

## HEALTH CARE POLICY UPDATE: JUNE 8, 2022

### Congressional Schedule:

- The Senate convened at 10 a.m. Following leader remarks, the Senate will resume consideration of the Schumer, D-N.Y., motion to proceed to the veterans' toxic exposure benefits bill (HR 3967). The Senate is expected to agree to the motion to proceed to HR 3967 by voice vote, and Sen. Tester, D-Mont., will offer the Senate substitute amendment no. 5051 to the bill. The Senate will then proceed to executive session. At 11:30 a.m., the Senate will vote on confirmation of the nomination of Lisa M. Gomez to be an assistant secretary of Labor and on confirmation of the nomination of Nina Morrison to be a U.S. district judge for the Eastern District of New York. Additional votes are expected.
  - Nominations:
    - Lisa M. Gomez to be an assistant secretary of Labor.
    - Nina Morrison to be a U.S. district judge for the Eastern District of New York.
  - 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 7910) that would take numerous actions to restrict access to firearms, and take final votes on nine measure previously debated under suspension of the rules (HR 7352, HR 7334, HR 5879, HR 7622, HR 7664, HR 7670, HR 7694, HR 7776 AND HR 7667).
  - Bills:
    - HR 7910 — Protecting Our Kids 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
    - HR 7776 — Water Resources Development Act
    - HR 7667 — Food and Drug Amendments

## Health policy update:

- BBB drug pricing and drug price negotiation items
  - Federal Trade Commission, Press Release: FTC Launches Inquiry Into Prescription Drug Middlemen Industry - <https://www.ftc.gov/news-events/news/press-releases/2022/06/ftc-launches-inquiry-prescription-drug-middlemen-industry>
  - Office of Chuck Grassley, Press Release: Following Grassley Requests, FTC Opens Probe Of Prescription Drug Middlemen - <https://www.grassley.senate.gov/news/news-releases/following-grassley-requests-ftc-opens-probe-of-prescription-drug-middlemen>
  - Reuters: Surging drug prices targeted in U.S. study of pharmacy giants - <https://www.reuters.com/business/healthcare-pharmaceuticals/us-ftc-launches-inquiry-into-drug-middlemen-2022-06-07/>
  - Bloomberg: New Drug Prices Soar to \$180,000 a Year on 20% Annual Inflation - <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2022-06-07/new-drug-prices-soar-to-180-000-a-year-on-20-annual-inflation#xj4y7vzkg>
  - CNBC: Moderate Democrats push their party to do more to fight inflation - <https://www.cnbc.com/2022/06/08/moderate-democrats-push-their-party-to-do-more-to-fight-inflation.html>
  - New York Times (Opinion): Prices for New Drugs Are Rising 20 Percent a Year. Congress Needs to Act - <https://www.nytimes.com/2022/06/08/opinion/us-drug-prices-congress.html>
  - The Hill: Warnock presses Schumer to hold vote on bill to lower insulin costs - <https://thehill.com/policy/healthcare/3514645-warnock-presses-schumer-to-hold-vote-on-bill-to-lower-insulin-costs/>
  - Modern Healthcare: FTC takes aim at PBM business practices in new inquiry - <https://www.modernhealthcare.com/law-regulation/ftc-takes-aim-pbm-business-practices-new-inquiry>
  - Healthcare Dive: FTC launches investigation into PBMs; CVS, UnitedHealth, Cigna and more hit with requests for data - <https://www.healthcaredive.com/news/ftc-launches-investigation-into-pbms-cvs-unitedhealth-cigna-and-more-hit/625058/>
- Nurse staffing
  - Advisory Board: Nurses keep quitting. What can you do about it? <https://www.advisory.com/daily-briefing/2022/06/07/nurse-tenure>

- RevCycleIntelligence: 88% of Healthcare Facilities Employed Locum Tenens Providers - <https://revcycleintelligence.com/news/88-of-healthcare-facilities-employed-locum-tenens-providers>
- Fierce Healthcare: After a year of heavy workforce turnover, more care is provided by less experienced nurses - <https://www.fiercehealthcare.com/providers/after-year-heavy-workforce-turnover-more-care-being-provided-less-experienced-nurses>
- Becker's Hospital Review: California nurses plan for potential 2nd strike of 2022 - <https://www.beckershospitalreview.com/hr/california-nurses-plan-for-potential-2nd-strike-of-2022.html>
- Becker's Hospital Review: 3 winning strategies to attract and retain top healthcare talent - <https://www.beckershospitalreview.com/hr/3-winning-strategies-to-attract-and-retain-top-healthcare-talent.html>
- Staffing Industry Analysts: Senator Introduces Bill to Study Healthcare Staffing Business Practices During Covid - <https://www2.staffingindustry.com/Editorial/Daily-News/Senator-introduces-bill-to-study-healthcare-staffing-business-practices-during-Covid-61874>
- STIs
  - No new items
- Colon cancer-related items
  - WebMD: Gene Test Lets Some Colon Cancer Patients Safely Skip Chemo - [https://www.webmd.com/colorectal-cancer/news/20220607/gene-test-lets-some-colon-cancer-patients-safely-skip-chemo?src=rss\\_public](https://www.webmd.com/colorectal-cancer/news/20220607/gene-test-lets-some-colon-cancer-patients-safely-skip-chemo?src=rss_public)
- Organ donation and transplantation items
  - Still looking for House Oversight report
  - Healio: Transplant society president calls for more collaborative efforts to increase organ supply - <https://www.healio.com/news/nephrology/20220607/transplant-society-president-calls-for-more-collaborative-efforts-to-increase-organ-supply>

- 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
  - Fierce Healthcare: Providers press CMS for massive overhaul to often-delayed radiation oncology model - <https://www.fiercehealthcare.com/providers/providers-press-cms-massive-overhaul-often-delayed-radiation-oncology-model>
  - Healthcare Finance News: AHA supports CMS proposal to delay Radiation Oncology Model - <https://www.healthcarefinancenews.com/news/aha-supports-cms-proposal-delay-radiation-oncology-model>
  - Becker's Hospital Review: The status of 8 No Surprises Act lawsuits - <https://www.beckershospitalreview.com/legal-regulatory-issues/the-status-of-8-no-surprises-act-lawsuits.html>
  - Becker's ASC Review: ASCs find new strategies to avoid reimbursement woes - <https://www.beckersasc.com/asc-coding-billing-and-collections/ascs-find-new-strategies-to-avoid-reimbursement-woes.html>

#### Nursing home quality initiative

- McKnight's Senior Living: House members launch new caucus focused on long-term care - <https://www.mcknightsseniorliving.com/home/news/house-members-launch-new-caucus-focused-on-long-term-care/>
- Skilled Nursing News: How Nursing Homes Could Benefit From Having a Seat at the Table in Community-Wide Disaster Planning - <https://skillednursingnews.com/2022/06/how-nursing-homes-could-benefit-from-having-a-seat-at-the-table-in-community-wide-disaster-planning/>