

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.
 - 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.
 - 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: Health Care Briefing: Advocates Target Pharmaceutical Middlemen - <https://www.bgov.com/next/news/RIGCXIT0AFB4>
 - Bloomberg: Skyrocketing Prices Fuel Drive for Fresh Crackdown on Drug Costs - <https://www.bgov.com/next/news/RIG92NT0G1KY>
 - Inside Health Policy: 'Clean' User Fee Bill Becomes More Likely The Longer Talks Drag On - <https://insidehealthpolicy.com/daily-news/%E2%80%98clean%E2%80%99-user-fee-bill-becomes-more-likely-longer-talks-drag>
 - 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>
 - Modern Healthcare (Opinion): We're making progress tackling America's healthcare challenges - <https://www.modernhealthcare.com/opinion/rep-richard-neal-what-still-ailing-our-healthcare-system>
- Nurse staffing
 - Axios: Travel nursing pay drops 7% from last year - <https://www.axios.com/2022/09/18/travel-nursing-pay-down>

- Inside Health Policy: MACPAC Tees Up Staffing, Private Equity Analysis For SNF Year-Ahead Priorities - <https://insidehealthpolicy.com/daily-news/macpac-tees-staffing-private-equity-analysis-snf-year-ahead-priorities>
- 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&_hsmi=226467519&_hsenc=p2ANqtz-OtZrrdb7PM2zrpGJ5f5bwhlUZwKYxireuqrvkCut96wNg9MLVuxQr2pf85BcMukVHGm834_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>
- Colon cancer-related items
 - No new items
- Organ donation and transplantation items
 - Still looking for House Oversight report
 - Modern Healthcare (Opinion): Competition needed to address a flawed organ donation system - <https://www.modernhealthcare.com/opinion/sen-jerry-moran-liver-transplant-system-rigged>
- Vision/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>
 - Axios: Employers' coming health care crunch - <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/>
- 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/>
- Modern Healthcare (Opinion): Lack of program alignment hindering care for dual-eligibles - <https://www.modernhealthcare.com/opinion/sen-bill-cassidy-poor-coordination-between-medicare-and-medicaid>
- Becker's Hospital Review: Capping cost-sharing monthly, rather than yearly, could save patients money - <https://www.beckerspayer.com/payer/capping-cost-sharing-monthly-rather-than-yearly-could-save-patients-money.html>
- Fierce Healthcare: OIG report flags telehealth insurance fraud, recommends CMS beef up oversight - <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>
 - Axios: Study: Medical debt threatens people's health, housing - <https://www.axios.com/2022/09/19/medical-debt-risks-health-housing>