

HEALTH POLICY UPDATE: December 14, 2022

Congressional Schedule:

- The Senate convened at 10 a.m. Following leader remarks, the Senate will begin consideration of a joint resolution (S J Res 60) providing for congressional disapproval of a July 2022 Education Department rule related to charter schools. At noon, the Senate will vote on passage of S J Res 60. The Senate will then begin consideration of the nomination of Francisco O. Mora to be the U.S. permanent representative to the Organization of American States, with the rank of ambassador. At 5 p.m., the Senate will vote on confirmation of the Mora nomination.
 - Nominations:
 - Francisco O. Mora to be U.S. permanent representative to the Organization of American States, with the rank of ambassador.
 - Bills:
 - S J Res 60 — A joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Department of Education relating to "Final Priorities, Requirements, Definitions, and Selection Criteria-Expanding Opportunity Through Quality Charter Schools Program (CSP)-Grants to State Entities (State Entity Grants)."
- The House reconvenes at noon for legislative business. The chamber is expected to consider a one-week continuing resolution (HR 1437). The chamber is also expected to consider a bill (S 3905) that would requires federal contractors to disclose any business relationships with non-federal entities that could conflict with the work the federal government has hired them to do and a bill (S 4003) that would authorize funding for de-escalation training of law enforcement officers. Finally, the chamber may complete consideration of a bill (HR 3648) that would remove the current per-country cap on certain employment-based visas, and it may consider several measures under suspension of the rules.
 - S 3905 — Preventing Organizational Conflicts of Interest in Federal Acquisition Act
 - S 4003 — Law Enforcement De-Escalation Training Act
 - HR 1437 — Legislative vehicle for Fiscal 2023 Second Short-Term Appropriations
 - HR 3648 — Equal Access to Green cards for Legal Employment (EAGLE) Act
 - S 2607 — Iran Hostages Congressional Gold Medal Act

- 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).
- S 7 — VAWA Technical Amendment Act
- S 2991 — Countering Human Trafficking Act
- S 2899 — Prison Camera Reform Act
- S 5230 — Billy's Law

Health policy update:

- Drug pricing and Inflation Reduction Act-related items
 - Bloomberg: Medicare Drug Price Meeting Leaves Industry Wanting Clarity - <https://www.bgov.com/next/news/RMURJPT1UMOX>
 - Bloomberg: What You Need to Know About Medicare Changes for 2023 - <https://www.bgov.com/next/news/RMU09CTP3SHS>
 - CBS News: States challenge Biden to lower drug prices by allowing imports from Canada - <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/biden-lower-drug-prices-imports-from-canada/>
 - Health Affairs: Drug Pricing Reform In The Inflation Reduction Act: What Are The Implications? Part 1 - <https://www.healthaffairs.org/content/forefront/drug-pricing-reform-inflation-reduction-act-implications-part-1>
 - Stat News: New Biden changes to Obamacare coverage for generics splits the industry - <https://www.statnews.com/2022/12/13/new-biden-changes-to-obamacare-coverage-for-generics-splits-the-industry/>
 - Becker's Hospital Review: 'Patent thickets' are driving up drug costs, Kaiser leader says - <https://www.beckershospitalreview.com/pharmacy/patent-thickets-are-driving-up-drug-costs-kaiser-leader-says.html>
- Nurse staffing
 - MedPage Today: Nurse Practitioners Need Support Now More Than Ever - <https://www.medpagetoday.com/nursing/nursing/102226>
 - Healthcare Dive: Nonprofit hospitals' staffing challenges easing, Fitch says - <https://www.healthcaredive.com/news/fitch-ratings-nonprofit-hospitals-labor-staffing-shortages-COVID-19/638682/>

- Becker's Hospital Review: Hospitals take staffing challenges into their own hands - <https://www.beckershospitalreview.com/workforce/hospitals-take-staffing-challenges-into-their-own-hands.html>
- McKnight's Senior Living: Fitch: Payroll rises at life plan communities, falls at assisted living communities - <https://www.mcknightsseniorliving.com/home/news/business-daily-news/fitch-payroll-rises-at-life-plan-communities-falls-at-assisted-living-communities/>
- Organ donation and transplantation items
 - Still looking for House Oversight report
 - USA Today: Flight delays for organs: Here's why the donation transportation system needs to change - <https://www.usatoday.com/story/travel/news/2022/12/14/organ-transplant-transportation-change/10887587002/>
- Vision/dental care in Medicare-related items
 - No new items
- Physical rehabilitation
 - No new items
- Hospital and physician payment-related items
 - USA Today: Half of ambulance rides yield surprise medical bills. What's being done to protect people? - <https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/health/2022/12/13/ambulance-surprise-medical-bills/10866349002/>
 - Inside Health Policy: CMS Rejects Call To Ban Copay Accumulators In Draft 2024 Exchange Rule - https://insidehealthpolicy.com/daily-news/cms-rejects-call-ban-copay-accumulators-draft-2024-exchange-rule?utm_medium=mh
 - Inside Health Policy: Murray, Pallone Back Admin's Surprise Billing Rules, Bemoan Lawsuits - https://insidehealthpolicy.com/daily-news/murray-pallone-back-admin%E2%80%99s-surprise-billing-rules-bemoan-lawsuits?utm_medium=mh
 - Modern Healthcare: More healthcare organizations at risk of credit default, Moody's says - https://www.modernhealthcare.com/finance/moodys-more-healthcare-organizations-risk-credit-downgrades?utm_source=modern-healthcare-am-

[wednesday&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=20221213&utm_content=article1-headline](#)

- RevCycleIntelligence: Study: Safety-Net Hospitals Miss Out on Some Medicaid DSH Payments - <https://revcycleintelligence.com/news/study-safety-net-hospitals-miss-out-on-some-medicaid-dsh-payments>
- McKnights Senior Living: Provider lobbyists and lawmakers speed up pleas for help with physician fee cuts - <https://www.mcknights.com/news/provider-lobbyists-and-lawmakers-speed-up-pleas-for-help-with-physician-fee-cuts/>
- Nursing home quality initiative
 - Stat News (Opinion): Hospice care needs saving - <https://www.statnews.com/2022/12/14/hospice-care-needs-saving/>
- Health equity-related items
 - No new items
- Hospital merger news
 - Office of Representative Pramila Jayapal (Press Release): Jayapal and Spartz Introduce Bill to Stop Hospital Anticompetitive Behavior - <https://jayapal.house.gov/2022/12/13/jayapal-and-spartz-introduce-bill-to-stop-hospital-anticompetitive-behavior/>
 - Inside Health Policy: HHS, DOJ To Collaborate On Health Antitrust Cases - https://insidehealthpolicy.com/daily-news/hhs-doj-collaborate-health-antitrust-cases?utm_medium=mh
 - Modern Healthcare: Illinois board approves Quorum-Deaconess hospital deal - https://www.modernhealthcare.com/mergers-acquisitions/quorum-deaconess-sale-approved-illinois?utm_source=modern-healthcare-am-wednesday&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=20221213&utm_content=article4-headline
- Telehealth news
 - Inside Health Policy: Becerra: States Can Use Telehealth Flexibilities To Fight Other Respiratory Viruses - <https://insidehealthpolicy.com/inside-telehealth-daily-news/becerra-states-can-use-telehealth-flexibilities-fight-other-respiratory>
- 118th Congress and lame-duck news

- Bloomberg: Treasury Says Social-Security Cuts Would ‘Decimate’ Retirees - <https://www.bgov.com/next/news/RMUDEET1UMOW>
- Bloomberg: Take-Home Opioid Treatment Drug Rules to Loosen Under HHS Push - <https://www.bgov.com/next/news/RMUB37TOG1KY>
- Inside Health Policy: Congress Cools To Idea Of Legislating End Of PHE Amid Offset Fights - https://insidehealthpolicy.com/daily-news/congress-cools-idea-legislating-end-phe-amid-offset-fights?utm_medium=mh
- Inside Health Policy: Week-Long CR Also Would Temporarily Extend Expiring CMS, FDA Programs - https://insidehealthpolicy.com/daily-news/week-long-cr-also-would-temporarily-extend-expiring-cms-fda-programs?utm_medium=mh
- ALS news
 - ALS News Today: NP001 May Slow ALS Progression by Limiting ‘Leaks’ of Gut Bacteria - <https://alsnewstoday.com/news/np001-slow-als-progression-limiting-leaks-gut-bacteria/>