



Health Policy Briefing

May 21, 2018

HHS, Lawmakers Consider Plans to Lower Drug Prices

Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Alex Azar spent last week touting and expounding upon the Administration’s plan to lower the price of prescription drugs. While the plan was panned by Democrats for its failure to endorse direct Medicare negotiation of drug prices, Secretary Azar stated that Part D plans will be given more power to negotiate prices, and that he also plans to bring negotiation to Part B drugs.

One option would be allowing Part D plans to negotiate for drugs in protected classes. Azar stated that Part D’s star rating program may be incentivizing insurers to be timid in the formulary management and price negotiation of six protected classes of Part D drugs. He suggested that Part D plans might not be utilizing management tools like prior authorization or step therapy, which are employed in the commercial market to contain costs, out of fear that they could be penalized under the program’s rating system. The Secretary argued that these tools are “completely appropriate and medically supported,” dismissing concerns about restricting patient access in Part D.

The Secretary also revealed that the Department is considering whether to restrict all pharmaceutical manufacturer remuneration to pharmacy benefit managers (PBMs). Azar suggested that HHS could use its authority under anti-kickback statute to eliminate drug rebates and other payments in public programs. This idea has previously been suggested by Commissioner of Food and Drugs Scott Gottlieb. Azar stated that he would also consult with HHS legal counsel to determine whether he has the administrative authority to eliminate such rebates in private insurance plans.

In related news, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has begun to publicly disclose the names of branded pharmaceutical companies suspected of gaming the generic approval system. The FDA published a list of 52 branded drugs

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whose manufacturers may be using delay tactics to prevent generic drug companies from bringing competitors to the market. The agency will post the letters it has sent to branded companies on behalf generic drug companies, urging them to sell drug samples that can be used to create generic versions of products.

House Speaker Paul Ryan (R-Wis.) announced last week that a compromise is being worked out between the Energy and Commerce Committee and the Judiciary Committee on H.R. 2212, the Creating and Restoring Equal Access To Equivalent Samples (CREATES) Act. CREATES aims to reduce drug prices by cracking down on delay tactics from branded drug companies to prevent generics from coming onto the market. It has stalled over concerns from some Republicans that it would invite frivolous lawsuits against pharmaceutical manufacturers.

Chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee Kevin Brady (R-Texas) announced plans to conduct hearings on some of the Administration's proposals, but said that it was too early to tell if the panel would move legislation on the issue. Brady indicated that he was particularly supportive of ideas to increase competition in the market and to ensure consumers benefit from rebates and discounts between insurers and drug companies.

Trump to Nominate Wilkie to Lead VA

President Trump announced plans to nominate Robert Wilkie to be Secretary of Veterans Affairs. Wilkie currently serves as acting VA secretary. In related news, the VA MISSION Act was passed by the House of Representatives by a vote of 347-70 last week. The VA MISSION Act is comprehensive legislation that would expand outside medical care options for VA patients. The bill also includes \$5.2 billion to fund the VA Choice program which is expected to run out of money by the end of the month. The Choice program will then be consolidated with other VA programs in the hopes of simplifying the program. The VA Mission Act would allow more veterans to see doctors outside the VA system. The bill also expands the current VA caregivers stipend with a phase-in to include veterans of all eras. The Senate is expected to move quickly on the legislation.

CMS Denies Medicaid Lifetime Limit Proposal

The Trump Administration will not allow states to impose lifetime limits on Medicaid coverage, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) Administrator Seema Verma announced last week. CMS rejected a request from the state of Kansas to limit coverage to a total of three years earlier this month, but four other states are currently pushing similar proposals. The Trump White House has prioritized state flexibility in the administration of the Medicaid program, and will continue to do so according to Verma. She stated that her main focus in the Medicaid program is sustainability. Under Verma's leadership, CMS has approved four state waivers tying Medicaid eligibility to community engagement and work requirements. As many as 20 other states are exploring such requirements. CMS is also considering state proposals to require drug testing or to allow for partial expansion of Medicaid.

Verma Called to Testify on Medicaid Fraud

The leaders of the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee have **written** to CMS Administrator Seema Verma asking that she testify at a hearing entitled "Medicaid Fraud and Overpayments: Problems and Solutions." Verma is being asked to testify about CMS efforts to fight Medicaid fraud and overpayments, and how CMS safeguards taxpayer dollars in the Medicaid program. According to the letter, Chairman Ron Johnson (R-Wis.) and Ranking Member Claire McCaskill (D-Mo.) are prepared to "seek alternative means" to compel her testimony should she not confirm her appearance. The lawmakers have been attempting to schedule the hearing since last month.

FDA Appropriations Bill Advanced

The House Appropriations Committee advanced its fiscal year (FY) 2019 appropriations bill for the Department of Agriculture and Food and Drug Administration (FDA) by a 31-20 vote last week. The legislation includes \$23.2 billion in discretionary funding, \$14 million above current spending levels. The President's budget proposal had called for \$19 billion in funding. The FDA would receive a total of \$3.1 billion in discretionary funding, \$308 million more than currently enacted levels, including \$30 million to fight opioid abuse and \$38.5 million to advance modern drug and biological product manufacturing in the U.S. The bill also includes a measure to ease regulation of new e-cigarettes and blocks a rule from the FDA that would regulate e-cigarettes and cigars as other tobacco products.

The Senate Ag/FDA Subcommittee bill will be marked up by subcommittee on Tuesday followed by full Appropriations Committee consideration on Thursday. The full committee will also vote Thursday on 302(b) subcommittee allocations which define the amount allocated to each subcommittee. Senate appropriators plan to approve all 12 spending bills before the July Fourth recess. Chairman Shelby (R-Ala.) has stated that the Senate could skip part of August recess in order to bring some of the bills to the floor and avoid an all-encompassing omnibus bill before the end of the fiscal year on September 30, 2018.

FDA Approves First Non-Opioid for Symptoms of Withdrawal

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has approved the first non-opioid for treatment of opioid withdrawal. Lofexidine, marketed as Lucemyra, is not a treatment for opioid use disorder, but can be used as a part of a broader treatment plan for management of the disorder and to help transition people into medication-assisted treatment (MAT), which may require that a person has already gone through detox. In his statement, FDA Commissioner Scott Gottlieb noted that the fear of withdrawal symptoms often prevents those suffering from addiction from seeking help. Lucemyra is approved for treatment up to 14 days to lessen the severity of withdrawal symptoms such as runny nose, sleep problems, sweating, nausea, muscle spasm, anxiety, diarrhea, and vomiting. Side effects of the drug include dizziness, low blood pressure, low heart rate, and occasional fainting instances. The treatment has long been used in Europe. It is a non-opioid, so it has no potential for abuse or diversion. The product significantly reduced the severity of withdrawal symptoms when compared to placebo in clinical trials. Lucemyra is manufactured by US WorldMeds, with clinical trials supported by the National Institute on Drug Abuse. The drug is expected to become available in August.

House Committees Advance Additional Opioid Legislation

The House Energy and Commerce Committee advanced 32 bills aimed at curbing the opioid-abuse epidemic last week in addition to the 25 opioid-related bills already approved by the Committee earlier this month. The 32 measures passed last week focus on the public health aspects of the crisis, as well as relevant reforms to the Medicaid program and Medicare Parts B and D. Twenty-eight of the bills were advanced with bipartisan support by voice vote. There was some debate among panel members regarding a bill (H.R. 5795) that would make it easier for doctors to share a patient's behavioral health information, with Democrats raising concerns about patient privacy. The Overdose Prevention and Patient Safety Act passed by a vote of 35-17. There was also disagreement about a measure (H.R. 5804) that would incentivize post-surgical injections as a pain treatment alternative to opioids. The Post-Surgical Injections as an Opioid Alternative Act passed by a vote of 36-14. The 32 bills are expected to be included as a part of a broad legislative package to be considered by the full House in June.

The House Ways and Means Committee passed an additional seven bipartisan opioid bills comprised of over 20 different legislative proposals. The measures make modest reforms to the Medicare program to reduce opioid misuse and increase access to addiction treatment. The Committee also advanced legislation (H.R. 5788) to reduce international shipments of illicit synthetic opioids.

PAHPAI Officially Introduced

Bipartisan members of the Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions (HELP) Committee have officially introduced the Pandemic and All-Hazards Preparedness and Advancing Innovation (PAHPAI) Act of 2018 ahead of this week's markup. S. 2852 is sponsored by Sens. Richard Burr (R-N.C.), Bob Casey (D-Pa.), Chairman Lamar Alexander (R-Tenn.), and Ranking Member Patty Murray (D-Wash.). The Committee plans to mark up the legislation on Wednesday, May 23 at 10:00 AM in 430 Dirksen.

House to Vote on Right-to-Try

The House of Representatives will vote this week on right-to-try legislation that would give terminally ill patients access to investigational treatments and therapies. The House will vote on the version of the bill (S. 204) sponsored by Sen. Ron Johnson (R-Wis.) which passed the Senate by unanimous consent last August. The Senate was unable to successfully move the version of the bill that passed the House. The House bill would have further defined the criteria necessary for a patient to qualify for right-to-try. Senate Democrats objected to the House measure, expressing concerns about patient safety and removing the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) from the decision making process. The right-to-try policy is strongly supported by President Trump and Vice President Pence. FDA Commissioner Scott Gottlieb has stated that he supports the legislation, and believes the appropriate level of patient protections can be reached through guidance and rulemaking.

Upcoming Congressional Meetings and Markups

Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee hearing "The Health Care Workforce: Addressing Shortages and Improving Care;" 10:00 a.m., 430 Dirksen Bldg.; May 22

Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee executive session to consider legislation including S. 2848, Fighting Opioid Abuse in Transportation Act and S. 2842, Opioid Addiction Recovery Fraud Prevention Act of 2018; 10:00 a.m., 106 Dirksen Bldg.; May 22

Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies business meeting to markup an original bill entitled, "Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2019;" 10:30 a.m., 192 Dirksen Bldg.; May 22

Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies hearings to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2019 for the Department of Health and Human Services, Indian Health Service; 9:30 a.m., 124 Dirksen Bldg.; May 23

Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee business meeting to consider S.2852, to reauthorize certain programs under the Pandemic and All-Hazards Preparedness Reauthorization Act; 10:00 a.m., 430 Dirksen Bldg.; May 23

House Energy and Commerce Health Subcommittee hearing "Reauthorization of the Children's Hospital Graduate Medical Education Program;" 10:15 a.m., 2322 Rayburn Bldg.; May 23

Senate Finance Committee hearing to examine rural health care in America, focusing on challenges and opportunities; 9:00 a.m., 215 Dirksen Bldg.; May 24

Senate Appropriations Committee business meeting to markup an original bill entitled, “Energy and Water Development Appropriations Act, 2019”, an original bill entitled, “Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2019”, and to consider 302(b) subcommittee allocations of budget outlays and new budget authority allocated to the committee in H.Con.Res.71, establishing the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2018 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2019 through 2027; 10:30 a.m., 106 Dirksen Bldg.; May 24

House Homeland Security Subcommittee on Border and Maritime Security field hearing “An Unsecure Border and the Opioid Crisis: The Urgent Need for Action to Save Lives;” 10:00 a.m., 550 E. Van Buren Street, Phoenix, AZ 85004; May 30

House Veterans’ Affairs Health Subcommittee hearing “An Assessment of the Potential Health Effects of Burn Pit Exposure among Veterans;” 3:00 p.m., 334 Cannon Bldg.; June 7

House Veterans’ Affairs Health Subcommittee legislative hearing on: H.R. 2787; H.R. 3696; H.R. 5521; H.R. 5693; H.R. 5864; Draft bill, the VA COST SAVINGS Enhancement Act; Draft bill, the Veterans Serving Veterans Act; and Draft bill, to improve the productivity and management of VA health care facilities; 3:00 p.m., 334 Cannon Bldg.; June 13

Recently Introduced Health Legislation

H.R.5773 — To amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to require Medicare prescription drug plans to establish drug management programs for at-risk beneficiaries, require electronic prior authorization for covered part D drugs, and to provide for other program integrity measures under parts C and D of the Medicare program; Sponsor: Rep. Roskam, Peter J. [R-IL-6]; Committees: House - Energy and Commerce, Ways and Means

H.R.5774 — To require the Secretary of Health and Human Services to develop guidance on pain management and opioid use disorder prevention for hospitals receiving payment under part A of the Medicare program, provide for opioid quality measures development, and provide for a technical expert panel on reducing surgical setting opioid use and data collection on perioperative opioid use, and for other purposes; Sponsor: Rep. Curbelo, Carlos [R-FL-26]; Committees: House - Ways and Means, Energy and Commerce

H.R.5775 — To amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to require Medicare Advantage plans and part D prescription drug plans to include information on the risks associated with opioids, coverage of certain nonopioid treatments used to treat pain, and on the safe disposal of prescription drugs, and for other purposes; Sponsor: Rep. Paulsen, Erik [R-MN-3]; Committees: House - Ways and Means, Energy and Commerce

H.R.5776 — To amend title XVIII to provide for Medicare coverage of certain services furnished by opioid treatment programs, and for other purposes; Sponsor: Rep. Neal, Richard E. [D-MA-1]; Committees: House - Energy and Commerce, Ways and Means

H.R.5777 — To direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to make available on the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services website opioid prescribing guidance applicable to individuals entitled to benefits under part A or enrolled under part B of the Medicare program and update such guidance periodically; Sponsor: Rep. Buchanan, Vern [R-FL-16]; Committees: House - Ways and Means, Energy and Commerce

H.R.5778 — To amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for review and adjustment of payments under the Medicare outpatient prospective payment system to avoid financial incentives to use opioids instead of non-opioid alternative treatments, and for other purposes; Sponsor: Rep. Marchant, Kenny [R-TX-24]; Committees: House - Energy and Commerce, Ways and Means

H.R.5779 — To amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to require the Secretary to establish a technical expert panel for purposes of evaluating the use of opioid-related quality measures under the Medicare program; Sponsor: Rep. Paulsen, Erik [R-MN-3]; Committees: House - Ways and Means, Energy and Commerce

H.R.5782 — To hold pharmaceutical companies accountable for illegal 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 the Workforce, Ways and Means, Judiciary

S.2837 — A bill to improve the systems for identifying the diversion of controlled substances; Sponsor: Sen. Hassan, Margaret Wood [D-NH]; Committees: Senate - Judiciary

H.R.5789 — To amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to provide for Medicaid coverage protections for pregnant and post-partum women while receiving inpatient treatment for a substance use disorder, and for other purposes; Sponsor: Rep. Foster, Bill [D-IL-11]; Committees: House - Energy and Commerce

H.R.5790 — To amend title XI of the Social Security Act to provide for clinical psychologist services models to be tested by the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation, and for other purposes; Sponsor: Rep. Noem, Kristi L. [R-SD-At Large]; Committees: House - Energy and Commerce, Ways and Means

H.R.5794 — To amend the Public Health Service Act to enhance the national strategy for combating and eliminating tuberculosis, and for other purposes; Sponsor: Rep. Green, Gene [D-TX-29]; Committees: House - Energy and Commerce

H.R.5795 — To amend the Public Health Service Act to protect the confidentiality of substance use disorder patient records; Sponsor: Rep. Blumenauer, Earl [D-OR-3]; Committees: House - Energy and Commerce

H.R.5796 — To require the Secretary of Health and Human Services to provide grants for eligible entities to provide technical assistance to outlier prescribers of opioids; Sponsor: Rep. Fitzpatrick, Brian K. [R-PA-8]; Committees: House - Energy and Commerce, Ways and Means

H.R.5797 — To amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to allow States to provide under Medicaid services for certain individuals with opioid use disorders in institutions for mental diseases; Sponsor: Rep. Walters, Mimi [R-CA-45]; Committees: House - Energy and Commerce

H.R.5798 — To amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to require a review of current opioid prescriptions for chronic pain and screening for opioid use disorder to be included in the Welcome to Medicare initial preventive physical examination; Sponsor: Rep. Bucshon, Larry [R-IN-8]; Committees: House - Energy and Commerce, Ways and Means

H.R.5799 — To amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to require as a condition of receipt of full Federal medical assistance percentage under Medicaid that State Medicaid plans have in place certain drug utilization review activities; Sponsor: Rep. Blackburn, Marsha [R-TN-7]; Committees: House - Energy and Commerce

H.R.5800 — To require the Medicaid and CHIP Payment and Access Commission to conduct an exploratory study and report on requirements applicable to and practices of institutions for mental diseases under the Medicaid program; Sponsor: Rep. Upton, Fred [R-MI-6]; Committees: House - Energy and Commerce

H.R.5801 — To amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to provide for requirements under the Medicaid program relating to the use of qualified prescription drug monitoring programs and prescribing certain controlled substances; Sponsor: Rep. Griffith, H. Morgan [R-VA-9]; Committees: House - Energy and Commerce

H.R.5802 — To amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to require States to include under their State Medicaid plans coverage for medication-assisted treatment, and for other purposes; Sponsor: Rep. Green, Gene [D-TX-29]; Committees: House - Energy and Commerce

H.R.5803 — To amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to authorize the Secretary of Health and Human Services to consider the potential for misuse and abuse when determining whether to approve certain drugs, and for other purposes; Sponsor: Rep. Green, Gene [D-TX-29]; Committees: House - Energy and Commerce

H.R.5804 — To amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for modifications in payment for certain outpatient surgical services; Sponsor: Rep. Shimkus, John [R-IL-15]; Committees: House - Energy and Commerce, Ways and Means

H.R.5805 — To designate certain amounts authorized to be appropriated for the provision by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs of hospital care and medical services in non-Department of Veterans Affairs facilities pursuant to contracts as changes in concepts and definitions for certain budgetary purposes, and for other purposes; Sponsor: Rep. Lamb, Conor [D-PA-18]; Committees: House - Budget, Veterans' Affairs

H.R.5806 — To require the Secretary of Health and Human Services to issue guidance with respect to the expedited approval of certain drugs, and for other purposes; Sponsor: Rep. Burgess, Michael C. [R-TX-26]; Committees: House - Energy and Commerce

H.R.5807 — To amend the Controlled Substances Act to allow for more flexibility with respect to medication-assisted treatment for opioid use disorders and to amend the Public Health Service Act to protect the confidentiality of substance use disorder patient records; Sponsor: Rep. Mullin, Markwayne [R-OK-2]; Committees: House - Energy and Commerce, Judiciary

H.R.5808 — To amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to require States to operate drug management programs for at-risk beneficiaries, and for other purposes; Sponsor: Rep. Bilirakis, Gus M. [R-FL-12]; Committees: House - Energy and Commerce

H.R.5809 — To amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to encourage the use of non-opioid analgesics for the management of post-surgical pain under the Medicare program, and for other purposes; Sponsor: Rep. Peters, Scott H. [D-CA-52]; Committees: House - Energy and Commerce, Ways and Means

H.R.5810 — To amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to provide for an extension of the enhanced FMAP for certain Medicaid health homes for individuals with substance use disorders; Sponsor: Rep. Lance, Leonard [R-NJ-7]; Committees: House - Energy and Commerce

H.R.5811 — To amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act with respect to postapproval study requirements for certain controlled substances, and for other purposes; Sponsor: Rep. McNerney, Jerry [D-CA-9]; Committees: House - Energy and Commerce

H.R.5812 — To amend the Public Health Service Act to authorize the Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to carry out certain activities to prevent controlled substances overdoses, and for other purposes; Sponsor: Rep. Griffith, H. Morgan [R-VA-9]; Committees: House - Energy and Commerce

H.R.5818 — To amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for the distribution of additional residency positions to help combat the opioid crisis; Sponsor: Rep. Crowley, Joseph [D-NY-14]; Committees: House - Ways and Means, Energy and Commerce

H.R.5829 — To direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to inform each physician of the Veterans Health Administration of the opioid prescribing rate of the physician and to require pain management training for the physicians with the highest opioid prescribing rates; Sponsor: Rep. Mullin, Markwayne [R-OK-2]; Committees: House - Veterans' Affairs

H.R.5830 — To require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out a program to establish peer specialists in patient aligned care teams at medical centers of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes; Sponsor: Rep. Peters, Scott H. [D-CA-52]; Committees: House - Veterans' Affairs

H.R.5832 — To amend the Public Health Service Act to authorize the Secretary of Health and Human Services to award grants to nursing homes, assisted living facilities, and other long-term care facilities to improve their preparedness for power outages; Sponsor: Rep. Wilson, Frederica S. [D-FL-24]; Committees: House - Energy and Commerce

S.Res.507 - A resolution recognizing the importance of the goal of National Women's Health Week to empower adolescent girls and women of all ages to make informed choices about their sexual activity and effective steps to prevent against HIV; Sponsor: Sen. Booker, Cory A. [D-NJ]; Committees: Senate - Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

S.Res.508 - A resolution supporting the goals of Myalgic Encephalomyelitis/Chronic Fatigue Syndrome International Awareness Day; Sponsor: Sen. Markey, Edward J. [D-MA]; Committees: Senate - Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

S.Res.510 — A resolution expressing support for the designation of the month of May 2018 as “National Bladder Cancer Awareness Month”; Sponsor: Sen. Menendez, Robert [D-NJ]; Submitted in the Senate, considered, and agreed to without amendment and with a preamble by Unanimous Consent.

S.2838 — A bill to amend the Controlled Substances Act to require the Drug Enforcement Administration to report certain information on distribution of opioids, and for other purposes; Sponsor: Sen. Feinstein, Dianne [D-CA]; Committees: Senate - Judiciary

S.2842 — A bill to prohibit the marketing of bogus opioid treatment programs or products; Sponsor: Sen. Capito, Shelley Moore [R-WV]; Committees: Senate - Commerce, Science, and Transportation

S.2843 — A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for the distribution of additional residency positions to help combat the opioid crisis; Sponsor: Sen. Nelson, Bill [D-FL]; Committees: Senate - Finance

S.2848 — A bill to improve Department of Transportation controlled substances and alcohol testing, and for other purposes; Sponsor: Sen. Thune, John [R-SD]; Committees: Senate - Commerce, Science, and Transportation

S.2851 — A bill to improve regional health care emergency preparedness and response systems, and for other purposes; Sponsor: Sen. Casey, Robert P., Jr. [D-PA]; Committees: Senate - Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

S.2852 — A bill to reauthorize certain programs under the Pandemic and All-Hazards Preparedness Reauthorization Act; Sponsor: Sen. Burr, Richard [R-NC]; Committees: Senate - Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

H.R.5856 — To amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide a deduction for certain charity care furnished by physicians, and for other purposes; Sponsor: Rep. Webster, Daniel [R-FL-11]; Committees: House - Ways and Means, Energy and Commerce

S.2864 — A bill to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to authorize a Joint Task Force to enhance integration of the Department of Homeland Security's border security operations to detect, interdict, disrupt, and prevent narcotics, such as fentanyl and other synthetic opioids, from entering the United States, and for other purposes; Sponsor: Sen. McCaskill, Claire [D-MO]; Committees: Senate - Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

H.R.5858 — To amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to require coverage without a deductible of certain primary care services by high deductible health plans; Rep. Schneider, Bradley Scott [D-IL-10]; Committees: House - Ways and Means

H.R.5865 — To establish programs related to prevention of prescription opioid misuse, and for other purposes; Sponsor: Rep. Cartwright, Matt [D-PA-17]; Committees: House - Energy and Commerce, Judiciary, Ways and Means, Education and the Workforce

H.R.5867 — To authorize a joint action plan and report on drug waste; Sponsor: Rep. Doggett, Lloyd [D-TX-35]; Committees: House - Energy and Commerce

S.2875 — A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for Medicare coverage of certain services furnished by opioid treatment programs, and for other purposes; Sponsor: Sen. Cassidy, Bill [R-LA]; Committees: Senate - Finance

S.2879 — A bill to amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to promote behavioral health crisis response training among law enforcement officers; Sponsor: Sen. McCaskill, Claire [D-MO]; Committees: Senate - Judiciary

S.2883 — A bill to require the Secretary of Defense to submit a plan to improve research and development on therapies for traumatic brain injury and post-traumatic stress disorder, to document information on blast exposures in service records of military personnel, and for other purposes; Sponsor: Sen. Warren, Elizabeth [D-MA]; Committees: Senate - Armed Services

S.2885 — A bill to amend the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 to require additional disclosure for pharmaceutical companies; Sponsor: Sen. Smith, Tina [D-MN]; Committees: Senate - Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs