

HEALTH POLICY UPDATE: November 17, 2022

Congressional Schedule:

- The Senate convened at 10 a.m. Following leader remarks, the Senate will resume consideration of the Schumer, D-N.Y., motion to proceed to the Respect for Marriage Act (HR 8404). No votes have been scheduled.
 - Bills:
 - HR 8404 — Respect for Marriage Act
- The House reconvenes at noon for legislative business and is expected to consider measures under suspension of the rules. The chamber will also take final votes on several bills under suspension of the rules.
 - Bills:
 - S 3092 — FEMA Improvement, Reform, and Efficiency (FIRE) Act
 - HR 8416 — Disaster Survivors Fairness Act
 - S 3369 — Max Cleland VA Medical Center Act
 - S 4359 — Senator Johnny Isakson VA Regional Office Act
 - HR 5721 — VA Infrastructure Powers Exceptional Research (VIPER) Act
 - HR 7299 — A bill to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to obtain an independent cybersecurity assessment of information systems of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.
 - HR 2250 — Department of Veterans Affairs Information Technology Reform Act
 - HR 3630 — Lymphedema Treatment Act
 - HR 4275 — Ensuring Phone and Internet Access for SNAP Recipients Act
 - HR 6290 — Manufacturing.gov Act
 - HR 5502 — A bill to require online marketplaces to verify certain information regarding high-volume third-party sellers of consumer products on such online marketplaces and to disclose to consumers certain contact and other information regarding such high-volume third-party sellers.
 - S 533 — Guidance Clarity Act

Health policy update:

- Drug pricing and Inflation Reduction Act-related items

- Bloomberg (Opinion): Medicare's Drug-Price Negotiations Can Get More Ambitious. Here's How - <https://www.bloomberg.com/opinion/articles/2022-11-17/medicare-plan-to-negotiate-prescription-drug-prices-should-be-more-ambitious#xj4y7vzkg>
 - Health Affairs: Accumulators And Maximizers: A New Front In The Battle Over Drug Costs (Part 1) - <https://www.healthaffairs.org/content/forefront/accumulators-and-maximizers-new-front-battle-over-drug-costs-part-1>
 - The Hill: Senators introduce bill to lower prescription costs for seniors with chronic illnesses - <https://thehill.com/policy/healthcare/3738190-senators-introduce-bill-to-lower-prescription-costs-for-seniors-with-chronic-illnesses/>
 - Healthcare Dive: Divided Congress after midterms will allow HHS to execute on policy priorities, Becerra says - <https://www.healthcaredive.com/news/divided-congress-midterms-hhs-agenda-becerra-medicare-drug-negotiation/636663/>
 - Fierce Healthcare: New Senate bill seeks to add Part D options for PACE beneficiaries - <https://www.fiercehealthcare.com/payers/new-senate-bill-seeks-add-part-d-options-pace-beneficiaries>
- Nurse staffing
 - MedCity News: Until Nurses Are Included in Reimbursement Models, Expect Them to Keep Leaving the Profession in Droves - <https://medcitynews.com/2022/11/until-nurses-are-included-in-reimbursement-models-expect-them-to-keep-leaving-the-profession-in-droves/>
 - Becker's Hospital Review: Healthcare employment in 20 numbers - <https://www.beckershospitalreview.com/workforce/healthcare-employment-in-20-numbers.html>
 - McKights Senior Living: Providers, states grapple with billion-dollar needs ahead of federal staffing minimum - <https://www.mcknights.com/news/128995/>
 - McKights Senior Living: Fitch Ratings: Record-high staffing shortages hamper long-term care operations - <https://www.mcknightsseniorliving.com/home/news/business-daily-news/fitch-ratings-record-high-staffing-shortages-hamper-long-term-care-operations/>
 - Fierce Healthcare: Leapfrog Group: Hospitals have made 'significant' patient safety gains over the past decade - <https://www.fiercehealthcare.com/providers/leapfrog-group-hospitals-have-made-significant-patient-safety-gains-over-past-decade>

- Organ donation and transplantation items
 - Still looking for House Oversight report
 - No new items
- Vision/dental care in Medicare-related items
 - No new items
- Physical rehabilitation
 - No new items
- Hospital and physician payment-related items
 - America's Health Insurance Plans (Press Release): AHIP Surprise Medical Billing Amicus Brief Supports Health Care Affordability and Choice for Patients and Consumers - <https://www.ahip.org/news/press-releases/ahip-surprise-medical-billing-amicus-brief-supports-health-care-affordability-and-choice-for-patients-and-consumers>
 - RevCycleIntelligence: House Committee Urges GAO to Examine Hospital Price Transparency Compliance - <https://revcycleintelligence.com/news/house-committee-urges-gao-to-examine-hospital-price-transparency-compliance>
 - Fierce Healthcare: Urban Institute: Most adults unaware of looming Medicaid eligibility redeterminations - <https://www.fiercehealthcare.com/payers/urban-institute-most-adults-not-aware-looming-medicaid-eligibility-redeterminations>
- Nursing home quality initiative
 - Skilled Nursing News: Wisconsin Nursing Homes to See Medicaid Rate Increase - <https://skillednursingnews.com/2022/11/wisconsin-nursing-homes-to-see-medicaid-rate-increase/>
 - Inside Health Policy: DOL Recoups \$28.6 Million In Back Wages For Home Health, SNF Workers - <https://insidehealthpolicy.com/daily-news/dol-recoups-286-million-back-wages-home-health-snf-workers>
- Health equity-related items
 - No new items
- Hospital merger news

- No new items
- Telehealth news
 - No new items
- 118th Congress and lame-duck news
 - Wall Street Journal: What GOP Control of the House Means for Inflation, Taxes, Healthcare - <https://www.wsj.com/articles/what-gop-control-of-the-house-means-for-inflation-taxes-healthcare-11668681002>
 - Washington Post: GOP control of the House means covid investigations - <https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/2022/11/17/gop-control-house-means-covid-investigations/>
 - Bloomberg: Democrats Falter in Sprint to Lift Debt Ceiling as GOP Digs in - <https://www.bgov.com/next/news/RLG834T0AFB4>
 - Forbes: Here's What The Midterm Election Means For Seniors And Their Families - <https://www.forbes.com/sites/howardgleckman/2022/11/16/what-will-the-mid-term-elections-mean-for-seniors-and-their-families/?sh=4f6e5f9f24dd>
 - Stat News: In a Republican-led House, anti-science probes top the agenda - <https://www.statnews.com/2022/11/16/republicans-take-house-anti-science-probes/>