



Health Policy Briefing

February 1, 2021

Democrats to Start Reconciliation Process While COVID Relief Negotiations Remain Underway

The White House continues to stand by its nearly \$2 trillion proposal for coronavirus relief while also expressing hope that a stimulus package can be passed on a bipartisan basis. Republicans have largely rejected the proposal citing concerns about the overall size of the measure. While there is a consensus that more funding is needed for the vaccine distribution campaign, there are lawmakers on both sides of the aisle who are hesitant to approve \$1,400 stimulus checks to most individual Americans without any additional means testing. Republicans are also resisting proposals to raise the federal minimum wage and provide additional funding for state and local governments.

A group of 10 Senate Republicans led by Susan Collins (R-Maine) sent a [letter](#) to President Joe Biden over the weekend requesting a meeting on COVID relief. The letter outlines the framework for their counterproposal, which includes a total of \$160 billion for vaccines, testing, treatment, and personal protective equipment (PPE), in line with the President's plan. The group is expected to release more details on their proposal today. The letter was signed by GOP Sens. Lisa Murkowski (Alaska), Bill Cassidy (La.), Mitt Romney (Utah), Rob Portman (Ohio), Shelley Moore Capito (W.Va.), Todd Young (Ind.), Jerry Moran (Kansas), Thom Tillis (N.C.), and Mike Rounds (S.D.).

While a bipartisan alternative remains under discussion, Democratic leadership are also preparing to pursue the option of reconciliation, a budget procedure that would allow certain provisions

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to pass both chambers with simple majorities. Budget Committee Chair John Yarmuth (D-Ky.) has said that the House of Representatives intends to hold a vote this week on a budget resolution, the first step to starting the reconciliation process for COVID stimulus legislation. The resolution will not be considered by the committee but will instead be brought directly to the floor. Majority Leader Steny Hoyer (D-Md.) released a revised [schedule](#) for the House to accommodate this process and provide committees two weeks in February to focus on the legislative work. Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-N.Y.) also informed his caucus that a vote on a budget resolution could come as early as this week. Lawmakers are working to pass additional COVID-19 legislation ahead of March 14, when expanded unemployment insurance benefits are set to expire.

The Biden administration may need to reconsider its agenda in terms of which measures can be passed through reconciliation and which measures require regular order. The Byrd Rule prohibits the Senate from considering extraneous matter as part of the reconciliation process, but the Senate parliamentarian determines germaneness. Direct stimulus checks and extended unemployment aid are expected to qualify for the reconciliation process, while it is not clear whether vaccine funding and a minimum wage increase would qualify. The status of aid for state and local governments remains unclear. Some suggest that democrats push back should the parliamentarian rule that a provision is not germane and appeal to Vice President Harris or the Senate president pro tempore to exercise their constitutional power to rule the provision germane.

Phase 3 Data from J&J Vaccine Released

Global Phase 3 clinical data has been [released](#) for the investigational COVID-19 vaccine developed by Johnson & Johnson. The single-shot vaccine was shown to be 66 percent effective in preventing moderate and severe disease, and 85 percent effective at preventing hospitalization and deaths in all regions where it was tested. The vaccine can be stored at regular refrigerated temperatures. The company plans to request an emergency use authorization (EUA) from the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) early this month. Johnson & Johnson has said that it can meet its commitment to provide 100 million doses by June.

Biden Signs More Executive Orders in Second Week

Last week, President Joe Biden signed several executive orders (E.O.s). One major E.O. contained the President's plan for 'Buy American.' The order directs U.S. agencies to strengthen purchase requirements for acquiring goods and services from U.S. companies and workers, making it more difficult for the federal government to obtain waivers for the purchase of products overseas. It also establishes a new post in the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to oversee the changes and provide transparency around agencies that do seek a waiver and revises the standards for American-made products with an aim of ensuring they are manufactured with a higher percentage of U.S. components and labor. The E.O. directs the provisions to be implemented within six months.

Another E.O. issued on January 21 directs the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to review the interoperability of public health data systems across the nation with the goal of better enabling COVID data sharing throughout the federal government, improving vaccine distribution, and increasing the understanding of the scope of the pandemic in communities throughout the country. OMB is directed to issue additional guidance on how to de-identify COVID-related data and make it available to the public.

President Biden also moved to reopen HealthCare.gov for a special enrollment period aimed at those individuals needing coverage during the ongoing pandemic. The administration plans to spend \$50 million in advertising and outreach for the additional open enrollment period. The federal marketplace will be opened for three-months starting on February 15 under the E.O., which also directs a broad review of policies "that limit Americans' access to health care."

White House Delays, Withdraws Additional Health Rules

The Biden administration has acted to delay the effective date of several Trump-era regulations. The Organ Procurement Organizations Conditions for Coverage final rule, which altered the requirements related to organ procurement organizations (OPOs), was scheduled to take effect on February 1 but is now delayed until March 30 to provide the new administration time to review “issues of fact, law, and policy.” The White House also paused the Trump administration’s drug rebate rule, which would replace current rebates with fixed-fee arrangement, delaying the policy until March 22 from an original effective date of January 29. The Government Accountability Office (GAO) had flagged the rule for violating the Congressional Review Act, which requires major rules to take effect no sooner than 60 days after publication in the Federal Register. The HHS is also delaying the Secure Electronic Prior Authorization for Medicare Part D rule, originally slated to go into effect January 30, until March 30. The rule aims to streamline the prior authorization process for certain products in Part D.

The White House has also withdrawn three rules proposed by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) during the Trump administration: Conditions for Coverage for End-Stage Renal Disease Facilities—Third Party Payments; Strengthening Oversight of Accrediting Organizations (AO) and Preventing AO Conflict of Interest, and Related Provisions; and Revisions to Medicare Part A Enrollments.

Administration Freezes Buprenorphine Guidance

The Biden administration is planning to freeze guidance drafted by the previous administration that would make it easier for physicians to prescribe Buprenorphine, according to a report from the *Washington Post*. A draft announcement from the White House cites their significant legal and clinical concerns with the guidance, but reiterates the President’s commitment to improving access to opioid use disorder treatment.

In related news, several Senators have raised concerns about the possible nomination of Janet Woodcock to lead the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions (HELP) Committee member Maggie Hassan (D-N.H.) and Sen. Ed Markey (D-Mass.) recently questioned Woodcock’s role leading the agency’s drug division during the opioid epidemic and warned that the FDA has still not accounted for the approval and labeling decisions that resulted in the availability of dozens of opioids on the market.

Biden Selects Nurse as Acting Surgeon General

President Joe Biden has selected Rear Admiral Susan Orsega, MSN, FNP_BC, FAANP, FAAN to serve as the Acting Surgeon General. Orsega is a nurse practitioner, infectious-disease specialist, and career-commissioned officer in the U.S. Public Health Service corps. Previously, she served as Director of Commissioned Corps Headquarters and was the principal advisor to the Surgeon General. She will serve as Acting Surgeon General pending the confirmation of Dr. Vivek H. Murthy by the U.S. Senate.

Senate Continues to Confirm Biden’s Cabinet

The Senate confirmed Janet Yellen as Treasury Secretary last week by a vote of 84-15. She will play a critical role in trying to shore up support for the administration’s \$1.9 trillion COVID-19 stimulus plan. During her confirmation hearing she argued that the historically low interest rates makes it the right time for additional deficit spending. Antony Blinken was also confirmed by the Senate to be Secretary of State by a vote of 78-22. The Senate Finance Committee has received and is reviewing all of HHS secretary nominee Xavier Becerra’s required paperwork but has yet to set a date for his confirmation hearing.

Progress Made on Senate Power-Sharing Agreement

Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-N.Y.) and Minority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.) have made progress on a power sharing agreement for the 117th Congress. Minority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.) dropped his demand for an assurance that the filibuster would be kept intact after Sens. Joe Manchin (D-W.V.) and Kyrsten Sinema (D-Ariz.) pledged that they would not vote to do away with the rule, which allows the minority to block legislation requiring 60 members to end debate on a bill and bring it for a vote. With the 50-50 partisan split in the Senate, the President will need the support of at least 10 Republicans in the Senate to pass legislation under regular order. In votes where only a majority is needed, Vice President Kamala Harris can break a tie. The Senate is expected to vote soon on an organizing resolution, which would help establish the committee structure.

Burr to Take Top Republican Spot on HELP

Sen. Richard Burr (R-N.C.) will become the top Republican on the Senate HELP Committee, replacing Sen. Lamar Alexander (R-Tenn.) who retired at the end of the last Congress. The panel is expected to hold a courtesy confirmation hearing for Xavier Becerra, nominee for Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), in the coming weeks. Sen. Patty Murry (D-Wash.) is set to chair the committee for the 117th Congress. Murray and Burr are expected to continue the panel's past prioritization of working to lower health care prices.

Leadership of House Appropriations for 117th Congress

House Appropriations Chair Rosa DeLauro (D-Conn.) has [announced](#) the lawmakers who will lead the panel's subcommittees for the 117th Congress. DeLauro will remain chair of the Labor-Health and Human Services-Education Subcommittee, while Rep. Sanford Bishop (D-Ga.) will lead Agriculture-Food and Drug Administration and Rep. Debbie Wasserman Schultz (D-Fla.) will lead Military Construction-Veterans Affairs. The picks must still be approved by the full Democratic caucus.

Coronavirus, Budget Panel Membership

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) announced Democratic appointments for the Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Crisis for the 117th Congress. The panel will be comprised of Rep. Jim Clyburn (D-S.C.), Maxine Waters (D-Calif.), Carolyn Maloney (D-N.Y.), Nydia Velazquez (D-N.Y.), Bill Foster (D-Ill.), Jamie Raskin (D-Md.), and Raja Krishnamoorthi (D-Ill.). The panel was established last year to oversee the efficiency, effectiveness, equity, and transparency of the use of taxpayer funds and relief programs to address the coronavirus crisis.

The Democratic members who will serve on the House Budget Committee during the 117th Congress were also announced and approved by the full caucus last week. Three new members will join the panel's 17 returning lawmakers: Rep. Stacey Plaskett (D-V.I.), Rep. Judy Chu (D-Calif.), and Rep. Jennifer Wexton (D-Va.)

Kaine Considers Trump Censure Given Unlikelihood of Impeachment Conviction

Sen. Tim Kaine (D-Va.) has indicated that he may file a censure resolution against former President Donald Trump in the coming days. The move seems to be an attempt to give Republicans a more politically acceptable alternative to convicting Trump following his impeachment trial. Kaine has said that his censure resolution would state that the former president "gave aid and comfort" to "an insurrection against the Constitution of the United States." Section 3 of the 14th Amendment provides that no government official can hold office "who, having previously taken an oath . . . to support the Constitution of the United States, shall have engaged in insurrection or rebellion against the same, or given aid or comfort to the enemies thereof." Kaine believes that by mirroring this language a censure could be a barrier against Trump running for office again, though this theory remains legally ambiguous. It is also unclear whether Republicans would be more likely to support a censure, which only requires a simple majority vote.

Portman Announces Decision to Not Seek Reelection

Sen. Rob Portman (R-Ohio) announced that he will not seek reelection in 2022. He cited political polarization as one of the reasons for his decision. Portman was first elected to the House of Representatives in 1993. He left Congress in 2005 to serve as U.S. trade representative and director of the OMB during the George W. Bush administration and was later elected to the Senate in 2010. Portman is a senior member of the Senate Finance Committee and the third Republican senator to announce that he will not seek another term, following Sens. Richard Burr (R-N.C.) and Pat Toomey (R-Pa.). Senate Republicans have 20 seats to defend in 2022, compared to Democrats' 14.

CDC Releases New Data on Lyme Disease

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has published new [data](#) on Lyme disease at the request of Sens. Tina Smith (D-Minn.) and Susan Collins (R-Maine). An estimated 476,000 people are diagnosed with and treated for the disease each year in the U.S., nearly 10 times the number previously reported. The lawmakers stressed the need for public health agencies to study the spread of tick-borne diseases.

Krishnamoorthi Continues Ventilator Probe

House Oversight and Reform Committee member Raja Krishnamoorthi (D-Ill.) is continuing his probe into U.S. ventilator contracts. He sent [letters](#) to Safeguard Medical and AutoMedx last week, requesting information around the federal government's purchase of SAVE II and SAVE II+ ventilators. Krishnamoorthi asserts that the previous administration wasted up to \$70 million in taxpayer dollars on ventilators that were not appropriate for the intended purpose of treating coronavirus patients.

GAO Releases Latest Report On COVID-19 Response

The Government Accountability Office (GAO) released a [report](#) asserting that the Trump administration failed to act on the agency's past recommendations to improve the federal government's response to the COVID-19 pandemic. As of January, 27 of the agency's previous 31 recommendations had not been implemented. The GAO's latest report contains 13 new recommendations to improve the nation's health and economic recovery, including the creation of a comprehensive coronavirus testing strategy and a coordinated vaccine distribution plan.

Hart Health Strategies COVID-19 Resources

Hart Health Strategies Inc. continues to update the following resources related to the coronavirus pandemic. Please remember to clear your cache to ensure you download the most recent documents.

- [Disaster Primer](#)
- [Federal Relief Overview](#)
- [Health Care Workers on the Front Lines](#)
- [Hospice and Palliative Care](#)
- [Nursing Resources](#)
- [Personal Protective Equipment](#)
- [Physician Provisions](#)
- [Re-Opening America](#)
- [Small Business Resources](#)
- [Small Business - Paycheck Protection Program](#)
- [Small Business - PPP FAQ](#)
- [State Resources](#)
- [Tax Provisions](#)
- [Telehealth Overview](#)
- [Testing](#)
- [Vaccines](#)

Upcoming Congressional Committee Activity

Senate Armed Services Committee hearing to examine the nomination of Kathleen Holland Hicks, of Virginia, to be Deputy Secretary of Defense; 9:30 a.m., G50 Dirksen Bldg.; February 2

Senate Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry Committee hearing to examine the nomination of Thomas J. Vilsack, of Iowa, to be Secretary of Agriculture; 10:30 a.m., 301 Russell Bldg.; February 2

House Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations hearing “No Time to Lose: Solutions to Increase COVID-19 Vaccinations in the States;” 11:00 a.m., WebEx; February 2

Senate Veterans’ Affairs Committee business meeting to consider the nomination of Denis Richard McDonough, of Maryland, to be Secretary of Veterans Affairs; time and place TBD; February 2

Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions (HELP) Committee hearing to examine the nomination of Miguel A. Cardona, of Connecticut, to be Secretary of Education; 10:00 a.m., 430 Dirksen Bldg.; February 3

Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee business meeting to consider the nomination of Gina Marie Raimondo, of Rhode Island, to be Secretary of Commerce; 10:00 a.m., 325 Russell Bldg.; February 3

House Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Health hearing “Road to Recover: Ramping Up COVID-19 Vaccines, Testing, and Medical Supply Chain;” 11:00 a.m., WebEx; February 3

Senate Environment and Public Works Committee hearing to examine the nomination of Michael Stanley Regan, of North Carolina, to be Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency; 2:00 p.m., 106 Dirksen Bldg.; February 3

House Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Consumer Protection and Commerce hearing “Safeguarding American Consumers: Fighting Scams and Fraud During the Pandemic;” 12:00 p.m., WebEx; February 4

Senate HELP Committee hearing to examine the nomination of Marty Walsh to be Secretary of Labor; 10:00 a.m., 430 Dirksen Bldg.; February 4

Recently Introduced Health Legislation

S.Res.14 — A resolution designating January 23, 2021, as “Maternal Health Awareness Day”; Sponsor: Sen. Booker, Cory A. [D-NJ]; Committees: Senate – Judiciary

S.24 — A bill to protect the personal health data of all Americans; Sponsor: Sen. Klobuchar, Amy [D-MN]; Committees: Senate - Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

S.32 — A bill to provide for the establishment of a standing Health Force and a Resilience Force to respond to public health emergencies and meet public health needs; Sponsor: Sen. Gillibrand, Kirsten E. [D-NY]; Committees: Senate - Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

H.Res.61 — Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that Medicare and Social Security provide an essential benefit for current enrollees and should be strengthened for future generations; Sponsor: Rep. Lesko, Debbie [R-AZ-8]; Committees: House - Ways and Means; Energy and Commerce

H.R.449 — To prohibit the use of Federal funds to maintain or collect information that can be used to identify any individual to whom a COVID-19 vaccine is administered, and for other purposes; Sponsor: Rep. Biggs, Andy [R-AZ-5]; Committees: House - Energy and Commerce

H.R.450 — To prohibit the use of Federal funds to propose, establish, implement, or enforce any requirement that an individual wear a mask or other face covering, or be vaccinated, to prevent the spread of COVID-19, and for other purposes; Sponsor: Rep. Biggs, Andy [R-AZ-5]; Committees: House - Energy and Commerce

H.R.460 — To provide for the establishment of a standing Health Force and a Resilience Force to respond to public health emergencies and meet public health needs; Sponsor: Rep. Crow, Jason [D-CO-6]; Committees: House - Energy and Commerce; Transportation and Infrastructure; Budget

H.R.467 — To amend the Families First Coronavirus Response Act and the CARES Act to require group health plans and health insurance issuers offering group or individual health insurance coverage to provide coverage, without cost sharing, of certain COVID-19 antibody treatments; Sponsor: Rep. Gonzalez, Anthony [R-OH-16]; Committees: House - Energy and Commerce; Ways and Means; Education and Labor

H.R.469 — To amend the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 to provide for health coverage of nipple-areolar complex tattooing in connection with reconstructive surgery following mastectomy and to amend titles XVIII and XIX of the Social Security Act to extend coverage of certain breast reconstructive services following mastectomy under the Medicare and Medicaid programs; Sponsor: Rep. Hastings, Alcee L. [D-FL-20]; Committees: House - Energy and Commerce; Ways and Means; Education and Labor

H.R.471 — To prohibit the Secretary of Health and Human Services from lessening the stringency of, and to prohibit the Secretary of Homeland Security from ceasing or lessening implementation of, the COVID-19 border health provisions through the end of the COVID-19 pandemic, and for other purposes; Sponsor: Rep. Herrell, Yvette [R-NM-2]; Committees: House - Energy and Commerce

H.R.477 — To amend the Public Health Service Act, the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, and the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act to require coverage of hearing devices and systems in certain private health insurance plans, and for other purposes; Sponsor: Rep. Neguse, Joe [D-CO-2]; Committees: House - Energy and Commerce; Education and Labor; Ways and Means

H.R.480 — To amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to limit the penalty for late enrollment under part B of the Medicare Program to 15 percent and twice the period of no enrollment, and to exclude periods of COBRA, retiree, and VA coverage from such late enrollment penalty; Sponsor: Rep. Porter, Katie [D-CA-45]; Committees: House - Energy and Commerce; Ways and Means

H.R.482 — To amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize certain programs under part A of title XI of such Act relating to genetic diseases, and for other purposes; Sponsor: Rep. Roybal-Allard, Lucille [D-CA-40]; Committees: House - Energy and Commerce

H.R.489 — To amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to clarify the application of the 15-mile secondary road distance requirement with respect to previously designated critical access hospitals under the Medicare program; Sponsor: Rep. Stefanik, Elise M. [R-NY-21]; Committees: House - Ways and Means

S.37 — A bill to address the public health risks posed by wildlife markets, and for other purposes; Sponsor: Sen. Cornyn, John [R-TX]; Committees: Senate - Foreign Relations

S.41 — A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act, the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, and the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act to require coverage of hearing devices and systems in certain private health insurance plans, and for other purposes; Sponsor: Sen. Capito, Shelley Moore [R-WV]; Committees: Senate - Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

S.54 — A bill to address health workforce shortages and disparities highlighted by the COVID-19 pandemic through additional funding for the National Health Service Corps and the Nurse Corps, and to establish a National Health Service Corps Emergency Service demonstration project; Sponsor: Sen. Durbin, Richard J. [D-IL]; Committees: Senate - Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

S.56 — A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to authorize grants for training and support services for families and caregivers of people living with Alzheimer's disease or a related dementia; Sponsor: Sen. Klobuchar, Amy [D-MN]; Committees: Senate - Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

S.57 — A bill to increase the ability of nursing facilities to access to telehealth services and obtain technologies to allow virtual visits during the public health emergency relating to an outbreak of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19), and for other purposes; Sponsor: Sen. Klobuchar, Amy [D-MN]; Committees: Senate - Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

H.Res.65 — Recognizing the roles and the contributions of America's certified registered nurse anesthetists and their critical role in providing quality health care for the public, especially during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic; Sponsor: Rep. Joyce, David P. [R-OH-14]; Committees: House - Energy and Commerce

H.R.497 — To prohibit the use of funds to seek membership in the World Health Organization or to provide assessed or voluntary contributions to the World Health Organization; Sponsor: Rep. Arrington, Jodey C. [R-TX-19]; Committees: House - Foreign Affairs

H.R.502 — To amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for coverage of dental services under the Medicare program; Sponsor: Rep. Barragan, Nanette Diaz [D-CA-44]; Committees: House - Energy and Commerce; Ways and Means

H.R.523 — To amend title III of the Public Health Service Act to authorize the Secretary of Health and Human Services to award grants to Federally qualified health centers for purposes of conducting mental and behavioral health screenings, and for other purposes; Sponsor: Rep. Dean, Madeleine [D-PA-4]; Committees: House - Energy and Commerce

H.R.525 — To provide for an emergency increase in Federal funding to State Medicaid programs for expenditures on home and community-based services; Sponsor: Rep. Dingell, Debbie [D-MI-12]; Committees: House - Energy and Commerce

H.R.526 — To provide for special enrollment periods during public health emergencies; Sponsor: Rep. Doggett, Lloyd [D-TX-35]; Committees: House - Energy and Commerce; Ways and Means; Education and Labor

H.R.533 — To prevent surprise medical bills with respect to COVID-19 testing; Sponsor: Rep. Fletcher, Lizzie [D-TX-7]; Committees: House - Energy and Commerce; Ways and Means; Education and Labor

H.R.550 — To amend the Public Health Service Act with respect to immunization system data modernization and expansion, and for other purposes; Sponsor: Rep. Kuster, Ann M. [D-NH-2]; Committees: House - Energy and Commerce

H.R.584 — To ensure that veterans receive timely and effective emergency treatment during the COVID-19 emergency, and for other purposes; Sponsor: Rep. Pappas, Chris [D-NH-1]; Committees: House - Veterans' Affairs

H.R.586 — To amend the Public Health Service Act to provide best practices on student suicide awareness and prevention training and condition State educational agencies, local educational agencies, and tribal educational agencies receiving funds under section 520A of such Act to establish and implement a school-based student suicide awareness and prevention training policy; Sponsor: Rep. Peters, Scott H. [D-CA-52]; Committees: House - Energy and Commerce

H.R.588 — To direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to award grants to States, political subdivisions of States, Indian Tribes and Tribal organizations, community-based entities, and primary care and behavioral health organizations to address behavioral health needs caused by the public health emergency declared with respect to COVID-19; Sponsor: Rep. Porter, Katie [D-CA-45]; Committees: House - Energy and Commerce

H.R.593 — To establish the Coronavirus Mental Health and Addiction Assistance Network, and for other purposes; Sponsor: Rep. Ryan, Tim [D-OH-13]; Committees: House - Energy and Commerce

H.R.596 — To increase the ability of nursing facilities to access telehealth services and obtain technologies to allow virtual visits during the public health emergency relating to an outbreak of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19), and for other purposes; Sponsor: Rep. Schakowsky, Janice D. [D-IL-9]; Committees: House - Appropriations; Energy and Commerce; Ways and Means; Budget

H.R.597 — To require any COVID-19 drug developed in whole or in part with Federal support to be affordable and accessible by prohibiting monopolies and price gouging, and for other purposes; Sponsor: Rep. Schakowsky, Janice D. [D-IL-9]; Committees: House - Energy and Commerce; Judiciary; Science, Space, and Technology; Armed Services

H.R.598 — To amend titles XVIII and XIX of the Social Security Act to improve the quality of care in skilled nursing facilities under the Medicare program and nursing facilities under the Medicare program during the COVID-19 emergency period, and for other purposes; Sponsor: Rep. Schakowsky, Janice D. [D-IL-9]; Committees: House - Ways and Means; Energy and Commerce

H.R.599 — To amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for the guaranteed issue of Medigap policies to all Medigap-eligible Medicare beneficiaries and Medicare Advantage enrollees, and for other purposes; Sponsor: Rep. Schneider, Bradley Scott [D-IL-10]; Committees: House - Ways and Means; Energy and Commerce

H.R.617 — To prohibit the Secretary of Veterans Affairs from charging veterans copayments for preventive services relating to COVID-19; Sponsor: Rep. Underwood, Lauren [D-IL-14]; Committees: House - Veterans' Affairs

H.R.623 — To require certain civil penalties to be transferred to a fund through which amounts are made available for the Gabriella Miller Kids First Pediatric Research Program at the National Institutes of Health, and for other purposes; Sponsor: Rep. Wexton, Jennifer [D-VA-10]; Committees: House - Energy and Commerce; Financial Services

S.81 — A bill to protect the privacy of health information during a national health emergency; Sponsor: Sen. Blumenthal, Richard [D-CT]; Committees: Senate - Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

S.89 — A bill to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to secure medical opinions for veterans with service-connected disabilities who die from COVID-19 to determine whether their service-connected disabilities were the principal or contributory causes of death, and for other purposes; Sponsor: Sen. Sinema, Kyrsten [D-AZ]; Committees: Senate - Veterans' Affairs

S.97 — A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for coverage of dental services under the Medicare program; Sponsor: Sen. Cardin, Benjamin L. [D-MD]; Committees: Senate - Finance

S.104 — A bill to authorize the Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to carry out a Social Determinants of Health Program, and for other purposes; Sponsor: Sen. Smith, Tina [D-MN]; Committees: Senate - Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

S.128 — A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for the treatment of direct primary care service arrangements as medical care, to provide that such arrangements do not disqualify deductible health savings account contributions, and for other purposes; Sponsor: Sen. Cassidy, Bill [R-LA]; Committees: Senate - Finance

S.135 — A bill to establish the Coronavirus Mental Health and Addiction Assistance Network, and for other purposes; Sponsor: Sen. Klobuchar, Amy [D-MN]; Committees: Senate - Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

S.141 — A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to deny the deduction for advertising and promotional expenses for prescription drugs; Sponsor: Sen. Shaheen, Jeanne [D-NH]; Committees: Senate - Finance