

## Impact Health Policy Weekly

Over the weekend, President Trump signed the Full-Year Continuing Appropriations Act of 2025 ([H.R. 1968](#)), which provides government funding through September 30, 2025, and includes a package of health care extenders. The House and Senate are in recess this week, but when Congress resumes on March 24, it will return its attention to advancing the budget reconciliation package and confirming the Trump Administration's Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) nominees, including Dr. Oz as Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) Administrator.

### **Bipartisan Health Care Package Introduced as Standalone Bill**

Last week, Senate Finance Committee Chair, Ron Wyden (D-OR) introduced the Bipartisan Health Care Act ([S. 891](#)), which contains most of the provisions from the 2024 end of the year health care package ([Impact Summary](#)) that were ultimately excluded from the American Relief Act ([H.R. 10545](#)). Highlights of the introduced bill include the following:

- Extending the Medicare telehealth flexibilities until December 31, 2026;
- An increase to the Medicare Physician Fee Schedule conversion factor of 3.5 percent for services furnished between March 1, 2025, and December 31, 2025, bringing the overall payment update to 0.7 percent.
- Requiring a national provider identifier (NPI) and an attestation for each off-campus outpatient department of a hospital;
- The reauthorization of the Pandemic and All-Hazards Preparedness Act (PAHPA) and the SUPPORT Act;
- Several pharmacy benefit manager (PBM) provisions, including Medicare and commercial transparency requirements, delinking in Part D, prohibiting spread pricing in Medicaid, requiring rebate pass through for PBMs that contract with ERISA plans; and
- A package of Medicaid provisions encompassing pharmacy, eligibility and enrollment, and maternal health provisions.

On Friday, Sen. Wyden [sought unanimous consent](#) to pass the bill as part of the government funding bill, but this effort was ultimately blocked by Senator Rick Scott (R-FL) without any explanation. However, overall Republican support remains less clear. House Energy and Commerce (E&C) Committee Chair Rep. Brett Guthrie (R-KY) previously expressed interest in advancing the provisions of the year-end package, while other Republicans are considering the inclusion of some of the package's provisions, such as the "doc fix" and PBM reform in their budget reconciliation efforts.

### **Regulatory Update**

The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) is reviewing the following:

- **CY 2026 Medicare Advantage:** [Final rule](#) making changes to Medicare Advantage and the Medicare Prescription Drug Benefit (Part D) and the CY 2026 Rate Notice, which is statutorily required to be released by April 7.
- **FY 2026 Medicare Payment Rules:** Proposed rules updating payments for [acute care hospitals and long-term care hospitals](#), [hospice providers](#), [inpatient psychiatric facilities](#), [inpatient rehabilitation facilities](#), and [skilled nursing facilities](#). The proposed rules are slated for April.

### This Week in Health Policy

#### Mon. (3/17)

- **9:00am – RAND Discussion: Health Care Workforce** – The RAND Corporation holds a Health Care Workforce Summit to discuss strategies to develop the health care workforce. Sen. Tim Kaine (D-VA) will be participating. [Details](#).
- **1:00pm – Aspen Discussion: Supporting Caregivers** – The Aspen Institute holds a discussion to explore the many challenges facing family and professional caregivers today, as well as the promising public policy and private sector solutions that could enable all workers to work, care, and thrive. [Details](#).

#### Wed. (3/19)

- **11:00am – CSIS Discussion: State and Local AI Regulation** – The Center for Strategic and International Studies holds a discussion on the state and local artificial intelligence (AI) regulation landscape. [Details](#).

#### Additional Multi-Day Events

- **Mar 18-Mar 19 – HRSA Meeting: 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 NHSC priorities for future program issues, proposed policy changes, updates from clinician workforce experts; and education and practice improvement in the training development of primary care clinicians. [Details](#).

### Featured Analysis

- **\*NEW\*** **Impact Memo on Potential Budget Reconciliation Spending Cuts: Medicaid, ACA, Immigration, Commercial Insurance and More** – Available [here](#).
- **Insights for Impact: Federal Nutrition Programs** – In Policy Hub Insight Bank [here](#).
- **Litigation Tracker: Monitoring Legal Challenges to Trump-Vance Executive Actions** – In Policy Hub Insight Bank [here](#).
- **Impact Overview of President Trump’s Day One EO** – In Policy Hub Insight Bank [here](#).

- **Impact Memo on Health-Related Staff Picks for the Second Trump Administration** – In Policy Hub Insight Bank [here](#).

### Congressional Lookback

#### Fri. (3/14)

- **The SFC** convened a [hearing](#) to consider the nomination of Dr. Mehmet Oz to serve as Administrator of CMS. [Details](#).

#### Thurs. (3/13)

- **The Senate HELP Committee** [advanced](#) the NIH and FDA nominees, and the White House [withdrew](#) its CDC Director nomination. [Details](#).
- **MedPAC** released its [March 2025 Report to Congress](#). [Details](#).
- **MACPAC** released its [March 2025 Report to Congress](#). [Details](#).

#### Tues. (3/11)

- **The House W&M Health Subcommittee** convened a [hearing](#) to examine challenges in post-acute care access. [Details](#).

### Regulatory Lookback

#### Wed. (3/12)

- **CMMI** issued a [statement](#) and released a [fact sheet](#) announcing certain models will be canceled or end by December 31, 2025. [Details](#).
- **USPSTF** released a draft research plan focused on screening for cognitive impairment in older adults. Comments are due April 2. [Details](#).
- **The USDA** told state officials it will be [ending](#) the Local Food for Schools (LFS) and Local Food Purchase Assistance (LFPA) Cooperative Agreement programs. [Details](#).

#### Tues. (3/11)

- **CMS** issued the Marketplace Integrity and Affordability [Proposed Rule](#), which includes a series of proposals intended to address improper enrollments in Marketplace coverage and reduce improper federal spending on APTCs. Comments are due April 11. [Details](#).

### Comment & Application Deadlines

- **April 2:** USPSTF released a draft research plan focused on screening for cognitive impairment in older adults. [Details](#).
- **April 7:** The FDA issued [draft guidance](#) on considerations for the use of artificial intelligence (AI) to support regulatory decision-making for drug and biological products. [Details](#).
- **April 7:** The FDA released [draft guidance](#) on artificial intelligence (AI)-enabled device software functions (AI-DSFs): lifecycle management and marketing submission recommendations. [Details](#).

- **April 7:** The House E&C Republican Leadership issued an [RFI](#) to gather input on a federal comprehensive data privacy and security framework. [Details.](#)
- **April 11:** CMS issued the Marketplace Integrity and Affordability [Proposed Rule](#), which includes a series of proposals intended to address improper enrollments in Marketplace coverage and reduce improper federal spending on APTCs. [Details.](#)
- **July 1:** The CDC [seeking nominations](#) for membership on the Clinical Laboratory Improvement Advisory Committee (CLIAC). [Details.](#)