing support for the designation of September 2021 as “Sickle Cell Disease Awareness Month” in order to educate communities across the United States about sickle cell disease and the need for research, early detection methods, effective treatments, and preventative care programs with respect to complications from sickle cell disease and conditions related to sickle cell disease; Sponsor: Rep. Davis, Danny K. [D-IL-7]; Committees: House - Energy and Commerce

H.Res.495 — Calling for sickle cell trait research, surveillance, and public education and awareness, and for other purposes; Sponsor: Rep. Lee, Barbara [D-CA-13]; Committees: House - Energy and Commerce

H.R.4074 — To amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to expand the availability of supplemental benefits to certain Medicare Advantage enrollees; Sponsor: Rep. Bilirakis, Gus M. [R-FL-12]; Committees: House - Ways and Means; Energy and Commerce

H.R.4098 — To develop a non-opioid pain management directive indicating to health care professionals and emergency medical services personnel that an individual with respect to whom a form has been executed must not be administered an opioid or offered a prescription for an opioid, and for other purposes; Sponsor: Rep. McKinley, David B. [R-WV-1]; Committees: House - Energy and Commerce

H.R.4101 — To amend the Public Health Service Act to ensure that non-animal methods are prioritized, where applicable and feasible, in proposals for all research to be conducted or supported by the National Institutes of Health, and for other purposes; Sponsor: Rep. Roybal-Allard, Lucille [D-CA-40]; Committees: House - Energy and Commerce

H.R.4110 — To amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide hereditary cancer genetic testing for individuals with a history of a hereditary cancer gene mutation in a blood relative or a personal or ancestral history suspicious for hereditary cancer, and to provide coverage of certain cancer screenings or preventive surgeries that would reduce the risk for individuals with a germline (inherited) mutation associated with a high risk of developing a preventable cancer; Sponsor: Rep. Wasserman Schultz, Debbie [D-FL-23]; Committees: House - Energy and Commerce; Ways and Means

S.Res.289 — A resolution designating June 2021 as “National Post-Traumatic Stress Awareness Month” and June 27, 2021, as “National Post-Traumatic Stress Awareness Day”; Sponsor: Sen. Sullivan, Dan [R-AK]; Committees: Senate – Judiciary

S.Res.290 — A resolution encouraging the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to review and update its guidance relating to mask wearing in confined places; Sponsor: Sen. Cruz, Ted [R-TX]; Committees: Senate - Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

S.Res.295 — A resolution designating June 15, 2021, as “World Elder Abuse Awareness Day” and the month of June as “Elder Abuse Awareness Month”; Sponsor: Sen. Grassley, Chuck [R-IA]; Committees: Senate – Judiciary

S.2203 — A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to improve access to diabetes outpatient self-management training services, to require the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation to test the provision of virtual diabetes outpatient self-management training services, and for other purposes; Sponsor: Sen. Shaheen, Jeanne [D-NH]; Committees: Senate – Finance

S.2209 — A bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to provide for the regulation of in vitro clinical tests, and for other purposes; Sponsor: Sen. Burr, Richard [R-NC]; Committees: Senate - Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

S.2210 — A bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to expand access to home and community-based services (HCBS) under Medicaid, and for other purposes; Sponsor: Sen. Casey, Robert P., Jr. [D-PA]; Committees: Senate – Finance

S.2214 — A bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to increase the ability of Medicare and Medicaid providers to access the National Practitioner Data Bank for the purpose of conducting employee background checks; Sponsor: Sen. Rubio, Marco [R-FL]; Committees: Senate – Finance

S.2226 — A bill to amend the Indian Health Care Improvement Act to authorize a special behavioral health program for Indians, and for other purposes; Sponsor: Sen. Smith, Tina [D-MN]; Committees: Senate - Indian Affairs

S.2235 — A bill 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: Sen. Bennet, Michael F. [D-CO]; Committees: Senate - Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

S.2236 — A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide an option for first responders age 50 to 64 who are separated from service due to retirement or disability to buy into Medicare; Sponsor: Sen. Brown, Sherrod [D-OH]; Committees: Senate – Finance

S.2238 — A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize and extend the Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders Prevention and Services program, and for other purposes; Sponsor: Sen. Murkowski, Lisa [R-AK]; Committees: Senate - Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

S.2257 — A bill to provide Federal support for nonprofit generic and essential medicine and device manufacturers to increase the availability of drugs and devices in order to reduce drug or device shortages and drug and device costs; Sponsor: Sen. Rosen, Jacky [D-NV]; Committees: Senate – Finance

S.2275 — A bill to authorize the Secretary of Health and Human Services to build safer, thriving communities, and save lives, by investing in effective community-based violence reduction initiatives, and for other purposes; Sponsor: Sen. Booker, Cory A. [D-NJ]; Committees: Senate – Judiciary

S.2283 — A bill to improve the Veterans Crisis Line of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes; Sponsor: Sen. Tester, Jon [D-MT]; Committees: Senate - Veterans' Affairs

S.2297 — A bill to improve global health, and for other purposes; Sponsor: Sen. Risch, James E. [R-ID]; Committees: Senate - Foreign Relations

S.2304 — A bill to amend title XI of the Social Security Act to require that direct-to-consumer advertisements for prescription drugs and biological products include an appropriate disclosure of pricing information; Sponsor: Sen. Durbin, Richard J. [D-IL]; Committees: Senate – Finance

H.R.4114 — To amend titles XVIII and XIX of the Social Security Act to provide equal coverage of in vitro specific IgE tests and percutaneous tests for allergies under the Medicare and Medicaid programs, and for other purposes; Sponsor: Rep. Clarke, Yvette D. [D-NY-9]; Committees: House - Energy and Commerce; Ways and Means

H.R.4118 — To authorize the Secretary of Health and Human Services to build safer, thriving communities, and save lives, by investing in effective community-based violence reduction initiatives, and for other purposes; Sponsor: Rep. Horsford, Steven [D-NV-4]; Committees: House - Judiciary; Education and Labor

H.R.4121 — To codify a final rule issued by the Secretary of Health and Human Services relating to fraud and abuse and the removal of safe harbor protection for certain drug rebates, and for other purposes; Sponsor: Rep. Arrington, Jodey C. [R-TX-19]; Committees: House - Energy and Commerce; Ways and Means

H.R.4123 — To codify certain rules related to health reimbursement arrangements and other account-based group health plans, and for other purposes; Sponsor: Rep. Bishop, Dan [R-NC-9]; Committees: House - Energy and Commerce; Education and Labor; Ways and Means

H.R.4124 — To establish the “Biomedical Innovation Fund”, and for other purposes; Sponsor: Rep. Clarke, Yvette D. [D-NY-9]; Committees: House - Energy and Commerce; Rules; Budget

H.R.4127 — To amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to encourage the development and use of DISARM antimicrobial drugs, and for other purposes; Sponsor: Rep. Davis, Danny K. [D-IL-7]; Committees: House - Ways and Means; Energy and Commerce

H.R.4128 — To amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to provide for the regulation of in vitro clinical tests, and for other purposes; Sponsor: Rep. DeGette, Diana [D-CO-1]; Committees: House - Energy and Commerce

H.R.4131 — To amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to expand access to home and community-based services (HCBS) under Medicaid, and for other purposes; Sponsor: Rep. Dingell, Debbie [D-MI-12]; Committees: House - Energy and Commerce

H.R.4148 — To amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide an option for first responders age 50 to 64 who are separated from service due to retirement or disability to buy into Medicare; Sponsor: Rep. Malinowski, Tom [D-NJ-7]; Committees: House - Ways and Means; Energy and Commerce

H.R.4151 — To amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize and extend the Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders Prevention and Services program, and for other purposes; Sponsor: Rep. McCollum, Betty [D-MN-4]; Committees: House - Energy and Commerce; Education and Labor

H.R.4158 — To amend titles XVIII and XIX of the Social Security Act to eliminate cost sharing with respect to coverage of insulin as a covered part D drug under the Medicare program or as a covered outpatient drug under the Medicaid program; Sponsor: Rep. Rush, Bobby L. [D-IL-1]; Committees: House - Energy and Commerce; Ways and Means