

Wynne Health Group Weekly



FRAMING THE WEEK

Democrats are moving quickly, and likely without Republicans, to pass **President Joe Biden's \$1.9 trillion [American Rescue Plan](#)** through budget reconciliation. This week, House and Senate committees are drafting legislation that meets the reconciliation instructions specified in the recently adopted [FY21 Joint Budget Resolution](#). They will submit that legislation to the chambers' respective Budget Committees by February 16, who will then combine them before the merged reconciliation legislation moves to the floor. While the Senate impeachment trial of former President Donald Trump could take up to two weeks, [House Speaker Nancy Pelosi \(D-CA\)](#) and other congressional Democrats intend to pass Biden's COVID plan via reconciliation by the end of February.

The **next COVID-19 relief bill** is expected to include \$400 billion to support the federal government's COVID-19 response, including \$20 billion to implement a national vaccination program, \$50 billion to expand testing, and \$30 billion to purchase additional personal protective equipment and other supplies. Notably, due to an amendment adopted last week in the Senate, the FY21 Joint Budget Resolution allows the House and Senate Budget Committee Chairs to reallocate funding to provide additional financial support for rural hospitals through the Provider Relief Fund.

Later today, the Senate is scheduled to consider, and is expected to confirm, the nomination of Denis McDonough to serve as Secretary of the Department of Veteran Affairs. Neera Tanden, Biden's pick to lead the **Office of Management and Budget**, will appear before the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee and Senate Budget Committee for her confirmation hearings this week. On Thursday, the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP) Committee will consider the nominations of Marty Walsh and Miguel Cardona to serve as the **Secretary of Labor** and the **Secretary of Education**, respectively. As for Biden's nominee for Secretary of Health and Human Services, the Senate Finance and HELP Committees have yet to schedule the confirmation hearings for Biden's nominee for **Secretary of Health and Human Services**, Xavier Becerra.

THIS WEEK IN HEALTH POLICY

Tue. (2/9)

- **10:00am – Nomination Hearing: OMB** – The Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee convenes a hearing to consider the nomination of Neera Tanden to be Director of the Office of Management and Budget. [Details](#).

Wed. (2/10)

- **10:00am – Nomination Hearing: OMB** – The Senate Budget Committee convenes a hearing to consider the nomination of Neera Tanden to be Director of the Office of Management and Budget. [Details](#).

Thurs. (2/11)

- **10:00am – Executive Session: Labor and Education Nominees** – The Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee convenes an executive session to consider the nomination of Marty Walsh to serve as Secretary of Labor and the nomination of Miguel Cardona to serve as Secretary of Education. [Details](#).

FEATURED WHG ANALYSIS

- ***NEW* WHG: Implementation Timeline of the Omnibus Package** – In the Policy Hub Insight Bank [here](#).
- ***NEW* WHG Legislative and Regulatory Outlook for 2021** – In the Policy Hub Insight Bank [here](#).
- ***NEW* WHG: Regulatory Freeze: Key Policies and Dates** – In the Policy Hub Insight Bank [here](#).
- **WHG Catalogue of COVID-19 Government Response** – December-January Edition – In the Policy Hub Insight Bank [here](#).
- **WHG: Materials Related to COVID-19 Vaccine Confidence** – In the Policy Hub Insight Bank [here](#).

CONGRESSIONAL LOOKBACK

Thurs. (2/4)

- **The House Energy and Commerce** Subcommittee on Health convened a hearing to discuss current and future needs for ramping up on COVID-19 vaccines, testing, and the medical supply chain. [Details](#).

Wed. (2/3)

- **The House Energy and Commerce** Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations convened a hearing to examine state perspectives on the COVID-19 vaccine rollout and distribution. [Details](#).
- **Senate Finance Committee leaders** Senators Chuck Grassley (R-IA) and Ron Wyden (D-OR) issued a subpoena to the United Network for Organ Sharing (UNOS), compelling production of documents related to the Committee’s investigation of organ procurement organizations (OPOs), and potential false claims submitted to government benefit programs. [Details](#).

REGULATORY LOOKBACK

(Fri. 2/5)

- **FDA amended** the emergency use authorization (EUA) for the use of convalescent plasma as a COVID-19 treatment to reflect new clinical trial data. Based on new information, the EUA is limited to the use of high titer convalescent plasma to treat hospitalized patients early in the disease course. [Details](#).

Thurs. (2/4)

- **President Biden** outlined his steps regarding immigration reform, including the signing of an Executive Order entitled, “Executive Order on Restoring Faith in Our Legal Immigration Systems and Strengthening Integration and Inclusion Efforts for New Americans.” [Details](#).
- **CMS** announced an expansion of its eligibility criteria for provider participants under Cohort 2 of its Primary Care First (PCF) demonstration. [Details](#).

Tue. (2/2)

- **President Biden** announced a series of actions aimed at increasing COVID-19 vaccinations and federal support to states. [Details](#).

Mon. (2/1)

- **HHS** announced it is extending its designation preventing the hoarding of certain materials needed for the ongoing COVID-19 response, until June 30, 2021. [Details](#).

COMMENT & APPLICATION DEADLINES

- **Feb. 12:** OHRP is seeking nominations of qualified candidates for appointment to the Secretary’s Advisory Committee on Human Research Protections. [Details](#).
- **Feb. 12:** FEMA seeks comments on a [proposed rule](#) to revise the “Estimated cost of the assistance,” which is one of the factors FEMA’s Public Assistance Program considers when evaluating requests from states for major disaster declarations and making recommendations to the President. [Details](#).
- **Feb. 15:** Nominations are due Feb. 15 for a CMS Technical Expert Panel (TEP) related to the development of practitioner-level measures to assess access to kidney transplantation for dialysis patients. [Details](#).
- **Feb. 16:** CMS seeks comment on plans for a new Review Choice Demonstration for inpatient rehabilitation facility (IRF) services. [Details](#).
- **Feb. 19:** FDA [announced](#) a request for nominations for members to serve on the National Mammography Quality Assurance Advisory Committee in the Center for Devices and Radiological Health. [Details](#).
- **Feb. 22:** HRSA announced a maternal health-focused Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) – Primary Care Training and Enhancement-Community Prevention and Maternal Health. [Details](#).
- **Feb. 27:** The FDA issued a [request for nominations](#) for voting members to serve on the Technical Electronic Product Radiation Safety Standards Committee.
- **March 4:** The HHS Office of Minority Health is seeking nominations of qualified candidates for appointment to the Advisory Committee on Minority Health. [Details](#).
- **March 12:** CDC released a [request for nominations](#) for membership to the Advisory Committee on Breast Cancer in Young Women.
- **March 15:** HRSA announced a maternal and child health-focused Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) – Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems: Health Integration Prenatal-to-Three Program. [Details](#).
- **March 15:** USPSTF [announced](#) a request for nominations to serve on the task force. Selected members will serve a four-year term. [Details](#).

WHG Contacts for Inquiries

Alyssa Llamas: alyssa@wynnehealth.com; (562) 207-8807

Billy Wynne: billy@wynnehealth.com; (202) 309-0796

Taylor Cowey: taylor@wynnehealth.com; (203) 848-7720

