

## HEALTH POLICY UPDATE: September 28, 2022

### Congressional Schedule:

- The Senate convenes at 10 a.m. Following leader remarks, the Senate will resume consideration of the Schumer, D-N.Y., motion to proceed to the legislative vehicle (HR 6833) for the fiscal 2023 continuing resolution. The Senate will recess from 12:30-2:15 p.m. for weekly caucus lunches. Votes are possible but have not been scheduled.
  - Bills:
    - HR 6833 — Expected legislative vehicle for fiscal 2023 short-term appropriations
- 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:
    - S 4900 — SBIR and STTR Extension Act
    - HR 8956 — A bill to amend chapter 36 of title 44, United States Code, to improve the cybersecurity of the Federal Government, and for other purposes.
    - HR 8466 — Chai Suthammanont Remembrance Act
    - S 3470 — End Human Trafficking in Government Contracts Act
    - S 2551 — AI Training Act
    - HR 6967 — Chance to Compete Act
    - HR 6267 — A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 15 Chestnut Street in Suffern, New York, as the 'Sergeant Gerald T. 'Jerry' Donnellan Post Office.'
    - HR 6080 — A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 5420 Kavanaugh Boulevard in Little Rock, Arkansas, as the "Ronald A. Robinson Post Office."
    - HR 8163 — Improving Trauma Systems and Emergency Care Act
    - HR 5141 — Maximizing Outcomes through Better Investments in Lifesaving Equipment for (MOBILE) Health Care Act
    - HR 4081 — Informing Consumers about Smart Devices Act
    - HR 6965 — Visit America Act
    - HR 6889 — Credit Union Board Modernization Act
    - HR 2710 — Banking Transparency for Sanctioned Persons Act
    - HR 6364 — A bill to amend the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area Improvement Act to extend the exception to the closure of certain roads within the Recreation Area for local businesses, and for other purposes.

- HR 7321 — Safe Aircraft Maintenance Standards Act
- HR 3482 — National Center for the Advancement of Aviation Act
- HR 5641 — Small Project Efficient and Effective Disaster (SPEED) Recovery Act
- HR 5703 — Post-Disaster Mental Health Response Act
- HR 3304 — CARS for Vets Act
- HR 8888 — Food Security for All Veterans Act
- HR 8875 — Expanding Home Loans for Guard and Reservists Act
- HR 5918 — A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to ensure that the Secretary of Veterans Affairs repays members of the Armed Forces for certain contributions made by such members towards Post-9/11 Educational Assistance.
- HR 7589 — Reduce and Eliminate Mental Health Outpatient Veteran Copays (REMOVE Copays) Act
- S 1198 — Solid Start Act
- HR 8510 — Strengthening Whistleblower Protections at the Department of Veterans Affairs Act
- S 2794 — Supporting Families of the Fallen Act
- S 4791 — A bill to amend section 301 of title 44, United States Code, to establish a term for the appointment of the Director of the Government Publishing Office.
- HR 8681 — John Lewis Civil Rights Fellowship Act
- HR 8446 — Global Food Security Reauthorization Act
- HR 8463 — Millennium Challenge Corporation Eligibility Expansion Act
- HR 4821 — Combating the Persecution of Christians in China Act

### Health policy update:

- Drug pricing and Inflation Reduction Act-related items
  - American Hospital Association: AHA comments on MedPAC wage index, drug, Medicare Advantage discussions - <https://www.aha.org/news/headline/2022-09-27-aha-comments-medpac-wage-index-drug-medicare-advantage-discussions>
  - Washington Post: A revisiting of capping insulin costs for privately insured is coming, Biden says - <https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/2022/09/27/senate-shutdown-biden-social-security/>
  - Bloomberg: Employer Benefit Seen From New Medicare Drug Price Law - <https://www.bgov.com/next/news/RIWZJQDWLU68>
  - Axios: Biden lauds drop in Medicare monthly premiums - <https://www.axios.com/2022/09/27/biden-medicare-premium-drop>

- The Hill: Biden touts drug pricing reforms ahead of midterms - <https://thehill.com/homenews/3663380-biden-touts-drug-pricing-reforms-ahead-of-midterms/>
- The Hill: Health Care — Biden pushes drug price wins - <https://thehill.com/policy/healthcare/3663911-health-care-biden-pushes-drug-price-wins/>
- Inside Health Policy: Biden Increases Focus On Medicare Ahead Of November Midterms - <https://insidehealthpolicy.com/daily-news/biden-increases-focus-medicare-ahead-november-midterms>
- Inside Health Policy: 2023 Part B Premium To Drop Due To Lower Aduhelm Spending - <https://insidehealthpolicy.com/daily-news/2023-part-b-premium-drop-due-lower-aduhelm-spending>
- Nurse staffing
  - Fierce Healthcare: Hospitals ramping up recruiting, employee benefit offerings amid labor shortage fears, survey finds - <https://www.fiercehealthcare.com/providers/healthcare-labor-shortage-fears-have-most-hospitals-ramping-recruiting-and-employee>
  - McKnight's Senior Living: Report: Nurse residency programs could help reduce turnover - <https://www.mcknightsseniorliving.com/home/news/business-daily-news/report-nurse-residency-programs-could-help-reduce-turnover/>
  - McKnight's Senior Living: Home care is losing employees to retail, restaurants - <https://www.mcknightsseniorliving.com/home/news/business-daily-news/home-care-is-losing-employees-to-retail-restaurants/>
- Colon cancer-related items
  - Healio: FDA grants 510(k) clearance to AI-assisted polyp detection device - <https://www.healio.com/news/gastroenterology/20220927/fda-grants-510k-clearance-to-ai-assisted-polyp-detection-device>
- Organ donation and transplantation items
  - Still looking for House Oversight report
  - MedPage Today (Opinion): Advancing Health Equity in Organ Transplantation - <https://www.medpagetoday.com/opinion/second-opinions/100937>

- Healio: More than 50% of kidney transplant recipients report employment - <https://www.healio.com/news/nephrology/20220927/more-than-50-of-kidney-transplant-recipients-report-employment>
- Vision/dental care in Medicare-related items
  - No new items
- Physical rehabilitation
  - No new items
- Hospital and physician payment-related items
  - American Medical Association: Physicians' unified message to Congress: Reform Medicare pay now - <https://www.ama-assn.org/practice-management/medicare-medicaid/physicians-unified-message-congress-reform-medicare-pay-now>
  - Washington Post: Biden vows to protect Medicare - <https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/2022/09/27/senate-shutdown-biden-social-security/>
  - Bloomberg: Medicare Outpatient Premiums Down, Hospital Premiums Up in 2023 - <https://www.bgov.com/next/news/RIVJ4IDWLU68>
  - Bloomberg: Surprise Medical Bill Rule Lawsuit Heading Toward Texas Court - <https://news.bloomberglaw.com/health-law-and-business/surprise-medical-bill-rule-lawsuit-heading-toward-texas-court>
  - Modern Healthcare: Senate advances short-term rural Medicare program extensions - [https://www.modernhealthcare.com/politics-policy/stopgap-funding-bill-would-extend-medicare-programs-rural-hospitals?utm\\_source=modern-healthcare-am-wednesday&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=20220927&utm\\_content=article1-headline](https://www.modernhealthcare.com/politics-policy/stopgap-funding-bill-would-extend-medicare-programs-rural-hospitals?utm_source=modern-healthcare-am-wednesday&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=20220927&utm_content=article1-headline)
  - Becker's Hospital Review: Comprehensive Primary Care Plus did not save payers money or improve quality, study finds - <https://www.beckerspayer.com/payer/comprehensive-primary-care-plus-did-not-save-payers-money-or-improve-quality-study-finds.html>
  - Becker's Hospital Review: CMS reopens comment on pandemic-era Medicaid fund matching rules - <https://www.beckerspayer.com/payer/cms-reopens-comment-on-pandemic-era-medicaid-fund-matching-rules.html>

- RevCycleIntelligence: TX Doctors Sue Feds Over Surprise Billing IDR Process, Again - <https://revcycleintelligence.com/news/tx-doctors-sue-feds-over-surprise-billing-idr-process-again>
- Nursing home quality initiative
  - Skilled Nursing News: As Nursing Home SCOTUS Case Looms, Flood of Briefs Support Plaintiff - [https://skillednursingnews.com/2022/09/as-nursing-home-scotus-case-looms-flood-of-briefs-support-plaintiff/?euid=e0557ca2d3&utm\\_source=snn-newsletter&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=c13d5f9a91&mc\\_cid=c13d5f9a91&mc\\_eid=e0557ca2d3](https://skillednursingnews.com/2022/09/as-nursing-home-scotus-case-looms-flood-of-briefs-support-plaintiff/?euid=e0557ca2d3&utm_source=snn-newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=c13d5f9a91&mc_cid=c13d5f9a91&mc_eid=e0557ca2d3)
- Health equity-related items
  - Axios: Study finds gaps in reporting harms from U.S. cancer screenings - <https://www.axios.com/2022/09/27/cancer-screening-harm-study>
- Hospital merger news
  - Axios: Back to business: health care M&A activity expected to accelerate - <https://www.axios.com/2022/09/28/back-to-business-health-care-ma-activity-expected-to-accelerate>