

HEALTH POLICY UPDATE: December 6, 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 Frances Kay Behm to be a U.S. district judge for the Eastern District of Michigan. At noon, the Senate will vote on agreeing to the Schumer motion to invoke cloture on the Behm nomination. The Senate will then recess until 2:15 p.m. for weekly caucus lunches. At 2:20 p.m., the Senate will vote on agreeing to the Schumer motion to invoke cloture on the nomination of Kelley Brisbon Hodge to be a U.S. district judge for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania. At 4:30 p.m., if cloture is invoked, the Senate will vote on confirmation of the Behm and Hodge nominations.
 - Nominations:
 - Frances Kay Behm to be a U.S. district judge for the Eastern District of Michigan.
 - Kelley Brisbon Hodge to be a U.S. district judge for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania.
- The House reconvened at 9 a.m. for legislative business. The chamber is expected to consider a bill (HR 7946) that would create an expedited procedure for non-citizen military personnel to apply for U.S. citizenship. The House may also take final votes on several bills previously debated under suspension of the rules.
 - Bills:
 - HR 7946 — Veteran Service Recognition Act

Health policy update:

- Drug pricing and Inflation Reduction Act-related items
 - American Hospital Association: Mark Cuban Plots Next Move to Collaborate with Hospitals on Drug Shortages - <https://www.aha.org/aha-center-health-innovation-market-scan/2022-12-06-mark-cuban-plots-next-move-collaborate-hospitals-drug-shortages>
 - Reuters: Price hikes for some Medicare therapies unsupported by clinical benefits data – Report - <https://www.reuters.com/business/healthcare-pharmaceuticals/price-hikes-some-medicare-therapies-unsupported-by-clinical-benefits-data-report-2022-12-06/>

- Forbes: Making Healthcare More Accessible And Affordable: A Conversation With Medicare Director Meena Seshamani, MD, PhD - <https://www.forbes.com/sites/rhettbuttle/2022/12/06/making-healthcare-more-accessible-and-affordable-a-conversation-with-medicare-director-meena-seshamani-md-phd/?sh=36f27f2f5ac6>
- Inside Health Policy: Guthrie: House Wants All User Fee Riders Passed In Year-End Package - <https://insidehealthpolicy.com/daily-news/guthrie-house-wants-all-user-fee-riders-passed-year-end-package>
- Nurse staffing
 - Stat News (Opinion): Pediatricians and parents on the brink: This is their March 2020 - https://www.statnews.com/2022/12/06/covid-influenza-rsv-pediatricians-parents/?utm_campaign=rss
 - Skilled Nursing News: How 3 Nursing Home Operators Strengthened Workforce Pipelines Amid Labor Crisis - https://skillednursingnews.com/2022/12/how-3-nursing-home-operators-strengthened-workforce-pipelines-amid-labor-crisis/?euid=e0557ca2d3&utm_source=snn-newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=b351f2ebf4&mc_cid=b351f2ebf4&mc_eid=e0557ca2d3
 - Chief Healthcare Executive: Nursing profession is ‘beyond burnout,’ and needs greater attention - <https://www.chiefhealthcareexecutive.com/view/nursing-profession-is-beyond-burnout-and-needs-greater-attention>
 - Becker’s Hospital Review: CDC awards \$45M to Wisconsin to support healthcare workforce - <https://www.beckershospitalreview.com/finance/cdc-awards-45m-to-wisconsin-to-support-healthcare-workforce.html>
- Organ donation and transplantation items
 - Still looking for House Oversight report
 - United Network for Organ Sharing: A pivotal moment for the organ donation and transplant community - <https://unos.org/blog/pivotal-moment-for-organ-donation-and-transplant-community/>
- Vision/dental care in Medicare-related items
 - No new items
- Physical rehabilitation
 - No new items

- Hospital and physician payment-related items
 - MedPage Today: High-Intensity Billing for 'Treat and Release' ED Visits Has Shot Up Since 2006 - https://www.medpagetoday.com/emergencymedicine/emergencymedicine/102070?xid=nl_mpt_DHE_2022-12-05&eun=g2129323d0r&utm_source=Sailthru&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Daily%20Headlines%20Evening%202022-12-05&utm_term=NL_Daily_DHE_dual-gmail-definition
 - MedCity News: Can Hospitals Succeed in VBC and Improve Their Overall Financial Health? An Oxymoron, It Is Not - https://medcitynews.com/2022/12/can-hospitals-succeed-in-vbc-and-improve-their-overall-financial-health-an-oxymoron-it-is-not/?utm_campaign=MCN%20Daily%20Top%20Stories&utm_medium=email&hsmi=236809854&hsenc=p2ANqtz-u8qQdT2yx_BP4MxjM9KI05VRfatKk6IZ8v0Ko5ePogBAaYun06DgsVWIPaLdaYeh4YmZ7qDx8Qvlz-5iVy6X_7W78kw&utm_content=236809854&utm_source=hs_email
 - Healthcare Dive: For most of COVID-19 pandemic, major for-profit hospitals' operating margins exceeded years prior - <https://www.healthcaredive.com/news/kaiser-for-profit-hospitals-pandemic-operating-margins-HCA-Tenet/637979/>
 - Inside Health Policy: Lobbyists Expect Year-End Package To Come Into Focus, Providers Make Last-Minute Push To Avoid Pay Cuts - <https://insidehealthpolicy.com/features/health-insider>
 - Modern Healthcare: Safety-net hospitals harmed by supplemental payment 'slippage' - https://www.modernhealthcare.com/finance/medicaid-dhs-payment-hospitals-health-affairs?utm_source=modern-healthcare-am-tuesday&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=20221205&utm_content=article-2-headline
 - Becker's Hospital Review: Viewpoint: Reform Medicare through competition, consumer choice - <https://www.beckershospitalreview.com/finance/viewpoint-reform-medicare-through-competition-consumer-choice.html>
 - Becker's Hospital Review: 'A bureaucratic mess': insurers' slow payments frustrating hospitals - <https://www.beckershospitalreview.com/finance/a-bureaucratic-mess-insurers-slow-payments-frustrating-hospitals.html>
- Nursing home quality initiative

- Skilled Nursing News: OIG Chief: Nursing Home Quality is 'My Top Priority' - <https://skillednursingnews.com/2022/12/oig-chief-nursing-home-quality-safety-is-my-top-priority/>
- McKnight's Senior Living: Paid caregiver support, long-term care financing needed in federal response to caregiver well-being: Carter Institute - <https://www.mcknightsseniorliving.com/home/news/paid-caregiver-support-long-term-care-financing-needed-in-federal-response-to-caregiver-well-being-carter-institute/>
- Health equity-related items
 - Health Affairs: Economic Well-Being And Health: The Role Of Income Support Programs In Promoting Health And Advancing Health Equity - <https://www.healthaffairs.org/doi/full/10.1377/hlthaff.2022.00846>
- Hospital merger news
 - Fierce Healthcare: Healthcare Dealmakers—VillageMD's \$9B Summit Health acquisition; Major Midwest health system mergers and more - <https://www.fiercehealthcare.com/providers/healthcare-dealmakers-villagemds-9b-summit-health-acquisition-major-midwest-health-system>
- Telehealth news
 - Inside Health Policy: Lobbyists Downplay Latest OIG Claims Of Billing Fraud In Telehealth - <https://insidehealthpolicy.com/inside-telehealth-daily-news/lobbyists-downplay-latest-oig-claims-billing-fraud-telehealth>
 - RevCycleIntelligence: Telehealth Usage Remains Stable in September, COVID-19 Diagnoses Decline - <https://mhealthintelligence.com/news/telehealth-usage-remains-stable-in-september-covid-19-diagnoses-decline>
- 118th Congress and lame-duck news
 - Stat News (Opinion): Congress needs to update FDA's ability to regulate diagnostic tests, cosmetics - <https://www.statnews.com/2022/12/05/congress-update-fda-regulations-diagnostic-tests-cosmetics/>
- ALS news
 - No new items