

## HEALTH POLICY UPDATE: November 30, 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 invoke cloture on the nomination of Camille L. Velez-Rive to be a U.S. district judge for the District of Puerto Rico. At 11:30 a.m., the cloture motions on the following nominations will ripen: Velez-Rive, Anne M. Nardacci to be a U.S. district judge for the Northern District of New York, Jerry W. Blackwell to be a U.S. district judge for the District of Minnesota, and Doris L. Pryor to be a U.S. circuit judge for the Seventh Circuit. At that time, the Senate will vote on agreeing to the Schumer motion to invoke cloture on the Velez-Rive and Nardacci nominations. If cloture is invoked, all post-cloture time will expire at 2:15 p.m., and the Senate will vote on confirmation of the Velez-Rive and Nardacci nominations.
  - 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.
    - Jerry W. Blackwell to be a U.S. district judge for the District of Minnesota.
    - Doris L. Pryor to be a U.S. circuit judge for the Seventh Circuit.
- The House reconvenes at noon for legislative business. The chamber is expected to consider a resolution (H J Res 100) that would resolve the current rail labor dispute and an enrolling resolution (H Con Res 119) that would provide paid sick leave for rail workers. The House is also expected to take final votes under suspension of the rules on 14 bills.
  - Bills:
    - H J Res 100 — A joint resolution to provide for a resolution with respect to the unresolved disputes between certain railroads represented by the National Carriers' Conference Committee of the National Railway Labor Conference and certain of their employees.
    - H Con Res 119 — A concurrent resolution providing for a correction in the enrollment of H J Res 100.
    - 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 3115 — Pro bono Work to Empower and Represent 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 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."
- 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."
- 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.'

### Health policy update:

- Drug pricing and Inflation Reduction Act-related items
  - Bloomberg: Drug Discount Review Boards Proposed by Biden Health Agency - <https://www.bgov.com/next/news/RM45C4T1UM0W>
  - Health Leaders: Have A 340B Dispute? Prepare For Possible Changes - <https://www.healthleadersmedia.com/revenue-cycle/have-340b-dispute-prepare-possible-changes>
  - Becker's Hospital Review: 6 recent payer pharmacy moves - <https://www.beckerspayer.com/payer/6-recent-payer-pharmacy-moves.html>
- Nurse staffing
  - Healthcare Dive: Travel nurse pay remains high as hospitals fill gaps from permanent staff departures - <https://www.healthcaredive.com/news/travel-nurse-pay-high-hospitals-staffing/637412/>

- Inside Health Policy: Physicians Decry Scope Of Practice Bill As Workforce Shortages Drag On - <https://insidehealthpolicy.com/daily-news/physicians-decry-scope-practice-bill-workforce-shortages-drag>
- Chief Healthcare Executive: Nursing shortage requires hospitals to improve work environment, experts say - <https://www.chiefhealthcareexecutive.com/view/nursing-shortage-requires-hospitals-to-improve-work-environment-experts-say>
- McKnight's Senior Living: Worker shortages, waiting list inaccuracies complicate HCBS programs - <https://www.mcknightsseniorliving.com/home/news/worker-shortages-waiting-list-inaccuracies-complicate-hcbs-programs/>
- Organ donation and transplantation items
  - Still looking for House Oversight report
  - AAMC: How our organ transplant system fails people of color - <https://www.aamc.org/news-insights/how-our-organ-transplant-system-fails-people-color>
- Vision/dental care in Medicare-related items
  - No new items
- Physical rehabilitation
  - No new items
- Hospital and physician payment-related items
  - Washington Post (Opinion): Medicare Advantage? More like Medicare Disadvantage - <https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/2022/11/30/medicare-advantage-seniors-health-care/>
  - The Hill (Opinion): Medicare is cutting critical cancer care funding — it's time for Congress to step in - <https://thehill.com/opinion/congress-blog/3755457-medicare-is-cutting-critical-cancer-care-funding-its-time-for-congress-to-step-in/>
  - MedCity News: Report: Average Monthly Premiums for MA Plans Up First Time in 4 Years - [https://medcitynews.com/2022/11/report-average-monthly-premiums-for-ma-plans-up-first-time-in-4-years/?utm\\_campaign=MCN%20Daily%20Top%20Stories&utm\\_medium=email&hsmi=236056549&hsenc=p2ANqtz---3HX0WD6RMmKD4lwz29bFISjPku-](https://medcitynews.com/2022/11/report-average-monthly-premiums-for-ma-plans-up-first-time-in-4-years/?utm_campaign=MCN%20Daily%20Top%20Stories&utm_medium=email&hsmi=236056549&hsenc=p2ANqtz---3HX0WD6RMmKD4lwz29bFISjPku-)

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- Modern Healthcare: Taxpayers pay when community health centers face malpractice lawsuits - [https://www.modernhealthcare.com/legal/community-health-centers-malpractice-cases?utm\\_source=modern-healthcare-am-wednesday&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=20221129&utm\\_content=article4-headline](https://www.modernhealthcare.com/legal/community-health-centers-malpractice-cases?utm_source=modern-healthcare-am-wednesday&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=20221129&utm_content=article4-headline)
- Becker's Hospital Review: Americans are curbing health spending as inflation rises. Here's how employers can help - <https://www.beckershospitalreview.com/finance/americans-are-curbing-health-spending-as-inflation-rises-here-s-how-employers-can-help.html>
- RevCycleIntelligence: House Committee Requests Changes to Final Surprise Billing Rule - <https://revcycleintelligence.com/news/house-committee-requests-changes-to-final-surprise-billing-rule>
- Nursing home quality initiative
  - No new items
- Health equity-related items
  - MedCity News: Healthcare Needs the Quintuple Aim - <https://medcitynews.com/2022/11/healthcare-needs-the-quintuple-aim/>
  - RevCycleIntelligence: How Social Determinants of Health Data Can Inform More Effective Care - <https://patientengagementhit.com/news/how-social-determinants-of-health-data-can-inform-more-effective-care>
- Hospital merger news
  - Becker's Hospital Review: Hospitals, health systems see mergers as path to survival - <https://www.beckershospitalreview.com/finance/hospitals-health-systems-see-mergers-as-path-to-survival.html>
- Telehealth news
  - Health Leaders: How Telehealth Turned Rural Medicine Upside Down - <https://www.healthleadersmedia.com/clinical-care/how-telehealth-turned-rural-medicine-upside-down>
  - Inside Health Policy: Moody's: Cyber Risk High For Hospitals, Low For Pharma - <https://insidehealthpolicy.com/daily-news/moody%E2%80%99s-cyber-risk-high-hospitals-low-pharma>

- 118<sup>th</sup> Congress and lame-duck news
  - Bloomberg: Biden, Congressional Leaders Agree to Work on 2023 Funding Deal - <https://www.bgov.com/next/news/RM4ESCT0G1KW>
  - Bloomberg: GOP's Thune Sees Debt Ceiling Hike as Vehicle for Budget Cuts - <https://www.bgov.com/next/news/RM4PG4T0AFB4>
  
- ALS news
  - Healio: Eikonoklastes, Forge announce partnership to develop ALS gene therapy - <https://www.healio.com/news/neurology/20221129/eikonoklastes-forge-announce-partnership-to-develop-als-gene-therapy>