The following information comes from directly from news sources including Bloomberg Government, Kaiser Health News, and other news sources.

**Schedules: White House and Congress**

**WHITE HOUSE:**

- President Joe Biden, First Lady Jill Biden, Vice President Kamala Harris, and Second Gentleman Douglas Emhoff will attend a Democratic National Committee holiday celebration in Washington at 6:15 p.m., where the president and vice-president will speak.

**CONGRESS:**

- House members are scheduled to vote on the resolution finding Meadows in contempt and a bill to combat Islamophobia.

- The Senate plans to vote on a measure to raise the U.S. debt ceiling.

**Congressional, Health Policy, and Political News**

- **CBS News: Surge In Americans Skipping Medical Care Due To Cost, Gallup Says:** Nearly a third of Americans — triple the share since March — say they've skipped medical care for a health problem in the previous three months due to concerns about the cost, according to a new study from Gallup and West Health. High medical costs are even impacting higher-income Americans, with 1 in 5 households earning more than $120,000 annually saying they also have bypassed care, the research shows. That's an almost seven-fold increase for higher-income families since March.

- **Modern Healthcare: Senate Removes DSH Cuts From Build Back Better Act After Hospital Pushback:** After fierce pushback from hospitals, the Senate's version of President Joe Biden's $1.7 trillion social spending package excludes the House's cuts to Medicaid disproportionate share hospital payments. The House-passed Build Back Better Act would cut Medicaid DSH payments by 12.5% to hospitals operating in the 12 states that have not expanded Medicaid under the Affordable Care Act. House Democrats justified these cuts because the bill also would provide subsidized private health insurance from the exchanges to those who would qualify for Medicaid had their home states broadened program eligibility, thereby reducing the need for DSH funding to cover uncompensated care costs.

- **Bloomberg Government: FDA Nominee Hearing:** The Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee meets for a hearing today on the nomination of Robert Califf to be commissioner of the Food and Drug Administration. Six other former FDA chiefs yesterday sent committee leaders a joint letter endorsing Califf, saying he “has the experience to be effective from day one.”
The New York Times: Manchin Casts Doubt On Quick Vote On Biden’s Social Policy Bill:
Senator Joe Manchin III of West Virginia, the most prominent Democratic holdout on President Biden’s $2.2 trillion social safety net, climate and tax bill, cast fresh doubt on Monday on his party’s plans to speed the measure through the Senate before Christmas, saying he still had grave concerns about how it would affect the economy. Mr. Manchin outlined his skepticism before speaking by telephone about the bill with Mr. Biden, a discussion that aides to both later characterized as positive. After the call, Mr. Manchin, who represents West Virginia, did not rule out the possibility of supporting the measure this month.

Bloomberg Government: Medical Trial Diversity Ignored by FDA in Fee Plan, Groups Say:
Medical advocacy groups are insisting that stronger commitments to improving clinical trial diversity be included in the next user fee deal between the FDA and drugmakers, which will establish industry’s top priorities for the next five years.
  o An updated proposal implementing the fees companies pay to help get their cutting edge drugs to market wouldn’t hold them accountable for broadening the pool of patients who enroll in studies, the groups say. The disproportionate Covid-19 case and death rates among Americans of color underscore the need to make sure clinical trials reflect the actual population affected by a particular disease or condition under scrutiny, they say. Many drugmakers, however, say the user fee deal is the wrong avenue to address the issue.