

HEALTH CARE POLICY UPDATE: JUNE 14, 2022

Congressional Schedule:

- The Senate convenes at 11 a.m. Following leader remarks, the Senate will resume consideration of the veterans' toxic exposure benefits bill (HR 3967). The Senate will recess from 12:30 p.m. until 2:15 for weekly caucus lunches. Roll call votes are expected but not yet scheduled.
 - Bills:
 - HR 3967 — Honoring our Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics (Honoring our PACT) Act
- The House reconvenes at noon for legislative business. The chamber is expected to consider a bill (HR 2773) that would create three new mandatory spending programs to support wildlife conservation, and take final votes on two bills (S 516 and HR 7211) previously debated under suspension of the rules.
 - Bills:
 - HR 2773 — Recovering America's Wildlife Act
 - S 516 — Advanced Air Mobility Coordination and Leadership Act
 - HR 7211 — Small State and Rural Rescue Act

Health policy update:

- BBB drug pricing and drug price negotiation items
 - MedPage Today: Medicare Drug Price Negotiation in the Spotlight at AMA Annual Meeting - <https://www.medpagetoday.com/meetingcoverage/ama/99198>
 - Roll Call: No first-class tickets for Congress, says Angie Craig - <https://rollcall.com/2022/06/14/no-first-class-tickets-for-congress-angie-craig/>
- Nurse staffing
 - AHA: Collaborative Robot Aims to Ease Stress on Nurses - <https://www.aha.org/aha-center-health-innovation-market-scan/2022-06-14-collaborative-robot-aims-ease-stress-nurses>
 - Bloomberg: Travel Nurses, Gig Work Expose Hospital Employers to Legal Risks - <https://news.bloomberglaw.com/coronavirus/travel-nurses-gig-work-expose-hospital-employers-to-legal-risks>

- NBC Connecticut: As Nursing Shortage Continues, Nursing School Enrollment Climbs - <https://www.nbcconnecticut.com/news/coronavirus/as-nursing-shortage-continues-nursing-school-enrollment-climbs/2805908/>
- PennToday: Will a return to pre-pandemic hospital and nursing home conditions solve nurse burnout? - <https://penntoday.upenn.edu/news/penn-med-nursing-will-return-pre-pandemic-hospital-and-nursing-home-conditions-solve-nurse-burnout>
- STIs
 - PatientEngagementHIT: How Home Test Kits Are Expanding Patient Access to STI Testing - <https://patientengagementhit.com/features/how-home-test-kits-are-expanding-patient-access-to-sti-testing>
- Colon cancer-related items
 - 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
 - No new items
- Hospital and physician payment-related items
 - AMA: Why Medicare's trustees says the physician pay system is unsustainable - <https://www.ama-assn.org/practice-management/medicare-medicaid/why-medicares-trustees-says-physician-pay-system>
 - KHN: Preventive Care May Be Free, but Follow-Up Diagnostic Tests Can Bring Big Bills - <https://khn.org/news/article/follow-up-diagnostic-tests-costs/>
 - MedPageToday: Should Docs Get Paid for Time Spent on Prior Authorizations? - <https://www.medpagetoday.com/meetingcoverage/ama/99189>

- Nursing home quality initiative
 - McKnights Long-Term Care News: Nursing home complaint backlog worse than expected: report - <https://www.mcknights.com/news/nursing-home-complaint-backlog-worse-than-expected-report/>