HEALTH POLICY UPDATE: December 8, 2022

Congressional Schedule:

• The Senate convenes at 11 a.m. Following leader remarks the Senate will begin consideration of the nomination of Jeffery Paul Hopkins to be a U.S. district judge for the Southern District of Ohio. At 11:30, the Senate will vote on confirmation of the Hopkins nomination and on agreeing to Schumer, D-N.Y., motion to invoke cloture on the Tamika R. Montgomery-Reeves to be U.S. Circuit Judge for the 3rd Circuit. At 1:45 p.m., the Senate will vote on agreeing to the Schumer motion to invoke cloture on the nomination of Dana M. Douglas to be U.S. Circuit Judge for the 5th Circuit.

  o Nominations:

    ▪ Jeffery Paul Hopkins to be a U.S. district judge for the Southern District of Ohio.
    ▪ Tamika R. Montgomery-Reeves to be U.S. Circuit Judge for the 3rd Circuit.
    ▪ Dana M. Douglas to be U.S. Circuit Judge for the 5th Circuit.

• The House reconvened at 9 a.m. for legislative business. The chamber is expected to consider a bill (HR 8404) that would repeal the Defense of Marriage Act and prohibit individuals from denying full faith and credit to a marriage recognized under the law of another state. The House is also expected to consider, through suspension of the rules, a bipartisan agreement (HR 7776) that would authorize national defense activities for FY 2023. Finally, the chamber is expected to take final votes under suspension of the rules on one measure.

  o Bills:

    ▪ HR 8404 — Respect for Marriage Act
    ▪ HR 7776 — Legislative Vehicle for the Fiscal 2023 Defense Authorization
    ▪ S 1617 — Disaster Assistance for Rural Communities Act

Health policy update:

• Drug pricing and Inflation Reduction Act-related items


  o Axios: To 340B or not to 340B - [https://www.axios.com/pro/health-care-policy/2022/12/07/drug-price-discount-program-340b-congress]


- **Nurse staffing**


- **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**

- **Hospital and physician payment-related items**


- Becker’s Hospital Review: Congress urged to address patient discharge bottlenecks through per diem payments - https://www.beckershospitalreview.com/finance/congress-urged-to-address-patient-discharge-bottlenecks-through-per-diem-payments.html


- Nursing home quality initiative

  - No new items

- Health equity-related items


- Hospital merger news


- **Telehealth news**
  - **Politico**: Telehealth access for some insurance plan subscribers could get more expensive in January - [https://subscriber.politicopro.com/article/2022/12/telehealth-access-for-some-insurance-plan-subscribers-could-get-more-expensive-in-january-00072854](https://subscriber.politicopro.com/article/2022/12/telehealth-access-for-some-insurance-plan-subscribers-could-get-more-expensive-in-january-00072854)

- **118th Congress and lame-duck news**
  - **Inside Health Policy**: VALID Revision Might Include Exemptions For Academic Centers - [https://insidehealthpolicy.com/daily-news/valid-revision-might-include-exemptions-academic-centers](https://insidehealthpolicy.com/daily-news/valid-revision-might-include-exemptions-academic-centers)

- **ALS news**