

## HEALTH POLICY UPDATE: JULY 20, 2022

### Congressional Schedule:

- The Senate convenes at 10 a.m. Following leader remarks, the Senate will resume consideration of the nomination of Gregory Brian Williams to be a U.S. district judge for the District of Delaware. At 11:30 a.m., the Senate will vote on agreeing to the Schumer motion to invoke cloture on the Williams nomination. At 2:30 p.m., the Senate will vote on confirmation of the Williams nomination, if cloture is invoked, and on agreeing to the Schumer motion to invoke cloture on the nomination of Natasha C. Merle to be a U.S. district judge for the Eastern District of New York. Additional votes are expected.
  - Nominations:
    - Gregory Brian Williams to be a U.S. district judge for the District of Delaware
    - Natasha C. Merle to be a U.S. district judge for the Eastern District of New York
  
- The House reconvenes at 10 a.m. for legislative business. The chamber is expected to complete consideration of a bill (HR 8294) that would provide appropriations for six bills for FY 2023. The House is also expected to consider a bill (HR 8373) that would affirm the statutory right to obtain or provide contraceptives.
  - Bills:
    - HR 8294 — Fiscal 2023 Six-Bill Appropriations Package
    - HR 8373 — A bill to protect a person’s ability to access contraceptives and to engage in contraception, and to protect a health care provider’s ability to promote contraceptives, contraception, and information related to contraception.

### Health policy update:

- BBB drug pricing and drug price negotiation items
  - [Office of Senator Dick Durbin \(Press Release\): Durbin: Democrats Propose Fairness When It Comes To Prescription Drug Prices - https://www.durbin.senate.gov/newsroom/press-releases/durbin-democrats-propose-fairness-when-it-comes-to-prescription-drug-prices](https://www.durbin.senate.gov/newsroom/press-releases/durbin-democrats-propose-fairness-when-it-comes-to-prescription-drug-prices)
  - [Washington Post: Democrats are full speed ahead on drug pricing bill - https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/2022/07/20/democrats-are-full-speed-ahead-drug-pricing-bill/](https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/2022/07/20/democrats-are-full-speed-ahead-drug-pricing-bill/)

- Washington Post: Pharma wages last-ditch fight against drug pricing bill - <https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/2022/07/20/pharma-wages-last-ditch-fight-against-drug-pricing-bill/>
- Bloomberg: Why Prescription Drug Prices in the US Are So High: QuickTake - <https://www.bgov.com/next/news/RF2QB4T0AFB4>
- Bloomberg: FDA's Imperiled Funding Threatens Drug Approval Revamp, Staffing - <https://www.bgov.com/next/news/RFBBJBT0G1KW>
- Reuters: Democrats' policy package to include prescription drug cost controls and Obamacare fix - <https://www.reuters.com/world/us/democrats-policy-package-include-prescription-drug-cost-controls-obamacare-fix-2022-07-19/>
- ABC News: Schumer: Dems will push ahead on pared down economic measure - <https://abcnews.go.com/Health/wireStory/partisan-lines-form-dem-drug-price-curbs-economic-87047473>
- The Hill: Dems second-guessing their strategic decisions - <https://thehill.com/homenews/3566650-dems-second-guessing-their-strategic-decisions/>
- Politico: How would Dems' reconciliation bill affect pharma? - <https://www.politico.com/newsletters/prescription-pulse/2022/07/19/how-would-dems-reconciliation-bill-affect-pharma-00046404>
- Politico: Dems doused by reality and a Byrd bath - <https://www.politico.com/newsletters/huddle/2022/07/19/dems-face-reality-and-a-byrd-bath-00046500>
- Nurse staffing
  - U.S. Economic Development Administration (Press Release): U.S. Department of Commerce Invests \$4 Million in American Rescue Plan Funds to Expand Nursing Workforce Training in Goshen, Indiana - <https://eda.gov/news/press-releases/2022/07/19/goshen-in.htm>
  - RevCycleIntelligence: Physician Starting Salaries, Demand Rebounded from COVID-19 Lows - <https://revcycleintelligence.com/news/physician-starting-salaries-demand-rebounded-from-covid-19-lows>
  - Healthcare Finance News: 2.7% payment increase not enough to offset labor and supplies, AHA says - <https://www.healthcarefinancenews.com/news/27-payment-increase-not-enough-offset-labor-and-supplies-aha-says>

- Home Healthcare News: HHCN Staffing Summit: A Discussion with Axxess - <https://homehealthcarenews.com/2022/07/hcn-staffing-summit-a-discussion-with-axxess/>
- STIs
  - No new items
- 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
  - Bloomberg: Democrats Move to Delay Obamacare Premium Rise, Create New Cliff - <https://www.bgov.com/next/news/RFBCP5T0AFB4>
  - Stat News: Medicare offers financial perks for rural hospitals that convert to its new provider type. Will they bite? - <https://www.statnews.com/2022/07/20/medicare-rural-hospitals-new-category-reception/>
  - Inside Health Policy: Senators Say Length Of ACA Credit Extension Still Under Discussion - <https://insidehealthpolicy.com/daily-news/senators-say-length-aca-credit-extension-still-under-discussion>
  - Inside Health Policy: Brooks-LaSure: Medicare Device Coverage Rule Coming By Year's End - <https://insidehealthpolicy.com/daily-news/brooks-lasure-medicare-device-coverage-rule-coming-year%E2%80%99s-end>

- Morning Consult: Most Voters Back ACA Subsidy Extensions, Say They're Important to Lower Costs - <https://morningconsult.com/2022/07/20/affordable-care-act-subsidy-extensions-costs/>
- Modern Healthcare: U.S. health insurers raise rates to match increase in usage - [https://www.modernhealthcare.com/insurance/us-health-insurers-raise-rates-match-increase-usage?utm\\_source=modern-healthcare-am-wednesday&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=20220719&utm\\_content=article5-headline](https://www.modernhealthcare.com/insurance/us-health-insurers-raise-rates-match-increase-usage?utm_source=modern-healthcare-am-wednesday&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=20220719&utm_content=article5-headline)
- Nursing home quality initiative
  - Modern Healthcare: Nursing home staffing rule could cost \$10B a year, AHCA says - [https://www.modernhealthcare.com/politics-policy/nursing-home-staffing-rule-could-cost-10b-year-ahca-says?utm\\_source=modern-healthcare-am-wednesday&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=20220719&utm\\_content=article1-headline](https://www.modernhealthcare.com/politics-policy/nursing-home-staffing-rule-could-cost-10b-year-ahca-says?utm_source=modern-healthcare-am-wednesday&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=20220719&utm_content=article1-headline)
  - Skilled Nursing News: Nursing Home Operators Could Face Fines, Citations Tied to Arbitration Agreements as Part of New CMS Requirements - [https://skillednursingnews.com/2022/07/nursing-home-operators-could-face-fines-citations-tied-to-arbitration-agreements-as-part-of-new-cms-requirements/?euid=e0557ca2d3&utm\\_source=snn-newsletter&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=f2a19054f1&mc\\_cid=f2a19054f1&mc\\_eid=e0557ca2d3](https://skillednursingnews.com/2022/07/nursing-home-operators-could-face-fines-citations-tied-to-arbitration-agreements-as-part-of-new-cms-requirements/?euid=e0557ca2d3&utm_source=snn-newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=f2a19054f1&mc_cid=f2a19054f1&mc_eid=e0557ca2d3)
  - Skilled Nursing News: Federal Staffing Minimums Could Cost the Nursing Home Industry \$10B - [https://skillednursingnews.com/2022/07/federal-staffing-minimums-could-cost-the-nursing-home-industry-10b/?euid=e0557ca2d3&utm\\_source=snn-newsletter&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=f2a19054f1&mc\\_cid=f2a19054f1&mc\\_eid=e0557ca2d3](https://skillednursingnews.com/2022/07/federal-staffing-minimums-could-cost-the-nursing-home-industry-10b/?euid=e0557ca2d3&utm_source=snn-newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=f2a19054f1&mc_cid=f2a19054f1&mc_eid=e0557ca2d3)
  - Skilled Nursing News: Home Health Surpassed SNF Use in 2020 Among Medicare Beneficiaries - [https://skillednursingnews.com/2022/07/home-health-surpassed-snf-use-in-2020-as-favored-care-setting-among-medicare-beneficiaries/?euid=e0557ca2d3&utm\\_source=snn-newsletter&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=f2a19054f1&mc\\_cid=f2a19054f1&mc\\_eid=e0557ca2d3](https://skillednursingnews.com/2022/07/home-health-surpassed-snf-use-in-2020-as-favored-care-setting-among-medicare-beneficiaries/?euid=e0557ca2d3&utm_source=snn-newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=f2a19054f1&mc_cid=f2a19054f1&mc_eid=e0557ca2d3)