

## HEALTH POLICY UPDATE: November 29, 2022

### Congressional Schedule:

- The Senate convenes at noon. Following leader remarks, the Senate will resume consideration of the Respect for Marriage Act (HR 8404). The Senate will recess from 12:30 p.m. to 2:15 p.m. for weekly caucus lunches. At 3:45 p.m., the Senate will conduct up to two minutes of debate prior to each amendment, if offered, and vote on the following in the order listed: adoption of the Lee, R-Utah, amendment no. 6482, with a 60-vote affirmative threshold; adoption of the Lankford, R-Okla., amendment no. 6496; adoption of the Rubio, R-Fla., amendment no. 6493; adoption of the Schumer, D-N.Y., for Baldwin, D-Wis., substitute amendment no. 6487, as amended, if amended; and passage of HR 8404, as amended, with a 60-vote affirmative threshold. Following disposition of HR 8404, the Schumer motions to invoke cloture on the following nominations will ripen: Camille L. Velez-Rive to be U.S. district judge for the District of Puerto Rico and Anne M. Nardacci to be U.S. district judge for the Northern District of New York.
  - Bills:
    - HR 8404 — Respect for Marriage Act
  - Nominations:
    - Camille L. Velez-Rive to be U.S. district judge for the District of Puerto Rico.
    - Anne M. Nardacci to be U.S. district judge for the Northern District of New York.
- The House reconvenes at 2 p.m. for legislative business and is expected to consider measures under suspension of the rules. Roll call votes will be postponed until 6:30 p.m.
  - Bills:
    - HR 2521 — Delivering Optimally Urgent Labor Access for Veterans Affairs (DOULA for VA) Act
    - HR 4601 — Commitment to Veteran Support and Outreach Act
    - HR 4772 — Mark O'Brien VA Clothing Allowance Improvement Act
    - HR 5943 — A bill to designate the outpatient clinic of the Department of Veterans Affairs in Greenville, South Carolina, as the "Lance Corporal Dana Cornell Darnell Outpatient Clinic."
    - HR 7158 — Long-Term Care Veterans Choice Act
    - S 231 — Protecting Firefighters from Adverse Substances (PFAS) Act
    - S 4003 — Law Enforcement De-Escalation Training Act
    - S 3846 — Justice and Mental Health Collaboration Reauthorization Act
    - S 3115 — Pro bono Work to Empower and Represent Act

- HR 5455 — Terry Technical Correction Act
- H Res 922 — A resolution condemning the use of hunger as a weapon of war and recognizing the effect of conflict on global food security and famine.
- H Res 744 — A resolution condemning the Government of Iran's state-sponsored persecution of its Baha'i minority and its continued violation of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.
- HR 4785 — Uyghur Policy Act
- HR 9308 — To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 6401 El Cajon Boulevard in San Diego, California, as the Susan A. Davis Post Office.
- HR 8025 — A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 100 South 1st Street in Minneapolis, Minnesota, as the "Martin Olav Sabo Post Office."
- HR 8203 — A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 651 Business Interstate Highway 35 North Suite 420 in New Braunfels, Texas, as the "Bob Krueger Post Office."
- S 3825 — A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 3903 Melear Drive in Arlington, Texas, as the 'Ron Wright Post Office Building.'
- HR 4899 — A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 10 Broadway Street West, in Akeley, Minnesota, as the "Neal Kenneth Todd Post Office."

### Health policy update:

- Drug pricing and Inflation Reduction Act-related items
  - Washington Post (Opinion): In health care, America is the world's indispensable nation - <https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/2022/11/29/us-health-care-expensive-indispensable-nation/>
  - Politico: PBM lobby gears up for lawmaker scrutiny - <https://subscriber.politicopro.com/newsletter/2022/11/pbm-lobby-gears-up-for-lawmaker-scrutiny-00071069>
  - Axios: Standalone drug plans broached for frail seniors in community-based care - <https://www.axios.com/2022/11/29/standalone-drug-plans-broached-for-frail-seniors-in-community-based-care>
  - Stat News: PhRMA, once invincible in Washington, has lost its edge - <https://www.statnews.com/2022/11/29/phrma-once-invincible-in-washington-has-lost-its-edge/>

- Nurse staffing
  - Medical Economics: U.S. health care a 'very mixed picture' with challenges for primary care, staffing - <https://www.medicaleconomics.com/view/u-s-health-care-a-very-mixed-picture-with-challenges-for-primary-care-staffing>
- Organ donation and transplantation items
  - Still looking for House Oversight report
  - MedPage Today: After Major Motorcycle Rallies, More Organs Available for Donation - <https://www.medpagetoday.com/transplantation/transplantation/101938>
- Vision/dental care in Medicare-related items
  - No new items
- Physical rehabilitation
  - No new items
- Hospital and physician payment-related items
  - Medical Economics: Why Richard Nixon's ghost is haunting CMS - <https://www.medicaleconomics.com/view/why-richard-nixon-s-ghost-is-haunting-cms>
  - Becker's Hospital Review: No Surprises Act disputes hit 'logjam' as lawsuit looms - <https://www.beckershospitalreview.com/finance/no-surprises-act-disputes-hit-logjam-as-lawsuit-looms.html>
  - Fierce Healthcare: Post-ACA hospital readmission gains evaporate when accounting for observation stays, study finds - <https://www.fiercehealthcare.com/providers/post-aca-hospital-readmission-gains-evaporate-when-accounting-observation-stays-study>
  - Fierce Healthcare: Providers in Direct Contracting Model saved Medicare \$70M in 2021, CMS reports - <https://www.fiercehealthcare.com/payers/providers-direct-contracting-model-saved-medicare-70m-2021-cms-reports>
- Nursing home quality initiative
  - Health Leaders: California Has The Most High-Performing Nursing Homes In U.S. News' Ratings - <https://www.healthleadersmedia.com/post-acute/california-has-most-high-performing-nursing-homes-us-news-ratings>

- Health equity-related items
  - No new items
- Hospital merger news
  - The Hill (Opinion): Stop hospital consolidations to lower health care prices for all Americans - <https://thehill.com/opinion/healthcare/3747077-stop-hospital-consolidations-to-lower-health-care-prices-for-all-americans/>
  - Health Leaders: Hospitals Embrace Mergers As Path To Survival - <https://www.healthleadersmedia.com/strategy/hospitals-embrace-mergers-path-survival>
  - Modern Healthcare: Controversial Illinois hospital project gets OK to move forward - [https://www.modernhealthcare.com/providers/quincy-medical-group-hospital-illinois-blessing-health-system?utm\\_source=modern-healthcare-am-tuesday&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=20221128&utm\\_content=article-3-headline](https://www.modernhealthcare.com/providers/quincy-medical-group-hospital-illinois-blessing-health-system?utm_source=modern-healthcare-am-tuesday&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=20221128&utm_content=article-3-headline)
- Telehealth news
  - AHIP: Survey Says: Voters Want Federal Government to Extend Telehealth Flexibilities - <https://www.ahip.org/news/articles/survey-says-voters-want-federal-government-to-extend-telehealth-flexibilities>
  - Politico: Covid forced rural health care to go virtual. Providers don't want to go back - <https://subscriber.politicopro.com/article/2022/11/covid-forced-rural-health-care-to-go-virtual-providers-dont-want-to-go-back-00071049?source=email>
  - Managed Healthcare Executive: Investments in Telehealth are Expected to Decrease - <https://www.managedhealthcareexecutive.com/view/investments-in-telehealth-are-expected-to-decrease>
  - RevCycleIntelligence: Telehealth Requires Efforts to Improve Access to Reach Full Potential - <https://mhealthintelligence.com/news/telehealth-requires-efforts-to-improve-access-to-reach-full-potential>
- 118<sup>th</sup> Congress and lame-duck news
  - Washington Post: Lame-duck Congress returning to Washington with full agenda waiting - <https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/2022/11/28/lame-duck-congress-spending-biden/>

- CBS News: Congress stares down lengthy legislative to-do list in lame-duck session - <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/congress-lame-duck-respect-for-marriage-act-government-funding/>
- The Hill: McCarthy fight for Speakership looms over lame-duck December - <https://thehill.com/homenews/3753609-mccarthy-fight-for-speakership-looms-over-lame-duck-december/>
- ALS news
  - ALS News Today: FOCUS-C9 Clinical Trial Advances; Complete Data Due 1st Half 2023 - <https://alsnewstoday.com/news/focus-c9-clinical-trial-advances-complete-data-due-1st-half-2023/>