

Wynne Health Group Weekly



FRAMING THE WEEK

Congress returns to the lame duck session with a big to-do list, including must-pass pieces of legislation: funding the government and reauthorizing the annual defense policy bill. This week, the Senate is expected to debate the [National Defense Authorization Act \(NDAA\)](#), which includes provisions to strengthen environmental health and security. For example, the bill reauthorizes the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's ongoing study and assessment on human health impacts of PFAS chemicals in drinking water. NDAA also includes provisions to improve supply chains and stockpiles, including pharmaceutical supplies. Legislative action on the fiscal year (FY) 2023 appropriations bill is likely to occur closer to the December 16 deadline, especially since lawmakers will likely try to tack on various measures to the must-pass vehicle.

With Democrats expected to lose control of the House in 2023, Congressional Democrats also plan to push for items on their wish list in the remaining weeks. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) [indicated](#) House Democrats would pursue legislation to raise the debt limit. House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy (R-CA), who appears likely to become the next Speaker, [signaled](#) House Republicans would use raising the debt limit as leverage to force spending cuts on Medicare and Social Security. Additionally, the Senate is expected to vote on the House-passed [Respect for Marriage Act](#), which would protect same-sex marriage, before the end of the year.

This week, the House will vote on the [Lymphedema Treatment Act](#), a broadly bipartisan bill that would require Medicare to cover certain lymphedema compression treatment items beginning January 1, 2024. The House will also consider a [long list of bills](#) unrelated to public health and health care.

At the committee level, lawmakers will convene hearings on other key issues:

- **Cannabis Laws:** On Tuesday, the House Oversight and Reform Subcommittee on Civil Rights and Civil Liberties hold a [hearing](#) to examine developments in state cannabis laws and bipartisan cannabis reforms at the federal level, including the House-passed [Marijuana Opportunity Reinvestment and Expungement Act \(MORE Act\)](#).
- **Medical Mistreatment of Women:** On Tuesday, the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Subcommittee on Investigations will hold a [hearing](#) of the medical mistreatment of women in ICE detention. Committee members will hear from two panels. The first panel includes a former detainee as well as two physicians. The second panel includes senior officials at the Department of Homeland Security and a medical director at a detention center.
- **Healthy and Affordable Food:** On Wednesday, the Senate Special Committee on Aging will hold a [hearing](#) to discuss promoting healthy and affordable food for older Americans.
- **Heath Robinson Honoring our Pact Act:** On Wednesday, the Senate Committee on Veterans Affairs will hold a [hearing](#) on the Department of Veterans Affairs implementation of the SFC Heath Robinson Honoring our PACT Act.

THIS WEEK IN HEALTH POLICY

Tue. (11/15)

- **10:00am – Hearing: Cannabis Laws** – The House Oversight and Reform Subcommittee on Civil Rights and Civil Liberties hold a hearing to examine developments in state cannabis laws and bipartisan cannabis reforms at the federal level. [Details.](#)
- **2:30pm – Hearing: Medical Mistreatment of Women** – The Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Subcommittee on Investigations holds a hearing of the medical mistreatment of women in ICE detention. [Details.](#)

Wed. (11/16)

- **10:30am – Hearing: Healthy and Affordable Food** – The Senate Special Committee on Aging holds a hearing to discuss promoting healthy and affordable food for older Americans. [Details.](#)
- **3:00pm – Hearing: Heath Robinson Honoring our Pact Act** – The Senate Committee on Veterans Affairs holds a hearing on the Department of Veterans Affairs implementation of the SFC Heath Robinson Honoring our PACT Act. [Details.](#)

Thurs. (11/17)

- **11:30am – AHRQ Meeting: National Advisory Council** – The Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) holds a meeting of the National Advisory Council (NAC) to discuss patient safety and patient-centered outcomes. [Details.](#)
- **1:00pm – NQF Meeting: Health Equity Workgroup** – The Core Quality Measures Collaborative (CQMC) Health Equity Workgroup hold a meeting to discuss program updates. [Details.](#)

Additional Multi-Day Events

- **November 15-November 16 – HRSA Meeting: National Health Service Corps** – The Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) holds a virtual meeting of the National Advisory Council on the National Health Service Corps (NHSC) to discuss priorities for future program issues and concerns and proposed policy changes. [Details.](#)

FEATURED WHG ANALYSIS

- ***NEW* WHG 2022 Midterm Election Recap** – In the Policy Hub Insight Bank [here.](#)
- ***NEW* Blog on Options for CMMI to Make Prescription Drug Affordable** – On Commonwealth Fund's To the Point [here.](#)
- **WHG Roundup of Recent Reproductive Health Developments** – In the Policy Hub Insight Bank [here.](#)
- **WHG Tracker of Climate Change Provisions in the IRA** – In the Policy Hub Insight Bank [here.](#)
- **Blog on President Biden's Executive Order Protecting Access to Reproductive Health Services** – On the Commonwealth Fund's To the Point [here.](#)

CONGRESSIONAL LOOKBACK

Thus (11/10)

- **The SFC [released](#)** its fourth discussion draft on mental health, with this draft focusing on the mental health care integration. [Details.](#)

REGULATORY LOOKBACK

Thus (11/10)

- **CMS** posted a [report](#) titled “Analysis of Requirements for Coverage With Evidence Development (CED) – Topic Refinement.” [Details](#).
- **HHS** [announced](#) that more than 100 health care organizations have signed the [White House/HHS Health Sector Climate Pledge](#) at the United National Climate Conference. [Details](#).
- **FNS** [announced](#) \$50 million in grant funding for a new initiative to support collaboration between schools and the food industry. [Details](#).

Tues. (11/8)

- **HHS** [issued](#) a proposed rule to adopt updated versions of the retail pharmacy standards for electronic transactions. Comments are due January 8. [Details](#).
- **MACPAC** [issued](#) comments to a CMS RFI on promoting efficient and equity within the agency. [Details](#).

Mon. (11/7)

- **CMMI** [released](#) a one-year update on the implementation of its 2021 strategic refresh. [Details](#).
- **The GAO** [released](#) a report on concentration in the private health insurance market. [Details](#).
- **HRSA** [issued](#) a request for public comment on two draft recommendations to update the HRSA-Supported Women’s Preventive Services Guidelines relating to Screening for Diabetes. Comments are due December 3. [Details](#).
- **AHRQ** is [seeking](#) scientific information submissions from the public to inform AHRQ’s review on *Respectful Maternity Care*. Submissions are due December 8. [Details](#).

COMMENT & APPLICATION DEADLINES

- **November 14:** FDA [issued](#) draft guidance on computer software assurance for production and quality system assurance. [Details](#).
- **November 15:** The Departments of Labor, HHS, and Treasury [issued](#) a RFI to inform future rulemaking for advanced explanation of benefits (AEOB) and good faith estimate (GFE) requirements. [Details](#).
- **November 15:** The AHRQ [issued](#) a RFI on the current state of comprehensive, longitudinal, person-centered care planning for people with Multiple Chronic Conditions. [Details](#).
- **November 25:** The FDA [issued](#) a proposed rule to establish requirements for a nonprescription drug product with an additional condition for nonprescription use (ACNU). [Details](#).
- **December 2:** HHS [issued](#) a request for written comments on proposed Healthy People 2030 objectives. [Details](#).
- **December 2:** HRSA [issued](#) an RFI on a proposed update to the Periodicity Schedule of the Bright Futures Recommendations for Pediatric Preventive Health Care. [Details](#).
- **December 3:** HRSA [issued](#) a request for public comment on two draft recommendations to update the HRSA-Supported Women’s Preventive Services Guidelines relating to Screening for Diabetes. [Details](#).
- **December 6:** CMS [issued](#) an RFI on the current state of health care provider directories. [Details](#).
- **December 7:** The FDA [issued](#) revised draft guidance on general clinical pharmacology considerations for pediatric studies of drugs. [Details](#).
- **December 8:** AHRQ is [seeking](#) scientific information submissions from the public to inform AHRQ’s review on *Respectful Maternity Care*. [Details](#).
- **December 13:** The FDA [issued](#) a request for public comments on a recently released [discussion paper](#) on areas associated with Distributed Manufacturing (DM) and Point-of-Care (POC) manufacturing. [Details](#).
- **December 20:** The FDA [issued](#) draft guidance on proposed select updates for the Breakthrough Devices Program Guidance. [Details](#).
- **December 29:** The CDC is [seeking](#) nominations for membership on the Advisory Committee on Breast Cancer in Young Women (ACBCYW). [Details](#).
- **December 31:** AHRQ [issued](#) a supplemental solicitation for nominations of members from Populations Underrepresented in Medicine (URIM) to serve on the Initial Review Group (IRG). [Details](#).

- **January 8:** HHS [issued](#) a proposed rule to adopt updated versions of the retail pharmacy standards for electronic transactions.. [Details](#).
- **January 9:** AHRQ announced a challenge competition to explore the resources and infrastructure needed to integrate real-world data from healthcare systems into systematic review findings. [Details](#).

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