

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: Health Care Briefing: Senators Eye Stopgap as User Fees Vehicle - <https://www.bgov.com/next/news/RI73ACDWLU6B>
 - 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>
 - Inside Health Policy: AHIP: Drugs Still Are Largest Piece Of Commercial Plans' Premiums - <https://insidehealthpolicy.com/daily-news/ahip-drugs-still-are-largest-piece-commercial-plans%E2%80%99-premiums>
 - Inside Health Policy: Sept. 15 Is New Deadline For FDA User Fee Deal - <https://insidehealthpolicy.com/daily-news/sept-15-new-deadline-fda-user-fee-deal>
 - Becker's Hospital Review: Hospitals are hiking cancer drug costs up to 11%, report finds - <https://www.beckershospitalreview.com/pharmacy/hospitals-are-hiking-cancer-drug-costs-up-to-11-report-finds.html>
 - Managed Healthcare Executive: PBMs Can Help Payers Manage Financial Risk for High-Cost Drugs - <https://www.managedhealthcareexecutive.com/view/pbms-can-help-payers-manage-financial-risk-for-high-cost-drugs-2022-pbmi-annual-national-conference>
- Nurse staffing
 - Office of Senator Bob Casey (Press Release): Casey Pushes for Information from State Nursing Home Inspectors Amidst Staffing Shortages, Widespread Inspection Delays - <https://www.casey.senate.gov/news/releases/casey-pushes-for-information-from-state-nursing-home-inspectors-amidst-staffing-shortages-widespread-inspection-delays>
 - Skilled Nursing News: Operators Urge CMS to Reconsider Winding Down Essential Waivers as SNF Recovery Varies - https://skillednursingnews.com/2022/09/operators-urge-cms-to-reconsider-winding-down-essential-waivers-as-snf-recovery-varies/?euid=e0557ca2d3&utm_source=snn-

[newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=0527825b5d&mc_cid=0527825b5d&mc_eid=e0557ca2d3](https://www.healthcarediver.com/news/labor-strikes-healthcare-workers-2022/626965/)

- Healthcare Dive: Strikes among healthcare workers in 2022 - <https://www.healthcarediver.com/news/labor-strikes-healthcare-workers-2022/626965/>
- Fierce Healthcare: Workforce of psychiatric nurse practitioners more than doubled, filling unmet gaps amid diminishing supply of psychiatrists - <https://www.fiercehealthcare.com/providers/workforce-psychiatric-nurse-practitioners-more-doubled-filling-unmet-gaps-amid>
- Colon cancer-related items
 - No new items
- Organ donation and transplantation items
 - Still looking for House Oversight report
 - Axios: Organ transplant milestone is personal for many - <https://www.axios.com/local/nashville/2022/09/14/million-organ-transplant-milestone-tennessee-impact>
 - Healio: Organ exchange agreement bridges US, Italy for living kidney donors - <https://www.healio.com/news/nephrology/20220913/organ-exchange-agreement-bridges-us-italy-for-living-kidney-donors>
- Vision/dental care in Medicare-related items
 - No new items
- Physical rehabilitation
 - No new items
- Hospital and physician payment-related items
 - American Hospital Association: AHA comments on proposed outpatient payment rule for CY 2023 - <https://www.aha.org/news/headline/2022-09-13-aha-comments-proposed-outpatient-payment-rule-cy-2023>
 - Inside Health Policy: Bera, Bucshon Bill Would Push Off Medicare 2023 Physician Fee Cuts - <https://insidehealthpolicy.com/daily-news/bera-bucshon-bill-would-push-medicare-2023-physician-fee-cuts>

- Inside Health Policy: Radiation Oncologists Optimistic After CMS Puts RO Model On Hold - <https://insidehealthpolicy.com/daily-news/radiation-oncologists-optimistic-after-cms-puts-ro-model-hold>
- 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>
- 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>
- Fierce Healthcare: Private equity deals drive up healthcare use, costs among physician practices, JAMA study finds - <https://www.fiercehealthcare.com/finance/private-equity-associated-greater-spending-utilization-jama-study-finds>
- RevCycleIntelligence: Low Reimbursement, Staffing Shortages Lead to Rural Hospital Closures - <https://revcycleintelligence.com/news/low-reimbursement-staffing-shortages-lead-to-rural-hospital-closures>
- 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>
 - 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>