

HEALTH POLICY UPDATE: JULY 28, 2022

Congressional Schedule:

- The Senate convenes at 10 a.m. Following leader remarks, the Senate will begin consideration of the nomination of Constance J. Milstein to be U.S. ambassador to Malta. At 1:45 p.m., the Senate will vote on confirmation of the Milstein nomination.
 - Nominations:
 - Constance J. Milstein to be U.S. ambassador to Malta.

- The House reconvenes at 10 a.m. for legislative business. The chamber is expected to consider a bill (Senate amendment to HR 4346) that would encourage the construction of microprocessor manufacturing facilities in the United States, a bill (HR 263) that would generally prohibit the breeding and possession of big cats in the U.S., and three bills under suspension of the rules. The House may also consider a bill (HR 5118) that would respond to drought and wildfires in the Western United States.
 - Bills:
 - HR 5118 — Wildfire Response and Drought Resiliency Act
 - HR 4346 — Semiconductor incentives and science innovation package
 - HR 263 — Big Cat Public Safety Act
 - HR 7283 — Safeguarding Treatment for the Restoration of Ecosystems from Abandoned Mines (STREAM) Act
 - HR 5093 — Wind River Administrative Site Conveyance Act
 - S 3451 — A bill to include certain computer-related projects in the Federal permitting program under title XLI of the FAST Act, and for other purposes.

Health policy update:

- BBB drug pricing and drug price negotiation items
 - New York Times: Manchin, in Reversal, Agrees to Quick Action on Climate and Tax Plan - <https://www.nytimes.com/2022/07/27/us/politics/manchin-climate-tax-bill.html>
 - Washington Post: Manchin says he has reached deal with Schumer on economy, climate bill - <https://www.washingtonpost.com/us-policy/2022/07/27/manchin-says-he-has-reached-deal-with-democrats-economy-climate-bill/>

- The Hill: Democrats (finally) strike a deal - <https://thehill.com/homenews/morning-report/3577527-the-hills-morning-report-democrats-finally-strike-a-deal/>
- The Hill: Manchin, Schumer announce slimmed-down deal on climate, taxes, health - <https://thehill.com/homenews/senate/3576965-manchin-schumer-announce-slimmed-down-670-billion-deal/>
- Politico: Manchin's latest shocker: A \$700B deal - <https://www.politico.com/news/2022/07/27/manchin-schumer-senate-deal-energy-taxes-00048325>
- Axios: Democrats' insulin dilemma - <https://www.axios.com/2022/07/28/democrats-insulin-drug-pricing-midterms>
- Roll Call: Health care budget bill to face open-ended 'vote-a-rama' - <https://rollcall.com/2022/07/27/health-care-budget-bill-to-face-open-ended-vote-a-rama/>
- USA Today: In turnabout. Sen. Joe Manchin, Senate Leader Schumer reach deal on energy, drug prices, taxes - <https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/politics/2022/07/27/lower-drug-prices-inflation-part-senate-deal-help-biden-agenda/10168128002/>
- Kaiser Family Foundation: How Would the Prescription Drug Provisions in the Senate Reconciliation Proposal Affect Medicare Beneficiaries? - <https://www.kff.org/medicare/issue-brief/how-would-the-prescription-drug-provisions-in-the-senate-reconciliation-proposal-affect-medicare-beneficiaries/>
- Managed Healthcare Executive: Medicare Drug Price Negotiation Included in Manchin, Schumer Deal - <https://www.managedhealthcareexecutive.com/view/medicare-drug-price-negotiation-included-in-manchin-schumer-deal>
- RealClearPolicy: Democrats' Bad Drug Deal - https://www.realclearpolicy.com/articles/2022/07/28/democrats_bad_drug_deal_844825.html
- Nurse staffing
 - Politico: The Crisis Facing Nursing Homes, Assisted Living and Home Care for America's Elderly - <https://www.politico.com/news/magazine/2022/07/28/elder-care-worker-shortage-immigration-crisis-00047454>

- Skilled Nursing News: The Math Doesn't Work: Nursing Home Staffing Woes Unsolvable Without Immigration Action - https://skillednursingnews.com/2022/07/the-math-doesnt-work-nursing-home-staffing-woes-unsolvable-without-immigration-action/?euid=e0557ca2d3&utm_source=snn-newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=0a7b8222f6&mc_cid=0a7b8222f6&mc_eid=e0557ca2d3
- USA Today: To retain nurses and other staffers, hospitals are opening child care centers - <https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/health/2022/07/28/retain-staff-hospitals-child-care/10152701002/?gnt-cfr=1>
- RevCycleIntelligence: Nursing Home Staffing Challenges Worse During COVID-19 Outbreaks - <https://revcycleintelligence.com/news/nursing-home-staffing-challenges-worse-during-covid-19-outbreaks>
- Becker's Hospital Review: Forecast calls for drop in demand for traveling nurses - <https://www.beckershospitalreview.com/workforce/forecast-calls-for-drop-in-demand-for-traveling-nurses.html>
- 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
 - Becker's Hospital Review: 8 recent Medicaid, Medicare updates - <https://www.beckersdental.com/revenue-cycle-management/39009-8-recent-medicaid-medicare-updates.html>
- Physical rehabilitation
 - Hemophilia News Today: Telerehabilitation Safe, Effective for Severe Hemophilia Patients: Study - <https://hemophilianewstoday.com/news/telerehabilitation-program-safe-effective-severe-hemophilia-patients/>

- Hospital and physician payment-related items
 - Bloomberg: Health Care Briefing: Manchin Deal Extends ACA Subsidies to 2025 - <https://www.bgov.com/next/news/RFQ846T0G1KY>
 - Bloomberg: Number of Americans Lacking Health Coverage Plunges, CDC Finds - <https://www.bgov.com/next/news/RFPPUPT0AFB4>
 - Bloomberg: Medicare Telehealth Services Extension Approved by House - <https://www.bgov.com/next/news/RFPBBDT0AFB4>
 - Bloomberg: Hospices to Get \$825 Million Payment Boost From Medicare in 2023 - <https://www.bgov.com/next/news/RFP4WRT0G1KX>
 - Bloomberg: Bill to Curb Medicare Advantage Lapses Wins House Panel's OK - <https://www.bgov.com/next/news/RFOUPHT0G1KW>
 - Modern Healthcare: House passes bill extending telehealth reimbursement through 2024 - https://www.modernhealthcare.com/politics-policy/house-passes-bill-extending-telehealth-reimbursement-through-2024?utm_source=modern-healthcare-am-thursday&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=20220727&utm_content=article-1-headline
 - Modern Healthcare: CMS hikes Medicare pay for rehab, psychiatric, and hospice providers - https://www.modernhealthcare.com/payment/rehab-psychiatry-and-hospice-get-medicare-pay-hikes?utm_source=modern-healthcare-am-thursday&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=20220727&utm_content=article-5-headline
 - Inside Health Policy: Congress, Hospitals Urge CMS To Revamp Proposed Inpatient Pay Rule - <https://insidehealthpolicy.com/daily-news/congress-hospitals-urge-cms-revamp-proposed-inpatient-pay-rule>
 - Inside Health Policy: Dems Unveil Reconciliation Package With \$64B For 3-Year ARP Extension - <https://insidehealthpolicy.com/daily-news/dems-unveil-reconciliation-package-64b-3-year-arp-extension>
 - Inside Health Policy: Lawmakers, Stakeholders Cheer Prior Auth Reform As Bill Clears W&M - <https://insidehealthpolicy.com/daily-news/lawmakers-stakeholders-cheer-prior-auth-reform-bill-clears-wm>
 - Fierce Healthcare: 142 bipartisan lawmakers push CMS to reconsider inpatient payment rule updates - <https://www.fiercehealthcare.com/providers/142-bipartisan-lawmakers-push-cms-reconsider-inpatient-payment-rule-updates>

- Nursing home quality initiative
 - Bloomberg: Medicare's Nursing Home Quality Rating System Gets Update - <https://news.bloomberglaw.com/health-law-and-business/medicares-nursing-home-quality-rating-system-gets-update>
 - Skilled Nursing News: CMS Officially Adds Weekend Staffing, Turnover to Five-Star Quality Ratings - <https://skillednursingnews.com/2022/07/cms-officially-adds-weekend-staffing-turnover-to-five-star-quality-ratings/>
 - McKights Senior Living: ADMA launches 'Moving Needles' vaccination initiative across 3 LTC organizations - <https://www.mcknights.com/news/clinical-news/amda-launches-moving-needles-vaccination-initiative-across-3-ltc-organizations/>
 - McKights Senior Living: Funding, unionization needed to improve wages, working conditions in long-term care: report - <https://www.mcknightsseniorliving.com/home/news/funding-unionization-needed-to-improve-wages-working-conditions-in-long-term-care-report/>