

HEALTH POLICY UPDATE: JULY 12, 2022

Congressional Schedule:

- The Senate convened at 10 a.m. Following leader remarks, the Senate will resume consideration of the nomination of Ashish S. Vazirani to be a deputy undersecretary of Defense. At 11:30, the Senate will vote on confirmation of the Vazirani nomination and on agreeing to the Schumer, D-N.Y., motion to invoke cloture on the nomination of Steven M. Dettelbach to be director of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives. The Senate will then recess until 2:15 p.m. for weekly caucus lunches. At 2:30 p.m., the Senate will vote on confirmation of the Dettelbach nomination. Additional votes are possible.
 - Nominations:
 - Ashish S. Vazirani to be a deputy undersecretary of Defense
 - Steven M. Dettelbach to be director of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives
- The House reconvenes at 2 p.m. for legislative business and is expected to consider measures under suspension of the rules. The chamber may also take final votes on seven measures previously debated under suspension of the rules. Roll call votes will be postponed until 6:30 p.m.
 - Bills:
 - H Res 1168 — A resolution reaffirming the economic partnership between the United States and the Caribbean nations and recognizing the need to strengthen trade and investment between the United States and the Caribbean nations, our ‘Third Border.’
 - HR 7337 — Access for Veterans to Records Act
 - HR 7535 — Quantum Computing Cybersecurity Preparedness Act
 - HR 7331 — Improving Government for America’s Taxpayers Act
 - HR 521 — First Responder Fair RETIRE Act
 - HR 3544 — Computers for Veterans and Students (COVS) Act
 - HR 5794 — A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 850 Walnut Street in McKeesport, Pennsylvania as the “First Sergeant Leonard A. Funk Jr. Post Office Building.”
 - HR 1095 — A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 101 South Willowbrook Avenue in Compton, California, as the "PFC James Anderson, Jr., Post Office Building."
 - HR 203 — A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 4020 Broadway Street in Houston, Texas, as the "Benny C. Martinez Post Office Building."

- HR 5659 — A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1961 North C Street in Oxnard, California, as the "John R. Hatcher III Post Office Building."
- HR 5271 — A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 2245 Rosa L Parks Boulevard in Nashville, Tennessee, as the "Thelma Harper Post Office Building."
- HR 5809 — A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1801 Town and Country Drive in Norco, California, as the "Lance Corporal Kareem Nikoui Memorial Post Office Building."
- HR 4622 — A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 226 North Main Street in Roseville, Ohio, as the "Ronald E. Rosser Post Office."
- HR 2472 — A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 82422 Cadiz Jewett Road in Cadiz, Ohio, as the "John Armor Bingham Post Office."
- HR 228 — A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 2141 Ferry Street in Anderson, California, as the "Norma Comnick Post Office Building."
- HR 7174 — National Computer Forensics Institute Reauthorization Act
- HR 5274 — Prevent Exposure to Narcotics and Toxics (PREVENT) Act
- HR 1934 — Promoting United States International Leadership in 5G Act
- H Con Res 59 — A concurrent resolution condemning the October 25, 2021, military coup in Sudan and standing with the people of Sudan.
- H Res 720 — A resolution calling for stability and the cessation of violence and condemning ISIS-affiliated terrorist activity in northern Mozambique, including the Cabo Delgado Province, and for other purposes.
- H Con Res 45 — A concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress regarding the execution-style murders of United States citizens Ylli, Agron, and Mehmet Bytyqi in the Republic of Serbia in July 1999.
- H Res 892 — A resolution calling on the Government of the Republic of Rwanda to release Paul Rusesabagina on humanitarian grounds.

Health policy update:

- BBB drug pricing and drug price negotiation items
 - Wall Street Journal (Opinion): In Defense of Pharmacy Benefit Managers - https://www.wsj.com/articles/in-defense-of-pharmacy-benefit-managers-drugs-rebates-patient-costs-premiums-transparency-innovation-regulation-ftc-11657571932?mod=hp_opin_pos_5

- The Hill: Senate Democrats encounter obstacles in final sprint - <https://thehill.com/homenews/senate/3554100-senate-democrats-encounter-obstacles-in-final-sprint/>
- Health Affairs: The Cantwell-Grassley PBM Bill Is Much Needed But More Can Be Done - <https://www.healthaffairs.org/doi/10.1377/forefront.20220707.601993>
- Fierce Pharma: After Democrats unveil drug price negotiation plan, industry blasts it as 'misguided' - <https://www.fiercepharma.com/pharma/uncertainty-and-pessimism-industry-warns-us-drug-pricing-plan-could-deprive-pharma-outfits>
- Pharmacy Executive: FDA Joins Effort to Curb Drug Patent Abuses - <https://www.pharmexec.com/view/fda-joins-effort-to-curb-drug-patent-abuses>
- Pink Sheet: A Bipartisan Case Against US FDA User Fees? - <https://pink.pharmaintelligence.informa.com/PS146468/A-Bipartisan-Case-Against-US-FDA-User-Fees>
- Nurse staffing
 - Becker's Hospital Review: More physicians turn to corporate employment, staff shortages growing: 4 trends for ASCs to follow - <https://www.beckersasc.com/asc-news/more-physicians-turn-to-corporate-employment-staff-shortages-growing-4-trends-for-ascs-to-follow.html>
 - Becker's Hospital Review: These health tech startups aim to ease physician burnout - <https://www.beckershospitalreview.com/digital-health/these-health-tech-startups-aim-to-ease-physician-burnout.html>
- STIs
 - Yahoo Finance: OmniPathology Announces the Launch of its Oropharyngeal HPV PCR Test - <https://finance.yahoo.com/news/omnipathology-announces-launch-oropharyngeal-hpv-124500380.html>
- Colon cancer-related items
 - Medscape: Pregnancy, Breastfeeding, and More Linked to Lower CRC Risk - <https://www.medscape.com/viewarticle/976908>
- Organ donation and transplantation items
 - Still looking for House Oversight report

- American Hospital Association: PHS updates guidance on pediatric testing for solid organ transplants - <https://www.aha.org/news/headline/2022-07-11-phs-updates-guidance-pediatric-testing-solid-organ-transplants>
- Vision/dental care in Medicare-related items
 - No new items
- Physical rehabilitation
 - No new items
- Hospital and physician payment-related items
 - American Medical Association (Opinion): Across-the-board Medicare physician pay cuts are the wrong way forward - <https://www.ama-assn.org/practice-management/medicare-medicaid/across-board-medicare-physician-pay-cuts-are-wrong-way>
 - Skilled Nursing News: American Hospital Association Blasts ‘Fundamental Flaws’ in Unified Post-Acute Payment Model Draft - <https://skillednursingnews.com/2022/07/american-hospital-association-blasts-fundamental-flaws-in-unified-post-acute-payment-model-draft/>
 - Healthcare Dive: 1 in 5 Americans report still receiving surprise medical bills after federal ban - <https://www.healthcaredive.com/news/americans-still-receiving-surprise-medical-bills/626851/>
- Nursing home quality initiative
 - Skilled Nursing News: A Natural Fit: New CMS Requirements Elevate Nursing Homes’ Behavioral Health Role - <https://skillednursingnews.com/2022/07/a-natural-fit-new-cms-requirements-elevate-nursing-homes-behavioral-health-role/>
 - McKights Senior Living: More nursing home cuts buried deep in CMS physician fee schedule - <https://www.mcknights.com/news/more-nursing-home-cuts-buried-deep-in-cms-physician-fee-schedule/>
 - McKights Senior Living: Thousands of nursing homes face lower Five-Star ratings with changes to staffing stars - <https://www.mcknights.com/news/thousands-of-nursing-homes-face-lower-five-star-ratings-with-changes-to-staffing-stars/>

- Healio: ACP recommends finance reform to support long-term care services - <https://www.healio.com/news/primary-care/20220712/acp-recommends-finance-reform-to-support-longterm-care-services>