

HEALTH POLICY UPDATE: December 12, 2022

Congressional Schedule:

- The Senate convenes at 3 p.m. Following leader remarks, the Senate will resume consideration of the nomination of Tamika R. Montgomery-Reeves to be a U.S. Circuit Judge for the 3rd Circuit. At 5:30, the Senate will vote on confirmation of the Montgomery-Reeves nomination.
 - Nominations:
 - Tamika R. Montgomery-Reeves to be U.S. Circuit Judge for the 3rd Circuit.
- 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 7077 — Empowering the U.S. Fire Administration Act
 - S 558 — FLOODS Act
 - HR 8665 — National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) Modernization Act
 - HR 7535 — Quantum Computing Cybersecurity Preparedness Act
 - HR 5349 — A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1550 State Road S-38-211 in Orangeburg, South Carolina, as the "J.I. Washington Post Office Building."
 - HR 5949 — A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 615 North Bush Street, in Santa Ana, California, as the 'Judge James Perez Post Office.'
 - HR 6725 — A bill to change the address of the Marilyn Monroe Post Office, and for other purposes.
 - HR 7832 — A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 396 South California Avenue in West Covina, California, as the "Esteban E. Torres Post Office Building."
 - HR 7873 — A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 400 Southern Avenue Southeast in Washington, District of Columbia, as the "District of Columbia Servicemembers and Veterans Post Office."
 - HR 7988 — A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 79125 Corporate Centre Drive in La Quinta, California, as the "Corporal Hunter Lopez Memorial Post Office Building."
 - HR 7519 — A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 2050 South Boulevard in Bloomfield Township, Michigan, as the "Dr. Ezra S. Parke Post Office Building."

- HR 8026 — A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 825 West 65th Street in Minneapolis, Minnesota, as the "Charles W. Lindberg Post Office."
- HR 8226 — A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 236 Concord Exchange North in South Saint Paul, Minnesota, as the 'Officer Leo Pavlak Post Office Building.'
- HR 9074 — A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 333 North Sunrise Way in Palm Springs, California, as the "Chairman Richard Milanovich Post Office."
- HR 8622 — A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 123 South 3rd Street in King City, California, as the "Chief Rudy Banuelos Post Office."
- HR 7082 — A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 2200 North George Mason Drive in Arlington, Virginia, as the "Jesus Antonio Collazos Post Office Building."
- HR 7638 — A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 6000 South Florida Avenue in Lakeland, Florida, as the "U.S. Marine Corporal Ronald R. Payne Jr. Post Office."
- HR 6042 — A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 213 William Hilton Parkway in Hilton Head Island, South Carolina, as the "Casear H. Wright Jr. Post Office Building."
- HR 7514 — A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 345 South Main Street in Butler, Pennsylvania, as the "Andrew Gomer Williams Post Office Building."
- HR 6630 — A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1400 N Kraemer Blvd. in Placentia, California, as the "PFC Jang Ho Kim Post Office Building."
- HR 6218 — A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 317 Blattner Drive in Avon, Minnesota, as the "W.O.C. Kort Miller Plantenberg Post Office."
- HR 6220 — A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 100 3rd Avenue Northwest in Perham, Minnesota, as the "Charles P. Nord Post Office."
- HR 6221 — A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 155 Main Avenue West in Winsted, Minnesota, as the "James A. Rogers Jr. Post Office."
- HR 6611 — A bill to authorize the Embassy of France in Washington, DC, to establish a commemorative work in the District of Columbia and its environs to honor the extraordinary contributions of Jean Monnet to restoring peace between European nations and establishing the European Union, and for other purposes.
- S 314 — Klamath Tribe Judgment Fund Repeal Act
- S 789 — Repealing Existing Substandard Provisions Encouraging Conciliation with Tribes (RESPECT) Act

- S 1466 — Saline Lake Ecosystems in the Great Basin States Program Act
- HR 2551 — Bonneville Shoreline Trail Advancement Act
- HR 5715 — A bill to reauthorize the Morris K. Udall and Stewart L. Udall Trust Fund, and for other purposes.
- HR 6427 — Red River National Wildlife Refuge Boundary Modification Act
- HR 7496 — A bill to direct the Secretary of the Interior to install a plaque at the peak of Ram Head in the Virgin Islands National Park on St. John, United States Virgin Islands, to commemorate the slave rebellion that began on St. John in 1733.
- HR 7952 — Valley Forge Park Realignment Permit and Promise Act

Health policy update:

- Drug pricing and Inflation Reduction Act-related items
 - Wall Street Journal: Mark Cuban Has a New Job: Working at an Online Discount Pharmacy - <https://www.wsj.com/articles/mark-cuban-discount-pharmacy-prescription-drug-prices-11670540998>
 - The Hill (Opinion): How the new Congress can improve drug pricing reform - <https://thehill.com/opinion/healthcare/3768561-how-the-new-congress-can-improve-drug-pricing-reform/>
 - Axios: Biden's prescription drug pressure from the left - <https://www.axios.com/pro/health-care-policy/2022/12/12/biden-prescription-drug-pressure-warren-patents>
 - Drug Topics (Opinion): Legislation Must Control Drug Prices and Support Innovations like Biosimilars - <https://www.drugtopics.com/view/legislation-must-control-drug-prices-and-support-innovations-like-biosimilars>
 - McKnight's Senior Living: Brooks-LaSure: Medicare poised to re-evaluate coverage of new Alzheimer's drugs - <https://www.mcknights.com/news/clinical-news/brooks-lasure-medicare-poised-to-re-evaluate-coverage-of-new-alzheimers-drugs/>
- Nurse staffing
 - Becker's Hospital Review: Healthcare must innovate to attract and retain workforce, AHA says in new report - <https://www.beckershospitalreview.com/workforce/healthcare-must-innovate-to-attract-and-retain-workforce-aha-says-in-new-report.html>
- 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
 - Bloomberg: Medicare Panel Considers Call for Payment Cuts for Home Health - <https://www.bgov.com/next/news/RMN0QVDWX2PS>
 - Axios: MedPAC wants pay boost for docs and hospitals - <https://www.axios.com/2022/12/12/pay-boost-doctors-hospitals-medpac>
 - Inside Health Policy: Brooks-LaSure: CMS Urges Congress To Tackle Pending Doc Cuts - <https://insidehealthpolicy.com/daily-news/brooks-lasure-cms%E2%80%99-priority-making-sure-ma-money-%E2%80%98used-well%E2%80%99>
 - Inside Health Policy: Brooks-LaSure Keeps Plans For Price Transparency Fines Under Wraps - https://insidehealthpolicy.com/daily-news/brooks-lasure-keeps-plans-price-transparency-fines-under-wraps?utm_medium=mh
 - Inside Health Policy: Brooks-LaSure: CMS' Priority Is Making Sure MA Money Is 'Used Well' - <https://insidehealthpolicy.com/daily-news/brooks-lasure-cms%E2%80%99-priority-making-sure-ma-money-%E2%80%98used-well%E2%80%99>
 - Becker's Hospital Review: Congress urged to pay \$2B more to safety-net hospitals, AHA says - <https://www.beckershospitalreview.com/finance/congress-urged-to-pay-2b-more-to-safety-net-hospitals-aha-says.html>
 - Chief Healthcare Executive: More than 100 health groups urge Congress to stop Medicare cuts - <https://www.chiefhealthcareexecutive.com/view/more-than-100-health-groups-urge-congress-to-stop-medicare-cuts>
 - RevCycleIntelligence: Providers Leaving No Stone Unturned to Stop Medicare Payment Cuts - <https://revcycleintelligence.com/news/providers-leaving-no-stone-untuned-to-stop-medicare-payment-cuts>

- McKnights Senior Living: MedPAC recommends fresh Medicare cuts for skilled nursing - <https://www.mcknights.com/news/medpac-recommends-fresh-medicare-cuts-for-skilled-nursing/>
- Nursing home quality initiative
 - No new items
- Health equity-related items
 - Health Affairs: Redesigning Health Equity Philanthropy - <https://www.healthaffairs.org/content/forefront/redesigning-health-equity-philanthropy>
- Hospital merger news
 - Bloomberg: DOJ Antitrust, Health Inspector General Enter Enforcement Pact - <https://www.bgov.com/next/news/RMN4JLDWLU68>
- Telehealth news
 - Inside Health Policy: Congressional Staffers: Telehealth Likely To Pass In New Congress If Squeezed Out Of Year-End Bill - https://insidehealthpolicy.com/daily-news/congressional-staffers-telehealth-likely-pass-new-congress-if-squeezed-out-year-end-bill?utm_medium=mh
 - Inside Health Policy: HHS OIG Doesn't View Telehealth Fraud As A Major Concern - https://insidehealthpolicy.com/daily-news/hhs-oig-doesn%E2%80%99t-view-telehealth-fraud-major-concern?utm_medium=mh
 - Becker's Hospital Review: Rural hospital CFOs don't see telehealth as a solution to financial challenges - <https://www.beckershospitalreview.com/finance/rural-hospital-cfos-dont-see-telehealth-as-a-solution-to-financial-challenges.html>
- 118th Congress and lame-duck news
 - Bloomberg: House Agenda for the Week of Dec. 12 - <https://www.bgov.com/next/news/RMRY43DWRGG1>
- ALS news
 - No new items