HEALTH POLICY UPDATE: September 19, 2022

Congressional Schedule:

• The Senate convenes at 3 p.m. Following leader remarks, the Senate will resume consideration of the nomination of Florence Y. Pan to be a U.S. circuit judge for the D.C. Circuit. At 5:30 p.m., the Senate will vote on agreeing to the Schumer, D-N.Y., motion to invoke cloture on the Pan nomination.
  
  o Nominations:
    ▪ Florence Y. Pan to be a U.S. circuit judge for the D.C. Circuit

• The House reconvenes at 2 p.m. for legislative business and is expected to consider measures under suspension of the rules. Roll call votes will be postponed until 6:30 p.m.
  
  o Bills:
    ▪ HR 1456 — Peace Corps Reauthorization Act
    ▪ S 3895 — United States Commission on International Religious Freedom Reauthorization Act
    ▪ HR 7240 — READ Act Reauthorization Act
    ▪ HR 8503 — Securing Global Telecommunications Act
    ▪ HR 8520 — Countering Untrusted Telecommunications Abroad Act
    ▪ HR 7338 — Russia Cryptocurrency Transparency Act
    ▪ HR 6265 — Countering Assad’s Proliferation Trafficking And Garnering Of Narcotics (CAPTAGON) Act
    ▪ HR 6846 — Corruption, Overthrowing Rule of Law, and Ruining Ukraine: Putin’s Trifecta (CORRUPT) Act
    ▪ H Res 558 — A resolution urging the European Union to designate Hizballah in its entirety as a terrorist organization.
    ▪ HR 8453 — Upholding the Dayton Peace Agreement Through Sanctions Act
    ▪ HR 1433 — Helen Keller National Center Reauthorization Act
    ▪ S 3157 — Bridging the Gap for New Americans Act
    ▪ HR 7566 — A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to increase the punishment for human trafficking in a school zone, and for other purposes.
    ▪ HR 7181 — Human Trafficking Prevention Act
    ▪ S 169 — Artistic Recognition for Talented Students (ARTS) Act
    ▪ HR 4330 — Protect Reporters from Exploitative State Spying (PRESS) Act
    ▪ HR 3034 — A bill to amend title 28, United States Code, provide an additional place for holding court for the Western District of Washington, and for other purposes.
- HR 4009 — Georgetown Waterfront Enslaved Voyages Memorial Act
- HR 6353 — National Service Animals Memorial Act
- HR 6734 — Keep America’s Refuges Operational Act
- HR 7618 — A bill to designate the Kol Israel Foundation Holocaust Memorial in Bedford Heights, Ohio, as a national memorial.
- S 2490 — Blackwell School National Historic Site Act
- HR 820 — New Philadelphia National Historical Park Act
- HR 4358 — Little Manatee Wild and Scenic River Act
- HR 7698 — A bill to designate the outpatient clinic of the Department of Veterans Affairs in Ventura, California, as the "Captain Rosemary Bryant Mariner Outpatient Clinic."
- S 2771 — A bill to designate the community-based outpatient clinic of the Department of Veterans Affairs in San Angelo, Texas, as the "Colonel Charles and JoAnne Powell Department of Veterans Affairs Clinic."

Health policy update:

- Drug pricing and Inflation Reduction Act-related items
  - Bloomberg: Skyrocketing Prices Fuel Drive for Fresh Crackdown on Drug Costs - https://www.bgov.com/next/news/RIG92NT0G1KY
  - Modern Healthcare (Opinion): Seniors finally get some relief from high drug costs, but there’s more work to do - https://www.modernhealthcare.com/opinion/sen-tammy-baldwin-cutting-out-pocket-costs

- Nurse staffing
  - Axios: Travel nursing pay drops 7% from last year - https://www.axios.com/2022/09/18/travel-nursing-pay-down

- **MedCity News:** Confronting burnout head on: 3 ways nursing home owners can protect the health and happiness of their nurses - [https://medcitynews.com/2022/09/confronting-burnout-head-on-3-ways-nursing-home-owners-can-protect-the-health-and-happiness-of-their-nurses/?utm_campaign=MCN%20Daily%20Top%20Stories&utm_medium=email&hsenc=p2ANqtz-0tZrrdb7PM2zrpGJ5f5bwhlUZwKYxireuqrvkCut96wNg9MLVuxQr2pf85BcMukVHGm834_1-K6pEr5EXX3A5zHkHaA&utm_content=226467519&utm_source=hs_email](https://medcitynews.com/2022/09/confronting-burnout-head-on-3-ways-nursing-home-owners-can-protect-the-health-and-happiness-of-their-nurses/?utm_campaign=MCN%20Daily%20Top%20Stories&utm_medium=email&hsenc=p2ANqtz-0tZrrdb7PM2zrpGJ5f5bwhlUZwKYxireuqrvkCut96wNg9MLVuxQr2pf85BcMukVHGm834_1-K6pEr5EXX3A5zHkHaA&utm_content=226467519&utm_source=hs_email)

- **Fierce Healthcare:** HHS releases road map to address mental health pay parity, workforce shortage issues - [https://www.fiercehealthcare.com/providers/hhs-releases-roadmap-address-mental-health-pay-parity-workforce-shortage-issues](https://www.fiercehealthcare.com/providers/hhs-releases-roadmap-address-mental-health-pay-parity-workforce-shortage-issues)

- **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**
  - **Bloomberg:** IRS Rule to Strengthen Obamacare Under White House Review - [https://www.bgov.com/next/news/RIB5RNDWRGG0](https://www.bgov.com/next/news/RIB5RNDWRGG0)
  - **Axios:** Employers’ coming health care crunch - [https://www.axios.com/2022/09/19/employer-health-costs-premiums-workers](https://www.axios.com/2022/09/19/employer-health-costs-premiums-workers)
- **Stat News**: Medicare is using one of its biggest hammers to try to fix the dialysis system: how providers are paid - [https://www.statnews.com/2022/09/19/medicare-is-using-one-of-its-biggest-hammers-to-try-to-fix-the-dialysis-system-how-providers-are-paid/](https://www.statnews.com/2022/09/19/medicare-is-using-one-of-its-biggest-hammers-to-try-to-fix-the-dialysis-system-how-providers-are-paid/)

- **Stat News**: Surgery needs a new pay model, free from incentives to do more procedures - [https://www.statnews.com/2022/09/19/surgeons-payment-model-incentives/](https://www.statnews.com/2022/09/19/surgeons-payment-model-incentives/)


- **Fierce Healthcare**: OIG report flags telehealth insurance fraud, recommends CMS beef up oversight - [https://www.fiercehealthcare.com/payers/medicare-telehealth-fraud-something-see-here](https://www.fiercehealthcare.com/payers/medicare-telehealth-fraud-something-see-here)

- **Nursing home quality initiative**

  - **No new items**

- **Health equity-related items**

  - **Bloomberg**: Biden Cancer Moonshot Aims to Close Access Gaps, Speed Treatment - [https://www.bgov.com/next/news/RIBINIT0G1KZ](https://www.bgov.com/next/news/RIBINIT0G1KZ)

  - **Axios**: Study: Medical debt threatens people’s health, housing - [https://www.axios.com/2022/09/19/medical-debt-risks-health-housing](https://www.axios.com/2022/09/19/medical-debt-risks-health-housing)