HEALTH POLICY UPDATE: September 14, 2022

Congressional Schedule:

- The Senate convenes at 10 a.m. Following leader remarks, the Senate will resume consideration of the nomination of Lara E. Montecalvo to be a U.S. circuit judge for the 1st Circuit. At 11:30 a.m., the Senate will vote on confirmation of the Montecalvo nomination and on agreeing to the Schumer, D-N.Y., motion to invoke cloture on the nomination of Sarah A. L. Merriam to be a U.S. circuit judge for the 2nd Circuit. Additional votes are possible.
  - Nominations:
    - Lara E. Montecalvo to be a U.S. circuit judge for the 1st Circuit.
    - Sarah A. L. Merriam to be a U.S. circuit judge for the 2nd Circuit.
- The House reconvenes at noon for legislative business. The chamber is expected to consider a measure under suspension of the rules and to take final votes on bills under suspension of the rules. The House is also expected to begin consideration of a bill (HR 2988) that would prohibit retaliation against employees who share information with Congress and a bill (HR 8326) that would modify requirements of the Census Bureau.
  - Bills:
    - HR 2988 — Whistleblower Protection Improvement Act
    - HR 3173 — Improving Seniors' Timely Access to Care Act
    - HR 884 — National Aviation Preparedness Plan Act
    - HR 5774 — Expediting Disaster Recovery Act
    - HR 1468 — Securities and Exchange Commission Real Estate Leasing Authority Revocation Act
    - S 2293 — Civilian Reservist Emergency Workforce (CREW) Act
    - S 4205 — Planning for Animal Wellness (PAW) Act
    - S 442 — Bulb Replacement Improving Government with High-efficiency Technology (BRIGHT) Act
    - HR 7939 — Student Veteran Emergency Relief Act
    - HR 7846 — Veterans' Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act
    - HR 7735 — Improving Access to the VA Home Loan Benefit Act
    - HR 5916 — Wounded Warrior Access Act
    - HR 8260 — Faster Payments to Veterans' Survivors Act
    - HR 5865 — A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 4110 Bluebonnet Drive in Stafford, Texas, as the "Leonard Scarcella Post Office Building."
    - HR 8326 — Ensuring a Fair and Accurate Census Act
Health policy update:

- Drug pricing and Inflation Reduction Act-related items

  - Bloomberg: Stopgap Funding Bill Sought as Path Forward for FDA User Fees - https://www.bgov.com/next/news/RI5X66DWRGG0
  - Philadelphia Inquirer (Opinion): Prescription drugs are too expensive. Gutting our patent system is not the way to lower prices - https://www.inquirer.com/opinion/commentary/patent-union-drug-prices-lower-democrats-pharmaceuticals-20220914.html

- Nurse staffing


- Colon cancer-related items
  - No new items

- Organ donation and transplantation items
  - Still looking for House Oversight report

- Vison/dental care in Medicare-related items
  - No new items

- Physical rehabilitation
  - No new items

- Hospital and physician payment-related items

- **Becker’s Hospital Review:** Study: No Surprises Act could result in millions more emergency department visits - [https://www.beckershospitalreview.com/finance/study-no-surprises-act-could-result-in-millions-more-emergency-department-visits.html](https://www.beckershospitalreview.com/finance/study-no-surprises-act-could-result-in-millions-more-emergency-department-visits.html)

- **Fierce Healthcare:** Study: Less is spent on low-value care in MA than in traditional Medicare - [https://www.fiercehealthcare.com/payers/study-how-medicare-advantage-saves-money](https://www.fiercehealthcare.com/payers/study-how-medicare-advantage-saves-money)


- Nursing home quality initiative

  - **No new items**

- Health equity-related items

  - **Newsweek (Opinion):** We Have The Tools to Prevent Opioid Deaths and Improve Health Equity - [https://www.newsweek.com/we-have-tools-prevent-opioid-deaths-improve-health-equity-opinion-1742211](https://www.newsweek.com/we-have-tools-prevent-opioid-deaths-improve-health-equity-opinion-1742211)

  - **Health Affairs:** How To Improve Race, Ethnicity, And Language Data And Disparities Interventions - [https://www.healthaffairs.org/content/forefront/improve-race-ethnicity-and-language-data-and-disparities-interventions](https://www.healthaffairs.org/content/forefront/improve-race-ethnicity-and-language-data-and-disparities-interventions)