

**Wynne Health Group Weekly**



**FRAMING THE WEEK**

The House Republicans are having their retreat in Orlando early this week and aren't scheduled to come back into session until noon on Wednesday. Once back, the House will be taking up [H.R. 5, the Parents Bill of Rights Act](#). This bill establishes rights of parents and guardians regarding the elementary or secondary school education of their children and, among other things, requires schools to allow review the curriculum, budget, reading materials of their child's school. The Senate is in recess until Tuesday evening when they will come back to continue debate, and eventually vote, on [S.316](#), a bill to repeal the authorizations for use of military force against Iraq. It will be a busy week on both sides of the Capitol with health care issues being a topic in several Committees.

Hearings

**This week, Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Xavier Becerra will appear before the [Senate Finance Committee](#) and [Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies](#) to answer questions about the President's FY 2024 budget.** The \$144 billion proposed budget for HHS includes a \$8 billion increase to enhance Medicare benefits by expanding diabetes prevention and increasing access to behavioral health, among other proposals. For Medicaid and CHIP, it includes \$138 billion in investments over 10 years to support equity and sustainability plus another \$150 billion for home and community-based services ([WHG summary](#)).

**On Wednesday, Moderna CEO Stéphane Bancel will testify in front of the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP) Committee for a [hearing](#) on the price of COVID-19 vaccines.** A panel of policy experts will also testify at the hearing. The federal government is preparing for the transition of COVID-19 vaccines to the commercial market, meaning manufacturers, such as Moderna and Pfizer, will negotiate prices directly with insurers. Moderna has signaled that commercial prices for COVID-19 vaccine will be between \$110 and \$130, which is nearly 5 times greater than the weighted average price paid by the federal government, [according](#) to Kaiser Family Foundation. Most people with health insurance will still be able to get COVID-19 vaccines for free.

**The Senate Homeland Security & Governmental Affairs will convene a [hearing](#) on Wednesday to discuss underlying causes of drug shortages, their impact on public health and national security, and potential reforms to mitigate risks.** The discussion is particularly timely as the Senate HELP Committee and House Energy and Commerce Committee begin work on the reauthorization of Pandemic and All Hazards Preparedness Act (PAHPA). Most PAHPA programs and authorities expire at the end of fiscal year 2023 (September 30, 2023). Chair Bernie Sanders (I-VT) and Ranking Member Bill Cassidy (R-LA), along with Sens. Bob Casey (D-PA) and Mitt Romney (R-UT), issued a [request for information](#) (RFI) to inform legislation.

The House Ways and Means Health Subcommittee will hold a [hearing](#) on Thursday on how inflation and high health care costs have impacted small businesses, independent medical providers, and patients alike across the country.

## THIS WEEK IN HEALTH POLICY

### Tue. (3/21)

- **9:00am – HRSA Meeting: National Health Service Corps** – The Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) holds a meeting of the National Advisory Council on the National Health Service Corps (NACNHSC) to discuss program updates. [Details.](#)
- **12:00pm – KFF Webinar: Medicare Advantage** – The Kaiser Family Foundation (KFF) holds a webinar to discuss Medicare Advantage and the proposed changes to insurer payment. [Details.](#)

### Wed. (3/22)

- **10:00am – Hearing: President’s HHS Budget**– The Senate Committee on Finance holds a hearing to examine the President’s fiscal year (FY) 2024 Health and Human Services (HHS) budget proposal. HHS Secretary Xavier Becerra will testify. [Details.](#)
- **10:00am – Hearing: Drug Shortage** – The Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs holds a hearing to examine drug shortage health and national security risks, focusing on underlying causes and needed reforms. [Details.](#)
- **10:00am – Hearing: Moderna Price Increase** – The Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions holds a hearing to examine Moderna considering quadrupling the price of the COVID-19 vaccine. [Details.](#)
- **10:30am – HITAC Meeting: Interoperability Standards** – The Health Information Technology Advisory Committee (HITAC) holds a meeting of the Interoperability Standards Workgroup to discuss program updates. [Details.](#)
- **12:00pm – CMS Meeting: PHE Unwinding** – The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) hold a meeting to discuss the Medicaid and Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP) continuous enrollment unwinding and review unwinding resources and outreach efforts. [Details.](#)
- **2:30pm – Hearing: President’s HHS Budget** – The Senate Committee on Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies holds a hearing to examine the President’s FY 2024 HHS budget proposal. HHS Secretary Xavier Becerra will testify. [Details.](#)
- **2:30pm – Hearing: Immigration** – The Senate Committee on the Judiciary Subcommittee on Immigration, Citizenship, and Border Safety holds a hearing to examine the need to bolster the U.S. Refugee Admissions Program. [Details.](#)
- **2:30pm – Hearing: Native Priorities/Farm Bill** – The Senate Committee on Indian Affairs holds a hearing to examine Native priorities for the 2023 Farm Bill reauthorization. [Details.](#)
- **3:00pm – Hearing: VA Workforce** – The Senate Committee on Veterans’ Affairs (VA) holds a hearing to examine strengthening methods of recruitment and retention for the VA’s Workforce. [Details.](#)

### Thurs. (3/23)

- **9:00am – Urban Institute Symposium: Health Care Equity** – The Urban Institute holds a full-day symposium to discuss the causes and consequences of health care inequities and identify promising research and policy strategies. HHS Secretary Becerra will deliver opening remarks. [Details.](#)
- **10:00am – Hearing: TikTok/Data Privacy** – The House Committee on Energy and Commerce holds a hearing to examine TikTok’s data security practices and how the platform affects children. [Details.](#)
- **2:00pm – Hearing: Cybersecurity** – The House Committee on Oversight and Accountability Subcommittee on Cybersecurity, Information Technology, and Government Innovation holds a hearing to examine the White House National Cybersecurity Strategy. [Details.](#)

- **2:00pm – Hearing: Health Care/Inflation** – The House Committee on Ways and Means Subcommittee on Health holds a hearing to examine how inflation and high health care costs have impacted small businesses, independent medical providers, and patients. [Details](#).

### **Additional Multi-Day Events**

- **March 20-March 21 – HRSA Meeting: Infant and Maternal Mortality** – HRSA holds a meeting of the Advisory Committee on Infant and Maternal Mortality to discuss recommendations on improving birth outcomes among American Indian and Alaska Native mothers and infants, and to discuss new and continuing priority areas for the Committee. [Details](#).
- **March 22-March 23 – HHS Meeting: Human Research Protections** – HHS holds a meeting of the Secretary’s Advisory Committee on Human Research Protections. Agenda includes a review of the Government Accounting Office report on actions needed to improve federal oversight and examine effectiveness. [Details](#).
- **March 23-March 24 – HHS Meeting: Antibiotic-Resistant Bacteria Updates** – HHS holds a meeting of the Presidential Advisory Council on Combating Antibiotic-Resistant Bacteria to discuss working group updates. [Details](#).

### **FEATURED WHG ANALYSIS**

- **WHG Tracker of COVID-19 PHE Flexibilities** – In the Policy Hub Insight Bank [here](#)
- **WHG Health Policy Guide to the 118<sup>th</sup> Congress** – In the Policy Hub Insight Bank [here](#).
- **WHG Roundup of Surprise Billing and Transparency Updates**– In the Policy Hub Insight Bank [here](#).
- **WHG Maternal Health Policy Update: November – December 2022** – In the Policy Hub Insight Bank [here](#).

### **CONGRESSIONAL LOOKBACK**

#### **Weds. (3/15)**

- **MedPAC** [released](#) its March 2023 Report to Congress. [Details](#).
- **MACPAC** [released](#) its March 2023 Report to Congress. [Details](#).
- **The Senate HELP Committee** [issued](#) an RFI seeking feedback for the upcoming PAHPA reauthorization. Responses are due March 29. [Details](#).

#### **Thurs. (3/16)**

- **The Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs** [held](#) a hearing to discuss the cybersecurity risks to the health care sector. [Details](#).

### **REGULATORY LOOKBACK**

#### **Fri. (3/17)**

- **HHS** [announced](#) the continuation of the Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) Declaration. [Details](#).
- **The FDA** issued notices to implement conforming changes to its [guidances](#) and [regulations](#) to implement the amended definition of tobacco product. [Details](#).

#### **Weds. (3/15)**

- **CMS** [released](#) initial guidance for the Medicare Drug Price Negotiation Program for the initial price applicability year 2026. Comments are due April 14. [Details](#).
- **CMS** [announced](#) it will begin enforcing the Inflation Rebate Program provision for lower beneficiary Part B cost sharing. [Details](#).

#### **Tues. (3/14)**

- **SAMHSA** [released](#) a several mental health-related funding opportunities. [Details](#).
- **The CDC** [is seeking](#) nominations for membership on the Board of Scientific Counselors, Deputy Director for Infectious Diseases. Nominations are due April 14. [Details](#).
- **CISA** [announced](#) the establishment of the Ransomware Vulnerability Warning Pilot. [Details](#).

#### COMMENT & APPLICATION DEADLINES

- **March 20:** The Senate HELP Committee [released](#) a letter to health care providers and stakeholders requesting information on the root causes of the current health care workforce shortage and potential ways to address it. [Details](#).
- **March 22:** The USPSTF [released](#) a draft research plan on interventions to prevent perinatal depression. [Details](#).
- **March 29:** The Senate HELP Committee [issued](#) an RFI seeking feedback for the upcoming PAHPA reauthorization. Responses are due March 29. [Details](#).
- **March 31:** The FDA [issued](#) draft guidance on recommendations for evaluating donor eligibility using individual risk-based questions to reduce the risk of HIV by blood and blood products. [Details](#).
- **April 3:** HHS [proposed new rules](#) to expand access to contraceptive services under the ACA. [Details](#).
- **April 12:** The OMB [requests](#) comments on initial proposals to improve the quality and usefulness of race and ethnicity data collected and reported across federal agencies. [Details](#).
- **April 14:** CMS [issued](#) a proposed rule to require the disclosure of certain ownership, managerial, and other information regarding Medicare SNFs and Medicaid nursing facilities. [Details](#).
- **April 14:** The CDC [is seeking](#) nominations for membership on the Board of Scientific Counselors, Deputy Director for Infectious Diseases. [Details](#).
- **April 25:** CMS [issued](#) a proposed rule to implement requirements under section 203 of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 (CAA), which relate to Medicaid shortfall and third-party payments. [Details](#).
- **April 27:** HRSA [announced](#) a funding opportunity through its Nurse Education, Practice, Quality and Retention (NEPQR)-Pathway to Registered Nurse Program (PRNP). [Details](#).
- **April 28:** CMS [issued](#) a proposed rule that seeks to further clarify the treatment of inpatient days associated with Medicaid Section 1115 demonstrations in the calculation of Medicare disproportionate share hospital (DSH) payments. [Details](#).
- **May 1:** The NIH [announced](#) a number of grants to address health disparities and advance health equity. Applications are due May 1. [Details](#).
- **May 1:** The NTIA [issued](#) a request for comments on the Digital Equity Act of 2021 Program. [Details](#).
- **May 8:** SAMHSA [released](#) grant opportunity for cooperative agreements to implement the Zero Suicide intervention and prevention model in health systems. [Details](#).
- **May 24:** The FNS [released](#) a proposed rule to support online ordering in WIC. [Details](#).
- **September 6:** The FDA [issued](#) a proposed rule to establish tobacco product manufacturing practice (TPMP) requirements. [Details](#).

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