



Health Policy Briefing

March 1, 2021

House Advances COVID Stimulus Plan via Reconciliation: Could Trigger Sequestration Cuts

The House of Representatives passed the American Rescue Plan Act ([H.R. 1319](#)) in the early hours of Saturday morning by a vote of 219 to 212. No Republicans voted in support of the bill, and two Democrats – Reps. Jared Golden (Maine) and Kurt Schrader (Ore.) – voted against it. The bill, which totals approximately \$1.9 trillion, includes \$1,400 stimulus checks for individuals, enhanced unemployment benefits, \$350 billion in state and local aid, \$160 billion in funding for vaccines, testing, and tracing, \$7.25 billion for the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP), and money for temporary health care premium subsidies. The fast-track reconciliation process will allow the legislation to be enacted with simple majorities in both chambers of Congress, bypassing the 60-vote threshold typically required for Senate passage through regular order.

The legislation will now be sent to the Senate, and may be further amended to address the minimum wage issue, other items subject to the ‘Byrd Rule’ (which may include health insurance premiums), the PAYGO waiver, and the need to trim some of the funding for the legislation to comply with the \$1.9 trillion limit as prescribed in the budget resolution. Last week, Senate parliamentarian Elizabeth MacDonough ruled the increase to minimum wage to be out of order. McDonough found that the provision to phase in a \$15 minimum wage does not have sufficient fiscal impact in relation to its effect on the economy and therefore does not qualify for action under the Senate’s Byrd rule for the budget reconciliation process. Some Democrats are pushing leadership to attempt to overturn the Senate’s Byrd rule, while

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others are in favor of revising the measure to meet the qualifications of the budget reconciliation process. The ruling on the application of the Byrd rule could be overturned with 51 votes. Sens. Joe Manchin (D-W.Va.) and Kyrsten Sinema (D-Ariz.), however, have stated that they do not support the minimum wage increase as it is currently drafted, and the White House has said that it does not support overruling the parliamentarian. Other items may also face Byrd rule issues, including the bill's funding for health insurance premium subsidies.

The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) reported on Thursday that the stimulus bill would trigger \$36 billion in Medicare cuts in fiscal year 2022 (FY22), unless there is bipartisan support for waiving the requirements of the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go-Act of 2010 (PAYGO). Because the cost of the stimulus bill is not offset by revenue increases or spending cuts, PAYGO would require the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to issue a sequestration order within 15 days of the end of the Congressional session to reduce spending in FY22 by \$381 billion. The PAYGO law limits reductions to Medicare spending to four percentage points – an estimated \$36 billion. Waiving the requirement would require 60 votes in the Senate. In the past, lawmakers have attached PAYGO waivers to must-pass spending bills.

Democrats aim to send the measure to the President's desk ahead of the March 14 expiration of supplemental jobless benefits. The bill is not expected to garner any GOP support in the Senate, as Republicans remain opposed to the total size of the package and continue to argue in favor of more targeted pandemic relief. All Senate Democrats will need to vote in favor of the bill in order to secure passage. And, once the Senate passes the amended bill, the House will need to act again before the President could sign.

Lawmakers Push for WTO Vaccine Patent Waiver

A group of Democratic lawmakers are urging President Joe Biden to support a temporary waiver of patent protections for COVID-19 vaccines. This waiver would allow global manufacturers to replicate vaccine formulas to increase vaccine production across the world. The waiver, which was proposed by India and South Africa through the World Trade Organization (WTO) last year, was opposed by the Trump administration. House Ways and Means Trade Subcommittee Chair Earl Blumenauer (D-Ore.) has argued in support of the waiver request, stating that it is “literally a matter of life and death” for poorer nations. Energy and Commerce Committee member Rep. Jan Schakowsky (D-Ill.) has also previewed a letter that approximately 30 members of Congress plan to send to the President. The letter states that any loss of profit by pharmaceutical companies resulting from the waiver would be offset by the global economic gains that result from pandemic recovery across the rest of the world. Opponents of the waiver believe that strong intellectual property protections are necessary to incentivize continued innovation. A spokesperson for the Biden administration stated that they are “exploring every avenue to coordinate with our global partners” and are evaluating the efficacy of this specific waiver proposal.

FDA Issues EUA to J&J for Third COVID Vaccine

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) issued an emergency use authorization (EUA) for the third COVID-19 vaccine to Johnson & Johnson (J&J). The EUA allows the vaccine to be distributed in the U.S. for use in individuals age 18 and older. The Janssen vaccine, manufactured using adenovirus type 265, is administered as a single dose. Data indicates that the vaccine is approximately 67% effective in preventing moderate to severe/critical COVID-19 occurring at least 14 days after vaccination and 66% effective in preventing moderate to severe/critical COVID-19 occurring at least 28 days after vaccination. The vaccine is approximately 77% effective in preventing severe/critical COVID-19 occurring at least 14 days after vaccination and 85% effective in preventing severe/critical COVID-19 occurring at least 28 days after vaccination. J&J has said that it is prepared to immediately ship nearly four million doses, which the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) expects will be distributed to states, retail pharmacies, community vaccine centers, and federally qualified health centers (FQHCs). The company is on track to supply 20 million doses to the U.S. by the end of this month and 100 million by the end of June. Globally, J&J expects to produce one billion doses this year.

White House to Give Small Businesses Exclusive PPP Access

The Biden administration will provide small firms exclusive access to the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) for a 14-day window. From Feb. 24 through March 9, only small businesses with fewer than 20 employees will be able to apply for relief through the program. In addition to this relief for small business, the White House has also announced that it will recalculate a formula to make more funding available to sole proprietors, independent contractors, and the self-employed and will act to remove restrictions preventing non-U.S. citizens and convicted felons from accessing the program.

Biden Administration to Deliver Masks to Underserved Communities

The White House has announced a plan to distribute masks to those communities hit hardest by the pandemic starting this month. The administration will deliver more than 25 million masks to 1,300 Community Health Centers and 60,000 food pantries and soup kitchens. According to the White House, these masks will be high-quality, washable, and consistent with the CDC's mask guidance. They will be made in America and will not impact the availability of masks for health care workers.

President Continues to Back Controversial Budget Nominee

The White House is standing by their nominee to lead the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Neera Tanden, saying that the President will find another position for her in the administration should she not be confirmed by the Senate. Tanden has faced criticism from both sides of the aisle for speaking out against certain Republicans and some progressives currently in Congress. She also raised questions about her transparency after deleting some of her more controversial posts on Twitter. The Senate committees on Budget and Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs delayed confirmation votes planned for last Wednesday on her nomination, without indication of when they might be rescheduled. West Virginia Democrat Joe Manchin (D-W.Va.) has already said that he would vote against Tanden, and Republicans are nearly united in their opposition to her nomination. The White House is seeking the support of some GOP lawmakers who have reportedly said that they are keeping an open-mind.

Hart Health Strategies COVID-19 Resources

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

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

Upcoming Congressional Committee Activity

House Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Health hearing “The Future of Telehealth: How COVID-19 is Changing the Delivery of Virtual Care;” 10:30 a.m., Virtual; March 2

House Appropriations Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies hearing on FDA’s Foreign Drug Inspections Program; 10:00 a.m., Virtual; March 4

House Appropriations Subcommittee on Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies hearing “Status of Department of Veterans Affairs Infrastructure;” 10:30 a.m., Virtual; March 5

Recently Introduced Health Legislation

H.R.1193 — To amend title IV of the Public Health Service Act to direct the Director of the National Institutes of Health, in consultation with the Director of the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute, shall establish a program under which the Director of the National Institutes of Health shall support or conduct research on valvular heart disease, and for other purposes; Sponsor: Rep. Barr, Andy [R-KY-6]; Committees: House - Energy and Commerce

H.R.1195 — To direct the Secretary of Labor to issue an occupational safety and health standard that requires covered employers within the health care and social service industries to develop and implement a comprehensive workplace violence prevention plan, and for other purposes; Sponsor: Rep. Courtney, Joe [D-CT-2]; Committees: House - Education and Labor; Energy and Commerce; Ways and Means

H.R.1202 — To improve the health and safety of Americans living with food allergies and related disorders, including potentially life-threatening anaphylaxis, food protein-induced enterocolitis syndrome, and eosinophilic gastrointestinal diseases, and for other purposes; Sponsor: Rep. Matsui, Doris O. [D-CA-6]; Committees: House - Energy and Commerce

H.R.1205 — 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: Rep. Ruiz, Raul [D-CA-36]; Committees: House - Energy and Commerce

S.333 — A bill to amend title XI and title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide funding for State strike teams, technical assistance, and infection control for resident and worker safety in skilled nursing facilities and nursing facilities, and for other purposes; Sponsor: Sen. Casey, Robert P., Jr. [D-PA]; Committees: Senate - Finance

S.334 — A bill to establish an alternative payment model demonstration project for maternity care provided to pregnant and postpartum individuals under State Medicaid and CHIP programs, and for other purposes; Sponsor: Sen. Casey, Robert P., Jr. [D-PA]; Committees: Senate - Finance

S.339 — A bill to amend the Controlled Substances Act to list fentanyl-related substances as schedule I controlled substances, and for other purposes; Sponsor: Sen. Portman, Rob [R-OH]; Committees: Senate - Judiciary

S.340 — A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to increase the use of telehealth for substance use disorder treatment and mental health services, and for other purposes; Sponsor: Sen. Portman, Rob [R-OH]; Committees: Senate - Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

S.345 — A bill to establish a national campaign to increase maternal vaccination rates; Sponsor: Sen. Kaine, Tim [D-VA]; Committees: Senate - Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

S.346 — *A bill to end preventable maternal mortality and severe maternal morbidity in the United States and close disparities in maternal health outcomes, and for other purposes; Sponsor: Sen. Booker, Cory A. [D-NJ]; Committees: Senate - Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions*

S.347 — *A bill to improve the collection and review of maternal health data to address maternal mortality, serve maternal morbidity, and other adverse maternal health outcomes; Sponsor: Sen. Smith, Tina [D-MN]; Committees: Senate - Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions*

S.350 — *A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize certain programs under part A of title XI of such Act relating to genetic diseases, and for other purposes; Sponsor: Sen. Hassan, Margaret Wood [D-NH]; Committees: Senate - Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions*

S.352 — *A bill to amend the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act to reduce health care costs and expand health care coverage to more Americans; Sponsor: Sen. Warner, Mark R. [D-VA]; Committees: Senate - Finance*

S.355 — *A bill to provide immediate relief for patients from certain medical debt collection efforts during and immediately after the COVID-19 public health emergency; Sponsor: Sen. Van Hollen, Chris [D-MD]; Committees: Senate - Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions*

H.Res.152 — *Supporting the designation of March 2021 as Endometriosis Awareness Month; Sponsor: Rep. Scott, David [D-GA-13]; Committees: House - Energy and Commerce*

H.R.1212 — *To end preventable maternal mortality and severe maternal morbidity in the United States and close disparities in maternal health outcomes, and for other purposes; Sponsor: Rep. Adams, Alma S. [D-NC-12]; Committees: House - Energy and Commerce*

H.R.1216 — *To establish an advisory commission regarding eligibility for health care furnished by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs; Sponsor: Rep. Bost, Mike [R-IL-12]; Committees: House - Veterans' Affairs*

H.R.1218 — *To require the Federal Communications Commission to incorporate data on maternal health outcomes into its broadband health maps; Sponsor: Rep. Butterfield, G. K. [D-NC-1]; Committees: House - Energy and Commerce*

H.R.1227 — *To establish a public health plan; Sponsor: Rep. Delgado, Antonio [D-NY-19]; Committees: House - Energy and Commerce; Ways and Means*

H.R.1235 — *To prohibit discrimination on the basis of mental or physical disability in cases of anatomical gifts and organ transplants; Sponsor: Rep. Herrera Beutler, Jaime [R-WA-3]; Committees: House - Energy and Commerce*

H.R.1255 — *To promote and protect from discrimination living organ donors; Sponsor: Rep. Nadler, Jerrold [D-NY-10]; Committees: House - Energy and Commerce; Oversight and Reform; House Administration; Education and Labor; Financial Services*

H.R.1268 — *To require the Secretary of Health and Human Services to award targeted grants to State, Tribal, Territorial, and local health departments or nonprofit organizations in geographic locations with racial and ethnic minorities and other vulnerable populations disproportionately impacted by COVID-19 to disseminate information regarding the safety and efficacy of COVID-19 vaccines, and for other purposes; Sponsor: Rep. Velazquez, Nydia M. [D-NY-7]; Committees: House - Energy and Commerce*

H.R.1269 — To amend titles II and XVIII of the Social Security Act to establish a Social Security Surplus Protection Account in the Federal Old-Age and Survivors Insurance Trust Fund to hold the Social Security surplus and a Medicare Surplus Protection Account in the Federal Hospital Insurance Trust Fund to hold the Medicare surplus, to provide for suspension of investment of amounts held in such Accounts until enactment of legislation providing for investment of the Trust Funds in investment vehicles other than obligations of the United States, and to establish a Social Security and Medicare Part A Investment Commission to make recommendations for alternative forms of investment of the Social Security and Medicare surpluses; Sponsor: Rep. Walberg, Tim [R-MI-7]; Committees: House - Ways and Means

H.R.1273 — To direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to study and report on the prevalence of cholangiocarcinoma in veterans who served in the Vietnam theater of operations during the Vietnam era, and for other purposes; Sponsor: Rep. Zeldin, Lee M. [R-NY-1]; Committees: House - Veterans' Affairs

S.368 — A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to make permanent certain telehealth flexibilities under the Medicare program related to the COVID-19 public health emergency; Sponsor: Sen. Scott, Tim [R-SC]; Committees: Senate - Finance

S.372 — A bill to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to enter into a contract or other agreement with a third party to review appointees in the Veterans Health Administration who had a license terminated for cause by a State licensing board for care or services rendered at a non-Veterans Health Administration facility and to provide individuals treated by such an appointee with notice if it is determined that an episode of care or services that they received was below the standard of care, and for other purposes; Sponsor: Sen. Ernst, Joni [R-IA]; Committees: Senate - Veterans' Affairs

S.373 — A bill to strengthen the use of patient-experience data within the benefit-risk framework for approval of new drugs; Sponsor: Sen. Wicker, Roger F. [R-MS]; Committees: Senate - Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

S.377 — A bill to promote and protect from discrimination living organ donors; Sponsor: Sen. Gillibrand, Kirsten E. [D-NY]; Committees: Senate - Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

S.380 — A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to improve access to health care through expanded health savings accounts, and for other purposes; Sponsor: Sen. Rubio, Marco [R-FL]; Committees: Senate - Finance

S.386 — A bill to establish a public health plan; Sponsor: Sen. Bennet, Michael F. [D-CO]; Committees: Senate - Finance

S.399 — A bill to prohibit the Secretary of Veterans Affairs from charging veterans copayments for preventive services relating to COVID-19; Sponsor: Sen. Duckworth, Tammy [D-IL]; Committees: Senate - Veterans' Affairs

H.R.1276 — To authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to furnish COVID-19 vaccines to certain individuals, and for other purposes; Sponsor: Rep. Takano, Mark [D-CA-41]; Committees: House - Veterans' Affairs

H.R.1304 — To amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to restore the deduction for research and experimental expenditures; Sponsor: Rep. Larson, John B. [D-CT-1]; Committees: House - Ways and Means

H.R.1305 — To modernize laws and policies, and eliminate discrimination, with respect to people living with HIV/AIDS, and for other purposes; Sponsor: Rep. Lee, Barbara [D-CA-13]; Committees: House - Judiciary; Energy and Commerce; Armed Services

H.R.1306 — To establish the Commission on the Coronavirus Pandemic in the United States; Sponsor: Rep. Malinowski, Tom [D-NJ-7]; Committees: House - Energy and Commerce

S.Res.74 — A resolution designating February 28, 2021, as "Rare Disease Day"; Sponsor: Sen. Brown, Sherrod [D-OH]; Submitted in the Senate, considered, and agreed to without amendment and with a preamble by Unanimous Consent.

S.408 — A bill to require the Secretary of Health and Human Services to publish guidance for States on strategies for maternal care providers participating in the Medicaid program to reduce maternal mortality and severe morbidity with respect to individuals receiving medical assistance under such program; Sponsor: Sen. Toomey, Pat [R-PA]; Committees: Senate - Finance

S.411 — A bill to improve Federal efforts with respect to the prevention of maternal mortality, and for other purposes; Sponsor: Sen. Durbin, Richard J. [D-IL]; Committees: Senate - Finance

S.412 — A bill to establish the Commission on the Coronavirus Pandemic in the United States; Sponsor: Sen. Menendez, Robert [D-NJ]; Committees: Senate - Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

S.415 — A bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act with respect to the scope of new chemical exclusivity; Sponsor: Sen. Cassidy, Bill [R-LA]; Committees: Senate - Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

S.423 — A bill to direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to establish a grant program to protect vulnerable mothers and babies from climate change risks, and for other purposes; Sponsor: Sen. Markey, Edward J. [D-MA]; Committees: Senate - Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

H.R.1324 — To amend the Public Health Service Act to establish a program to improve the identification, assessment, and treatment of patients in hospital emergency departments who are at risk of suicide, and for other purposes; Sponsor: Rep. Bilirakis, Gus M. [R-FL-12]; Committees: House - Energy and Commerce

H.R.1330 — To repeal changes made by health care reform laws to the Medicare exception to the prohibition on certain physician referrals for hospitals, and for other purposes; Sponsor: Rep. Burgess, Michael C. [R-TX-26]; Committees: House - Energy and Commerce; Ways and Means

H.R.1331 — To amend the Public Health Service Act to reduce health inequities experienced by individuals who are members of historically racial and ethnic minority groups under State plans under the community mental health services block grant program, and for other purposes; Sponsor: Rep. Cardenas, Tony [D-CA-29]; Committees: House - Energy and Commerce

H.R.1332 — To amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to make permanent certain telehealth flexibilities under the Medicare program related to the COVID-19 public health emergency; Sponsor: Rep. Carter, Earl L. "Buddy" [R-GA-1]; Committees: House - Energy and Commerce; Ways and Means

H.R.1342 — To authorize a study on the efficacy and potential negative impacts of masks to human health, and for other purposes; Sponsor: Rep. Gohmert, Louie [R-TX-1]; Committees: House - Energy and Commerce; Judiciary

H.R.1349 — To amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for the conversion of certain accelerated and advance payments to grants under parts A and B of the Medicare program; Sponsor: Rep. Kaptur, Marcy [D-OH-9]; Committees: House - Energy and Commerce; Ways and Means

H.R.1350 — To require the Secretary of Health and Human Services to publish guidance for States on strategies for maternal care providers participating in the Medicaid program to reduce maternal mortality and severe morbidity with respect to individuals receiving medical assistance under such program; Sponsor: Rep. Kelly, Robin L. [D-IL-2]; Committees: House - Energy and Commerce

H.R.1353 — To amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to increase Federal support to State Medicaid programs during economic downturns, and for other purposes; Sponsor: Rep. Lee, Susie [D-NV-3]; Committees: House - Energy and Commerce

H.R.1364 — 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.1368 — To authorize the Secretary of Health and Human Services to award grants to States and political subdivisions of States to hire, employ, train, and dispatch mental health professionals to respond in lieu of law enforcement officers in emergencies involving one or more persons with a mental illness or an intellectual or developmental disability, and for other purposes; Sponsor: Rep. Porter, Katie [D-CA-45]; Committees: House - Energy and Commerce; Judiciary

H.R.1370 — To require the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to collect and report certain data concerning COVID-19; Sponsor: Rep. Pressley, Ayanna [D-MA-7]; Committees: House - Energy and Commerce; Natural Resources

H.R.1372 — To prohibit States from suspending, revoking, or denying State-issued professional licenses or issuing penalties due to student default; Sponsor: Rep. Ross, Deborah K. [D-NC-2]; Committees: House - Education and Labor

H.R.1373 — To amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to require a Federal medical assistance percentage of 100 percent for urban Indian organizations, and for other purposes; Sponsor: Rep. Ruiz, Raul [D-CA-36]; Committees: House - Energy and Commerce

H.R.1384 — To amend section 303(g) of the Controlled Substances Act (21 U.S.C. 823(g)) to eliminate the separate registration requirement for dispensing narcotic drugs in schedule III, IV, or V (such as buprenorphine) for maintenance or detoxification treatment, and for other purposes; Sponsor: Rep. Tonko, Paul [D-NY-20]; Committees: House - Energy and Commerce; Ways and Means; Judiciary

H.R.1385 — To establish the position of Interagency Coordinator for Behavioral Health to coordinate the programs and activities of the Federal Government relating to mental health, and for other purposes; Sponsor: Rep. Trone, David J. [D-MD-6]; Committees: House - Energy and Commerce

H.R.1390 — To increase support for State Children's Health Insurance programs during the COVID-19 emergency, and for other purposes; Sponsor: Rep. Wild, Susan [D-PA-7]; Committees: House - Energy and Commerce

S.439 — A bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to increase Federal support to State Medicaid programs during economic downturns, and for other purposes; Sponsor: Sen. Casey, Robert P., Jr. [D-PA]; Committees: Senate - Finance

S.445 — A bill to amend section 303(g) of the Controlled Substances Act (21 U.S.C. 823(g)) to eliminate the separate registration requirement for dispensing narcotic drugs in schedule III, IV, or V, such as buprenorphine, for maintenance or detoxification treatment, and for other purposes; Sponsor: Sen. Hassan, Margaret Wood [D-NH]; Committees: Senate - Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

S.448 — A bill to amend title XXI of the Social Security Act to prohibit lifetime or annual limits on dental coverage under the Children's Health Insurance Program, and to require wraparound coverage of dental services for certain children under such program; Sponsor: Sen. Cardin, Benjamin L. [D-MD]; Committees: Senate - Finance

S.453 — A bill to increase support for State Children's Health Insurance programs during the COVID-19 emergency, and for other purposes; Sponsor: Sen. Casey, Robert P., Jr. [D-PA]; Committees: Senate - Finance

S.454 — A bill to provide health care and benefits to veterans who were exposed to toxic substances while serving as members of the Armed Forces at Karshi Khanabad Air Base, Uzbekistan, and for other purposes; Sponsor: Sen. Blumenthal, Richard [D-CT]; Committees: Senate - Veterans' Affairs

S.464 — A bill to amend the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 to require a group health plan or health insurance coverage offered in connection with such a plan to provide an exceptions process for any medication step therapy protocol, and for other purposes; Sponsor: Sen. Murkowski, Lisa [R-AK]; Committees: Senate - Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

S.465 — A bill to establish and support public awareness campaigns to address COVID-19-related health disparities and promote vaccination; Sponsor: Sen. Menendez, Robert [D-NJ]; Committees: Senate - Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

S.467 — A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to establish a program to improve the identification, assessment, and treatment of patients in hospital emergency departments who are at risk of suicide, and for other purposes; Sponsor: Sen. Murkowski, Lisa [R-AK]; Committees: Senate - Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

S.482 — A bill to direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services and other Federal officials to compile into a searchable database information relating to Federal support for biomedical research and development related to COVID-19, and for other purposes; Sponsor: Sen. Merkley, Jeff [D-OR]; Committees: Senate - Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

S.484 — A bill to establish grant programs for maternal mental health equity and to grow and diversify the maternal mental and behavioral health care workforce; Sponsor: Sen. Gillibrand, Kirsten E. [D-NY]; Committees: Senate - Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions