

## HEALTH CARE POLICY UPDATE: JUNE 7, 2022

### Congressional Schedule:

- The Senate convened at 10 a.m. Following leader remarks, the Senate will resume consideration of the nomination of Alex Wagner to be an assistant secretary of the Air Force. At 11:30 a.m., the Senate will vote on the following: confirmation of the Wagner nomination and agreeing to the Schumer, D-N.Y., motion to invoke cloture on the Schumer motion to proceed to the veterans' toxic exposure benefits bill (HR 3967). The Senate will then recess until 2:15 p.m. for weekly caucus lunches. At 4 p.m., the Senate will vote on confirmation of the following nomination: Chavonda J. Jacobs-Young to be undersecretary of Agriculture for Research, Education, and Economics; Kenneth L. Wainstein to be undersecretary for Intelligence and Analysis at the Homeland Security Department; and Shalanda H. Baker to be director of the Office of Minority Economic Impact at the Energy Department.
  - Nominations:
    - Alex Wagner to be an assistant secretary of the Air Force.
    - Chavonda J. Jacobs-Young to be undersecretary of Agriculture for Research, Education, and Economics.
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    - Shalanda H. Baker to be director of the Office of Minority Economic Impact at the Energy Department.
  - Bills:
    - HR 3967 — Honoring our Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics (Honoring our PACT) Act
- The House reconvenes at 2 p.m. for legislative business and is expected to consider measures under suspension of the rules. Roll call votes will be postponed until 6:30 p.m.
  - Bills:
    - HR 6087 — Improving Access to Workers' Compensation for Injured Federal Workers Act
    - HR 7352 — PPP and Bank Fraud Enforcement Harmonization Act
    - HR 7334 — COVID-19 EIDL Fraud Statute of Limitations Act
    - HR 5879 — Hubzone Price Evaluation Preference Clarification Act
    - HR 7622 — Small Business Workforce Pipeline Act
    - HR 7664 — Supporting Small Business and Career and Technical Education Act
    - HR 7670 — Women-Owned Small Business (WOSB) Program Transparency Act

- HR 7694 — Strengthening Subcontracting for Small Businesses Act
- S 3823 — Bankruptcy Threshold Adjustment and Technical Corrections Act
- HR 7776 — Water Resources Development Act
- H Con Res 88 — A concurrent resolution authorizing the use of the Capitol Grounds for the Greater Washington Soap Box Derby.
- HR 7667 — Food and Drug Amendments

### Health policy update:

- BBB drug pricing and drug price negotiation items
  - No new items
- Nurse staffing
  - Office of Kevin Cramer, Press Release: Sen. Cramer Introduces Bill to Increase Transparency of Travel Nursing Agencies - <https://www.cramer.senate.gov/news/press-releases/sen-cramer-introduces-bill-to-increase-transparency-of-travel-nursing-agencies>
  - American Federation of Teachers: Healthcare providers organize to address patient safety and burnout - <https://www.aft.org/news/healthcare-providers-organize-address-patient-safety-and-burnout>
  - Healthcare Dive: Healthcare payrolls recovering, still lag pre-pandemic levels - <https://www.healthcaredive.com/news/healthcare-payrolls-recovering-still-lag-pre-pandemic-levels/624910/>
  - RevCycleIntelligence: OR Healthcare Workers Seek Union Representation to Boost Provider Agency - <https://revcycleintelligence.com/news/or-healthcare-workers-seek-union-representation-to-boost-provider-agency>
  - McKights Senior Living: 'Critical' workforce solutions focus of provider advocacy efforts this week - <https://www.mckightseniorliving.com/home/news/critical-workforce-solutions-focus-of-provider-advocacy-efforts-this-week/>
- STIs
  - No new items

- Colon cancer-related items
  - Kaiser Permanente: New approach reduces colon cancer deaths - <https://about.kaiserpermanente.org/our-story/health-research/news/new-approach-reduces-colon-cancer-deaths>
  - ABC News: Some cancer patients can skip treatments, 2 studies show – <https://abcnews.go.com/Technology/wireStory/studies-pinpoint-patients-skip-cancer-treatments-85232014>
  - MedPage Today: Liquid Biopsy May Save Colon Cancer Patients From Chemo - <https://www.medpagetoday.com/meetingcoverage/asco/99081>
  
- Organ donation and transplantation items
  - Still looking for House Oversight report
  - Healio: Study shows age matching of kidney donor-recipient influences long-term outcomes - <https://www.healio.com/news/nephrology/20220606/study-shows-age-matching-of-kidney-donorrecipient-influences-longterm-outcomes>
  
- Vision/dental care in Medicare-related items
  - No new items
  
- Physical rehabilitation
  - Skilled Nursing News: Staff Investment a ‘Make or Break’ as Therapy Providers Weather Medicare Cuts - <https://skillednursingnews.com/2022/06/staff-investment-a-make-or-break-as-therapy-providers-weather-medicare-cuts/>
  
- Hospital and physician payment-related items
  - AHA: AHA supports CMS proposal to delay Radiation Oncology Model - <https://www.aha.org/news/headline/2022-06-06-aha-supports-cms-proposal-delay-radiation-oncology-model>
  - Healthcare Dive: Leapfrog raises concerns about CMS proposal to suppress patient safety data - <https://www.healthcaredive.com/news/leapfrog-cms-proposal-suppress-patient-safety-data/624820/>
  - Modern Healthcare: Legal experts expect 'more scrutiny' of Medicare prior authorization from feds - <https://www.modernhealthcare.com/law-regulation/legal-experts-expect-more-scrutiny-medicare-prior-authorization-feds>

- MedPageToday: Prior Authorization Back in the Spotlight on Capitol Hill -  
<https://www.medpagetoday.com/practicemanagement/reimbursement/99094>
- Becker's Hospital Review: AMA's 10 ways to overhaul Medicare's physician payment system -  
<https://www.beckersasc.com/asc-news/ama-s-10-ways-to-overhaul-medicare-s-physician-payment-system.html>

#### Nursing home quality initiative

- Bloomberg: US Nursing Homes Face Closure Risks From Staffing Shortages -  
<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2022-06-06/us-nursing-homes-face-closure-risks-from-staffing-shortages>
- Axios: Nursing homes face closure risks amid staff shortages post-COVID -  
<https://www.axios.com/2022/06/07/nursing-home-staff-shortage-closure-covid>
- Washington Post: Nearly 75 percent of nursing homes at risk of closures -  
[https://www.washingtonpost.com/business/economy/nearly-75-percent-of-nursing-homes-at-risk-of-closures/2022/06/06/cf03cc12-e59d-11ec-b037-e344f38e0a4f\\_story.html](https://www.washingtonpost.com/business/economy/nearly-75-percent-of-nursing-homes-at-risk-of-closures/2022/06/06/cf03cc12-e59d-11ec-b037-e344f38e0a4f_story.html)