

HEALTH POLICY UPDATE: JUNE 16, 2022

Congressional Schedule:

- The Senate convenes at 10 a.m. Following leader remarks, the Senate will resume consideration of the veterans' toxic exposure benefits bill (HR 3967). At 11:15 a.m., the Senate will vote on the following: passage of HR 3967, as amended, agreeing to the Schumer, D-N.Y., motion to invoke cloture on the nomination of Ana Isabel de Alba to be a U.S. district judge for the Eastern District of California, and agreeing to the Schumer motion to invoke cloture on the nomination of Mary T. Boyle to be a commissioner of the Consumer Product Safety Commission.
 - Bills:
 - HR 3967 — Honoring our Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics (Honoring our PACT) Act
 - Nominations:
 - Ana Isabel de Alba to be a U.S. district judge for the Eastern District of California.
 - Mary T. Boyle to be a commissioner of the Consumer Product Safety Commission.
- The House reconvened at 9 a.m. for legislative business. The chamber is expected to consider a bill (HR 7606) that would appropriate \$700 million to promote precision agriculture and provide grants to install biofuel infrastructure, as well as authorizing funding to encourage competition in meat processing.
 - Bills:
 - HR 7606 — Meat and Poultry Special Investigator Act

Health policy update:

- BBB drug pricing and drug price negotiation items
 - Office of James Lankford, Press Release: Lankford Keeps the Pressure on FTC to Investigate Drug-price Middlemen Practices Keeping Drug Costs High - <https://www.lankford.senate.gov/news/press-releases/lankford-keeps-the-pressure-on-ftc-to-investigate-drug-price-middlemen-practices-keeping-drug-costs-high>
 - AP News: High court rules against government on drug reimbursement - <https://apnews.com/article/us-supreme-court-health-government-and-politics-medicare-d52663df9c599b9d33201ff85fb16025>

- MedCityNews: November will bring political change. Will it also change drug prices and PDUFA? - <https://medcitynews.com/2022/06/november-will-bring-political-change-will-it-also-change-drug-prices-and-pdufa/>
- Nurse staffing
 - Office of Kevin Cramer, Press Release: Support Grows for Travel Nursing Agency Transparency Study Act - <https://www.cramer.senate.gov/news/press-releases/support-grows-for-travel-nursing-agency-transparency-study-act>
 - Advisory Board: How 3 health systems are navigating the workforce crisis - <https://www.advisory.com/daily-briefing/2022/06/15/workforce-shortages>
 - Becker's Hospital Review: 15 systems hiring chief nursing officers - <https://www.beckershospitalreview.com/nursing/15-systems-hiring-chief-nursing-officers.html>
 - McKnight's Senior Living: Advocacy groups 'strongly urge' DOL to consider changes to processing Schedule A petitions - <https://www.mcknightsseniorliving.com/home/news/business-daily-news/advocacy-groups-strongly-urge-dol-to-consider-changes-to-processing-schedule-a-petitions/>
 - Nurse.org: Travel Nurse Pay Transparency Bill Passed in Illinois - <https://nurse.org/articles/travel-nurse-pay-illinois-bill/>
- STIs
 - No new items
- Colon cancer-related items
 - No new items
- Organ donation and transplantation items
 - Still looking for House Oversight report
 - NBC News: New kidney transplant approach could eliminate need for lifelong immune drugs - <https://www.nbcnews.com/health/health-news/new-kidney-transplant-approach-eliminate-need-immune-drugs-report-find-rcna33833>
 - Healio: Legislators in Minnesota, Louisiana enact living organ donor protections - <https://www.healio.com/news/nephrology/20220615/legislators-in-minnesota-louisiana-enact-living-organ-donor-protections>

- Vision/dental care in Medicare-related items
 - No new items
- Physical rehabilitation
 - No new items
- Hospital and physician payment-related items
 - MedPAC: June 2022 Report to the Congress: Medicare and the Health Care Delivery System - <https://www.medpac.gov/document/june-2022-report-to-the-congress-medicare-and-the-health-care-delivery-system/>
 - Bloomberg: Billions in Medicare Savings Envisioned With Aligned Payments - <https://news.bloomberglaw.com/pharma-and-life-sciences/billions-in-medicare-savings-envisioned-with-aligned-payments>
 - RevCycleIntelligence: AHA Opposes Proposed Payment Cut for Skilled Nursing Facilities - <https://revcycleintelligence.com/news/aha-opposes-proposed-payment-cut-for-skilled-nursing-facilities>
 - Becker's Hospital CFO Report: Hospitals will lose \$3B this year if Medicare payment cut isn't stopped, group says - <https://www.beckershospitalreview.com/finance/hospitals-will-lose-3b-this-year-if-medicare-payment-cut-isn-t-stopped-group-says.html>
 - Home Health Care News: MedPAC Lays Out Plan to Streamline Medicare Alternative Payment Models - <https://homehealthcarenews.com/2022/06/medpac-lays-out-plan-to-streamline-medicare-alternative-payment-models/>
 - Fierce Healthcare: Hospitals implore Congress to punt Medicare payment cut slated for July - <https://www.fiercehealthcare.com/providers/hospitals-implore-congress-punt-medicare-payment-cut-slated-july>
- Nursing home quality initiative
 - Department of Justice, Press Release: Justice Department Sues American Health Foundation and Its Affiliates for Providing Grossly Substandard Nursing Home Services - <https://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/justice-department-sues-american-health-foundation-and-its-affiliates-providing-grossly>