

HEALTH POLICY UPDATE: JULY 27, 2022

Congressional Schedule:

- The Senate convenes at 10 a.m. Following leader remarks, the Senate will resume consideration of the Schumer, D-N.Y., motion to concur in the House amendment to the Senate amendment to the semiconductor incentives and science research and development package (HR 4346) with the Schumer substitute amendment no. 5135. At 11:30 a.m., the Senate will vote on agreeing to a motion to waive a Sanders, I-Vt., budget point of order (if offered) in relation to HR 4346 and on passage of HR 4346, via motion to concur with the substitute amendment. At 4:30 p.m., the Senate will vote on agreeing to the Schumer, D-N.Y., motion to invoke cloture on the Schumer motion to concur in the House amendment to the veterans' toxic exposure benefits bill (S 3373), with a Schumer amendment no. 5148.
 - Bills:
 - HR 4346 — Semiconductor incentives and science innovation package
 - S 3373 — Honoring our PACT Act
- The House reconvenes at 10 a.m. for legislative business. The chamber is expected to consider a bill (HR 3771) that would authorize two grant programs to support heart disease research and awareness among the South Asian population of the U.S., a bill (HR 5118) that would respond to droughts and wildfires in the Western United States, and a bill (HR 6929) that would restore the full vested monthly benefits for eligible participants of certain Delphi pension plans.
 - Bills:
 - HR 3771 — South Asian Heart Health Awareness and Research Act
 - HR 5118 — Wildfire Response and Drought Resiliency Act
 - HR 6929 — Susan Muffley Act

Health policy update:

- BBB drug pricing and drug price negotiation items
 - Office of Senator Cortez Masto (Press Release): On Senate Floor, Cortez Masto Calls Out Dark Money Groups For Lying To Nevadans About Her Legislation To Lower Drug Costs - <https://www.cortezmasto.senate.gov/news/press-releases/on-senate-floor-cortez-masto-calls-out-dark-money-groups-for-lying-to-nevadans-about-her-legislation-to-lower-drug-costs>
 - Washington Post (Opinion): If GOP senators don't fear this vote, what could possibly scare them? -

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/2022/07/26/republicans-prescription-drug-pricing-vote/>

- **Bloomberg:** Senate Democrats Hunker Down After Covid Infections Trip Agenda - <https://www.bgov.com/next/news/RFN85YTOG1KY>
- **Axios:** Democrats' drug pricing bill still targets plenty of blockbusters - <https://www.axios.com/2022/07/27/democrats-prescription-drugs-medicare-negotiations-blockbusters>
- **American Journal of Managed Care:** Ted Okon: FTC Should Set Up Guardrails to Protect Americans from PBM Practices - <https://www.ajmc.com/view/ted-okon-ftc-should-set-up-guardrails-to-protect-americans-from-pbm-practices>
- **Becker's Hospital Review:** Senator challenges largest payers to follow UnitedHealthcare, drop insulin costs - <https://www.beckerspayer.com/payer/senator-challenges-largest-payers-to-follow-unitedhealthcare-drop-insulin-costs.html>
- Nurse staffing
 - **Wall Street Journal:** Traveling-Nurse Bubble Bursts - https://www.wsj.com/articles/traveling-nurse-bubble-bursts-11658919781?mod=rss_markets_main
 - **Skilled Nursing News:** Nursing Home Operators Make Infrastructure, Staffing Changes to Meet Behavioral Health Needs - https://skillednursingnews.com/2022/07/nursing-home-operators-make-infrastructure-staffing-changes-to-meet-behavioral-health-needs/?euid=e0557ca2d3&utm_source=snn-newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=00ec094c79&mc_cid=00ec094c79&mc_eid=e0557ca2d3
 - **Skilled Nursing News:** SNN Staffing Summit: A Discussion with OnShift - https://skillednursingnews.com/2022/07/snn-staffing-summit-a-discussion-with-onshift/?euid=e0557ca2d3&utm_source=snn-newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=00ec094c79&mc_cid=00ec094c79&mc_eid=e0557ca2d3
 - **MedCity News:** The current narrative on healthcare burnout is just plain wrong - https://medcitynews.com/2022/07/the-current-narrative-on-healthcare-burnout-is-just-plain-wrong/?utm_campaign=MCN%20Daily%20Top%20Stories&utm_medium=email&hsmi=220957205&hsenc=p2ANqtz-FluFw0DSEi5EMNoHkgiOPak4dcjGnuljdyHMe4_DoakvIff3Tdlqze3XrlpYLezGiQf

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- Becker's Hospital Review: Solutions to the physician shortage - <https://www.beckersasc.com/asc-news/solutions-to-the-physician-shortage.html>
- McKnights Senior Living: Competition for workers among providers is 'untenable' as workforce challenges continue: panel - <https://www.mcknightsseniorliving.com/home/news/competition-for-workers-among-providers-is-untenable-as-workforce-challenges-continue-panel/>
- STIs
 - No new items
- Colon cancer-related items
 - Healio: AI-Assisted colonoscopy bests conventional colonoscopy for adenoma detection - <https://www.healio.com/news/gastroenterology/20220726/aiassisted-colonoscopy-bests-conventional-colonoscopy-for-adenoma-detection>
- Organ donation and transplantation items
 - Still looking for House Oversight report
 - EurekAlert!: Immunosuppressive drug's blood level variability may identify pediatric kidney transplant recipients at risk of rejection - <https://www.eurekalert.org/news-releases/959574>
 - Medical Xpress: New research suggests natural killer cells in the liver help to prevent rejection after transplantation - <https://medicalxpress.com/news/2022-07-natural-killer-cells-liver-transplantation.html>
- Vision/dental care in Medicare-related items
 - No new items
- Physical rehabilitation
 - No new items
- Hospital and physician payment-related items

- Bloomberg: Democrats Move Ahead on Extending Health Subsidies for 2 Years - <https://www.bgov.com/next/news/RFN7UFT0G1KW>
- Bloomberg: Wyden Pushing to Extend ACA Subsidies Using Increased IRS Funds - <https://www.bgov.com/next/news/RFMZ2QT0AFB6>
- The Hill: Health Care — Wyden floats longer extension of health subsidies - <https://thehill.com/policy/healthcare/overnights/3575415-health-care-wyden-floats-longer-extension-of-health-subsidies/>
- Kaiser Health News: Health Insurers Price Data: It's Out There, but It's Not for the Faint of Heart - <https://khn.org/news/article/health-insurance-price-data-access/>
- Inside Health Policy: W&M To Mark Up MA Prior Auth Reform, But Fast Track Still A Possibility - <https://insidehealthpolicy.com/daily-news/wm-mark-ma-prior-auth-reform-fast-track-still-possibility>
- Becker's Hospital Review: ASCs should focus on price transparency, value-based care in next 5 years, leader says - <https://www.beckersasc.com/asc-news/asc-should-focus-on-price-transparency-value-based-care-in-next-5-years-leader-says.html>
- Nursing home quality initiative
 - HomeCare Magazine: Senate Bill Launched to Freeze Proposed Home Health Payment Cuts - <https://www.homecaremag.com/news/senate-bill-launched-freeze-proposed-home-health-payment-cuts>