

HEALTH POLICY UPDATE: December 13, 2022

Congressional Schedule:

- The Senate convenes at 10 a.m. Following leader remarks, the Senate will resume consideration of the nomination of Dana M. Douglas to be a U.S. Circuit Judge for the 5th Circuit. At noon, the Senate will vote on confirmation of the Douglas nomination. The Senate will then recess until 2:15 p.m. for weekly caucus lunches. At 2:15 p.m., the Senate will vote on confirmation of the nomination of Jay Curtis Shambaugh to be an undersecretary of the Treasury. At 3:30 p.m., the Senate will begin debate on a motion to discharge the Yemen war powers resolution (S J Res 56) from the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, with time equally divided until 7 p.m., at which point the Senate will vote on agreeing to the motion to discharge S J Res 56.
 - Nominations:
 - Dana M. Douglas to be a U.S. Circuit Judge for the 5th Circuit.
 - Jay Curtis Shambaugh to be an undersecretary of the Treasury.
 - Bills:
 - S J Res 56 — A joint resolutions directing the removal of United States Armed Forces from hostilities in the Republic of Yemen that have not been authorized by Congress.
- The House reconvenes at noon for legislative business and is expected to consider measures under suspension of the rules. The chamber is also expected to consider a bill (HR 3648) that would remove the current per-country cap on certain employment-based visas. And the House may take final votes on bills previously debated under suspension of the rules.
 - H Res 1156 — A resolution expressing the commitment of the House of Representatives to building on the twenty years of success of the George McGovern-Robert Dole Food for Education and Child Nutrition Program.
 - S 5060 — Paul D. Wellstone Building Act
 - S 4017 — A bill to designate the United States courthouse located at 111 South Highland Avenue in Jackson, Tennessee, as the "James D. Todd United States Courthouse," and for other purposes.
 - HR 1082 — Samis Law
 - S 5229 — A bill to direct the Joint Committee of Congress on the Library to remove the bust of Roger Brooke Taney in the Old Supreme Court Chamber of the Capitol, and for other purposes (official title to be confirmed).

- HR 3648 — Equal Access to Green cards for Legal Employment (EAGLE) Act
- 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 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 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 789 — Repealing Existing Substandard Provisions Encouraging Conciliation with Tribes (RESPECT) Act

Health policy update:

- Drug pricing and Inflation Reduction Act-related items
 - [Axios](https://www.axios.com/2022/12/13/biden-prescription-drug-prices-politics): Biden's drug pricing decisions aren't over - <https://www.axios.com/2022/12/13/biden-prescription-drug-prices-politics>
 - [Inside Health Policy](https://insidehealthpolicy.com/daily-news/macpac-works-recommendation-let-states-limit-drug-coverage?utm_medium=mh): MACPAC Works On Recommendation To Let States Limit Drug Coverage - https://insidehealthpolicy.com/daily-news/macpac-works-recommendation-let-states-limit-drug-coverage?utm_medium=mh

- Nurse staffing
 - No new items
- 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
 - MedPage Today (Opinion): Physical and Occupational Therapy Are on the Medicare Chopping Block - <https://www.medpagetoday.com/opinion/second-opinions/102198>
- Hospital and physician payment-related items
 - American Medical Association (Opinion): Put a stop to “Groundhog Day” games on Medicare physician pay - <https://www.ama-assn.org/practice-management/medicare-medicaid/put-stop-groundhog-day-games-medicare-physician-pay>
 - Washington Post: Surprise bills from ground ambulances is next up in the move toward reform - <https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/2022/12/13/surprise-bills-ground-ambulances-is-next-up-move-toward-reform/>
 - Healthcare Dive: Variability in Medicare direct contracting savings illustrates promises, pitfalls of value-based care - <https://www.healthcaredive.com/news/medicare-direct-contracting-aco-reach-oak-street-clover/637854/>
 - Inside Health Policy: Lawmakers Increasingly Call To Avert Doc Cuts As Schumer Plans For Week-Long Continuing Resolution - <https://insidehealthpolicy.com/features/health-insider>
 - Inside Health Policy: CMS May Limit Plan Offerings, Create New SEP For Loss Of Medicaid/CHIP - <https://insidehealthpolicy.com/daily-news/cms-may-limit-plan-offerings-create-new-sep-loss-medicaidchip>

- Modern Healthcare: CMS pitches big changes to health insurance exchange regulations - https://www.modernhealthcare.com/law-regulation/cms-proposes-changes-aca-network-adequacy-standardized-plans-rules?utm_source=modern-healthcare-am-tuesday&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=20221212&utm_content=article-1-headline
- Fierce Healthcare: Healthcare companies' default risk steadily rising, with most owned by private equity: Moody's - <https://www.fiercehealthcare.com/finance/healthcare-companies-default-risk-steadily-rising-most-owned-private-equity-moodys>
- RevCycleIntelligence: The Most Successful Alternative Payment Models from CMMI, To Date - <https://revcycleintelligence.com/features/the-most-successful-alternative-payment-models-from-cmmi-to-date>
- RevCycleIntelligence: Accountable Health Communities Grant Cut Healthcare Utilization - <https://patientengagementhit.com/news/accountable-health-communities-grant-cut-healthcare-utilization>
- Nursing home quality initiative
 - Skilled Nursing News: Skilled Nursing Game Changer: Calls for Innovation in HUD Financing Gain Momentum - <https://skillednursingnews.com/2022/12/skilled-nursing-game-changer-calls-for-innovation-in-hud-financing-gain-momentum/>
 - McKnights Senior Living: Healthcare worker safety gets new emphasis from federal agencies - <https://www.mcknights.com/news/healthcare-worker-safety-gets-new-emphasis-from-federal-agencies/>
- Health equity-related items
 - Los Angeles Times (Opinion): How rising hospital costs increase healthcare inequities for marginalized communities - <https://www.latimes.com/opinion/story/2022-12-13/rising-hospital-costs-healthcare>
- Hospital merger news
 - Axios: Bill of the Week: Stop Anticompetitive Health Act - <https://www.axios.com/pro/health-care-policy/2022/12/13/bill-of-the-week-stop-anticompetitive-health-act>
 - Becker's Hospital Review: Healthcare M&As to accelerate in 2023 amid corporate cash - <https://www.beckershospitalreview.com/finance/healthcare-m-as-to-accelerate-in-2023-amid-corporate-cash-private-equity.html>

- Telehealth news
 - Inside Health Policy: Bipartisan Group Of W&M Dems Seek HDHP Coverage In Year-End Bill - <https://insidehealthpolicy.com/inside-telehealth-daily-news/bipartisan-group-wm-dems-seek-hdhp-coverage-year-end-bill>
 - mHealthIntelligence: Healthcare CFOs: Telehealth Does Not Improve Overall Financial Picture - <https://mhealthintelligence.com/news/healthcare-cfos-telehealth-does-not-improve-overall-financial-picture>

- 118th Congress and lame-duck news
 - Bloomberg: Health Care Briefing: Senators Push \$970 Million in HHS Earmarks - <https://www.bgov.com/next/news/RMTTQGT0G1KW>
 - Bloomberg: \$16 Billion in Earmarks at Stake in Government Funding Talks - <https://www.bgov.com/next/news/RMTQHADWX2PW>
 - Bloomberg: HHS Proposal Aims to Expand Access to Behavioral Health Care - <https://www.bgov.com/next/news/RMSWTDDWRGG0>
 - Politico: ARPA-H will choose its headquarters without formally requesting proposals - <https://subscriber.politicopro.com/article/2022/12/h-will-choose-its-headquarters-without-formally-requesting-proposals-00073576>
 - Axios: Omnibus movement could mean bigger health care package - <https://www.axios.com/pro/health-care-policy/2022/12/13/lame-duck-update-omnibus-health-care>

- ALS news
 - Drug Topics: Relyvrio: A New FDA-Approved Treatment for Patients With ALS - <https://www.drugtopics.com/view/relyvrio-a-new-fda-approved-treatment-for-patients-with-als>