

HEALTH POLICY UPDATE: December 7, 2022

Congressional Schedule:

- The Senate convenes at 10 a.m. At 11:30 a.m., the Senate will vote on confirmation of Mia Roberts Perez to be a U.S. district judge for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania and on cloture on Kai N. Scott to be a U.S. district judge for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania. At 1:30 p.m., the Senate will vote on confirmation of the Scott nomination, if cloture is invoked, and on confirmation of John Frank Murphy to be a U.S. district judge for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania. At 5 p.m., the Senate will vote on cloture on Jeffery Paul Hopkins to be a U.S. district judge for the Southern District of Ohio and on confirmation of the nomination of Jerry W. Blackwell to be a U.S. district judge for the District of Minnesota.
 - Nominations:
 - Jeffery Paul Hopkins to be a U.S. district judge for the Southern District of Ohio.
 - Mia Roberts Perez to be a U.S. district judge for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania.
 - Kai N. Scott to be a U.S. district judge for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania.
 - John Frank Murphy to be a U.S. district judge for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania.
 - Jerry W. Blackwell to be a U.S. district judge for the District of Minnesota.

- The House reconvenes at 2 p.m. for legislative business. The chamber is expected to consider a bill (HR 7776) that would authorize funding for defense programs for FY 2023, a bill (HR 3648) that would remove the current per-country visa cap on employment-based visas, and take a final vote on one bill previously debated under suspension of the rules (S 1617).
 - Bills:
 - HR 7776 — Legislative Vehicle for the Fiscal 2023 Defense Authorization
 - HR 3648 — Equal Access to Green cards for Legal Employment (EAGLE) Act
 - S 1617 — Disaster Assistance for Rural Communities Act

Health policy update:

- Drug pricing and Inflation Reduction Act-related items

- Health Affairs: 30 Years Of 340B: Preserving The Health Care Safety Net - <https://www.healthaffairs.org/content/forefront/30-years-340b-preserving-health-care-safety-net>
- Stat News: The prices of 7 drugs were hiked without proof of new benefits, costing the U.S. \$805 million in 2021 - <https://www.statnews.com/pharmalot/2022/12/06/drug-prices-icer-xifaxan/>
- Medical Xpress: Countering pharma's expensive gaming of the drug patent system - <https://medicalxpress.com/news/2022-12-countering-pharma-expensive-gaming-drug.html>
- Nurse staffing
 - MedCity News: There Is a Shortage of Public Health Workers. How Can That Be Fixed? - https://medcitynews.com/2022/12/there-is-a-shortage-of-public-health-workers-how-can-that-be-fixed/?utm_campaign=MCN%20Daily%20Top%20Stories&utm_medium=email&_hsmi=236963827&_hsenc=p2ANqtz-9j4kJOel375I3A6HeihSqsL8fkmxTi0gTqV1g1-ShY7D7c-DWv4XeHHNYKkop3JDfLHCdQliBDf7CeOMKYyvduuXAg7Q&utm_content=236963827&utm_source=hs_email
 - Becker's Hospital Review: New green card proposals will harm international nursing recruitment, AHA warns - <https://www.beckershospitalreview.com/workforce/new-green-card-proposals-will-harm-international-nursing-recruitment-aha-warns.html>
 - Becker's Hospital Review: Gen Z's complex healthcare workforce, explained in 30 numbers - <https://www.beckershospitalreview.com/workforce/gen-zs-complex-healthcare-workforce-explained-in-30-numbers.html>
 - McKnights Senior Living: Middle management 'signal loss' fueling retention crisis: expert - <https://www.mcknights.com/news/middle-management-signal-loss-fueling-retention-crisis-expert/>
 - McKnights Senior Living: Regulation in staffing, training may be needed to improve safety in assisted living: study - <https://www.mcknightsseniorliving.com/home/news/state-regulation-in-staffing-training-may-be-needed-to-improve-safety-in-assisted-living-study/>
- Organ donation and transplantation items
 - Still looking for House Oversight report

- Healio: Increased serum bicarbonate correlates with reduced risk of kidney transplant loss, death - <https://www.healio.com/news/nephrology/20221206/increased-serum-bicarbonate-correlates-with-reduced-risk-of-kidney-transplant-loss-death>
- Medical Xpress: Solid organ transplant patients may be at higher risk for skin cancer and require coordinated care - <https://medicalxpress.com/news/2022-12-solid-transplant-patients-higher-skin.html>
- Vision/dental care in Medicare-related items
 - No new items
- Physical rehabilitation
 - No new items
- Hospital and physician payment-related items
 - American Medical Association: No Surprises Act final rule still gives insurers unfair advantage - <https://www.ama-assn.org/delivering-care/patient-support-advocacy/no-surprises-act-final-rule-still-gives-insurers-unfair>
 - Bloomberg: Health Insurers Look to Move Ex-Medicaid Customers to Obamacare - <https://www.bgov.com/next/news/RMINV2TOAFB4>
 - Politico: CMS proposes rule to speed prior authorization process - <https://subscriber.politicopro.com/article/2022/12/cms-proposes-rule-to-speed-prior-authorization-process-00072653?source=email>
 - MedPage Today: All They Want for Christmas Is ... No Medicare Payment Cuts - <https://www.medpagetoday.com/publichealthpolicy/medicare/102097>
 - MedCity News: Medicare Needs to Pay for Some of Hospitals' Discharge Delays, AHA Says - https://medcitynews.com/2022/12/medicare-needs-to-pay-for-some-of-hospitals-discharge-delays-aha-says/?utm_campaign=MCN%20Daily%20Top%20Stories&utm_medium=email&hsmi=236963827&hsenc=p2ANqtz-_A95t_EIR81Up1EQLzGlibwQ0KAlty3oaOELfjFPSWXO3vq&ciJGEc1tRc0MO059RoE_C7sSdYDNe7rtDPzsTTITog&utm_content=236963827&utm_source=hs_email
 - Inside Health Policy: CMS Proposes Prior Authorization Revamp; Rule Could Cut ePA Bill's Cost - <https://insidehealthpolicy.com/daily-news/cms-proposes-prior-authorization-revamp-rule-could-cut-epa-bill%E2%80%99s-cost>

- Inside Health Policy: Providers On Edge As McConnell Says A CR Might Reach Into 2023 - <https://insidehealthpolicy.com/daily-news/providers-edge-mcconnell-says-cr-might-reach-2023>
- Becker's Hospital Review: 6 things to know about the 1st year of the No Surprises Act - <https://www.beckerspayer.com/payer/6-things-to-know-about-the-1st-year-of-the-no-surprises-act.html>
- Fierce Healthcare: Faced with costly discharge bottlenecks, hospitals want Congress to pay for patients' extended stays - <https://www.fiercehealthcare.com/providers/downstream-capacity-issues-keep-patients-waiting-discharges-hospitals-wants-congress-pay>
- RevCycleIntelligence: CJR Model Policy Changes Boosted Penalties for Safety-Net Hospitals - <https://revcycleintelligence.com/news/cjr-model-policy-changes-boosted-penalties-for-safety-net-hospitals>
- Nursing home quality initiative
 - No new items
- Health equity-related items
 - RevCycleIntelligence: US Remains Worst in the World for Maternal Mortality, Health Equity - <https://patientengagementhit.com/news/us-remains-worst-in-the-world-for-maternal-mortality-health-equity>
- Hospital merger news
 - No new items
- Telehealth news
 - Health Leaders: Yale Researchers Explore Potential Benefits And Risks Of Telehealth - <https://www.healthleadersmedia.com/telehealth/yale-researchers-explore-potential-benefits-and-risks-telehealth>
 - mHealthIntelligence: Watchdog: Federal Healthcare Programs Vulnerable to Telehealth Billing Risks - <https://mhealthintelligence.com/news/watchdog-federal-healthcare-programs-vulnerable-to-telehealth-billing-risks>
- 118th Congress and lame-duck news
 - Bloomberg: Health Care Briefing: Mental Health Deal Gets Year-End Push – www.bgov.com/next/news/RMIPMPDWLU68

- Bloomberg: Addiction, Mental Health Deal Gets Push as Time Ebbs in Congress - <https://www.bgov.com/next/news/RMINV4DWLU6B>
- Bloomberg: Health Insurers, Hospitals Face Mandates to Assist Data Sharing - <https://www.bgov.com/next/news/RMHQC6DWLU68>
- Politico: House passes bill on broadband, maternal health - <https://subscriber.politicopro.com/article/2022/12/house-passes-bill-on-broadband-maternal-health-00072614?source=email>
- Inside Health Policy: Sen. Marshall: Congress Will Tackle Medicaid Prior Authorization Next - <https://insidehealthpolicy.com/daily-news/sen-marshall-congress-will-tackle-medicaid-prior-authorization-next>
- ALS news
 - No new items