

Impact Health Policy Weekly

Congress returns this week with Speaker Mike Johnson (R-LA) setting the expeditious goal of finalizing the Republicans' budget resolution before recessing again in three weeks. However, large differences remain between the House and Senate versions. The House resolution includes a minimum of \$1.5 trillion in spending cuts and \$4.5 trillion in tax cuts, while the Senate version includes \$325 billion in new military and border security spending, along with energy policy changes. Apart from top-line numbers, the Senate also continues to disagree on the House's plan to cut \$880 billion from Medicaid.

In addition to budget reconciliation efforts, Republican leadership is beginning to discuss how to address the debt limit. Speaker Johnson is considering including the debt limit increase in reconciliation, while Senate Republicans favor a separate measure for the increase. The "x-date" in which the U.S. will default on its national debt has not yet been set, but the Bipartisan Policy Center has [projected](#) that this could occur between mid-July and October if Congress does not act.

Confirmation Hearings

The Senate Finance Committee is expected to mark-up the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) Administrator nominee Dr. Mehmet Oz sometime this week, while the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) Commissioner nominee, Dr. Marty Makary, and National Institute of Health (NIH) Director nominee, Dr. Jayanta Bhattacharya could be considered on the Senate floor this week. The Trump Administration has yet to name a Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Director nominee, after withdrawing Dr. Dave Weldon's nomination, but floated replacements include former Texas Representative, Dr. Michael Burgess and Florida Surgeon General, Dr. Joseph Ladapo.

Regulatory Update

The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) completed reviewing an [interim final rule](#) regarding the unaccompanied children program. OMB is also 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. (3/24)

- **11:15am – AEI Discussion: Medicaid Sustainability** – The American Enterprise Institute for Public Policy Research (AEI) holds a discussion on how policymakers can best prioritize vulnerable populations as they debate ways to make Medicaid spending growth sustainable. [Details.](#)
- **3:00pm – Hearing: VA/Community Provider Interoperability** – The House Veterans' Affairs (VA) Subcommittee on Technology Modernization holds a hearing to examine ways to improve interoperability between VA and community providers. [Details.](#)

Tue. (3/25)

- **9:00am – Washington Post Discussion: AI Outlook** – The Washington Post holds a discussion with Rep. Brett Guthrie (R-KY) on the global artificial intelligence (AI) race, the technology's next frontiers and the role of education in America's competitiveness. [Details.](#)
- **10:00am – Markup: Government Reform/Federal Workforce** – The House Oversight and Government Reform Committee holds a markup to consider legislation related to federal government reorganization, federal employee health benefits, District of Columbia immigration enforcement compliance, and resolutions of inquiry relating to employment decisions regarding federal employees and inspectors general of agencies, and to Elon Musk's role with the federal government. [Details.](#)
- **12:00pm – Justice in Aging Discussion: Medicaid Advocacy** – Justice in Aging holds a discussion on the state of play and new research about what is at risk for older adults if policymakers cut Medicaid. [Details.](#)
- **2:30pm – Hearing: Veteran Health Care Access** – The House Veterans' Affairs Subcommittee on Health holds a hearing titled "Breaking Down Barriers: Getting Veterans ACCESS to Lifesaving Care." [Details.](#)

Wed. (3/26)

- **9:00am – Hill Discussion: Women's Health, Mental Health, and Emerging Health Care Tech** – The Hill holds the first installment of its Health Next Summit to explore the campaign promises made by the Republican Administration, dive into the promises made by the new leaders in health care and the issues at the top of the agenda, and how it could play out for women's health, mental health, AI and emerging tech in health care. Reps. Buddy Carter (R-GA), Diana DeGette (D-CO), Kevin Hern (R-OK), and Kim Schrier (D-WA), will be participating. [Details.](#)
- **10:00am – Hearing: Online Dangers to Children** – The House Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Commerce, Manufacturing, and Trade holds a hearing to examine online risks facing the most vulnerable and take steps to help ensure they are not being exploited by bad actors online as the Committee considers legislation to protect children online. [Details.](#)
- **10:00am – Hearing: CFPB Reform** – The House Financial Services Financial Institutions Subcommittee holds a hearing titled "A New Era for the CFPB (Consumer Financial Protection Bureau): Balancing Power and Reprioritizing Consumer Protections." [Details.](#)

- **12:00pm – Economic Club Discussion: Pharmaceutical and Medical Care Innovation** – The Economic Club of Washington, D.C. holds a discussion on issues including sustainable health care models, innovation in pharmaceutical and medical care delivery and the future of health care. [Details.](#)
- **2:30pm – Congressional Forum: NIH Cuts/Alzheimer’s and Cancer Research** – Senators Tammy Baldwin (D-WI) and Peter Welch (D-VT) hold a forum to discuss the impact of President Trump and Elon Musk’s funding cuts at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) on finding cures and treatments for Alzheimer’s disease, cancer, and other diseases. The panel will feature former NIH leadership, impacted researchers, and patients of NIH clinical studies. [Details.](#)

Thurs. (3/27)

- **9:30am – BPC Discussion: Post-Chevron Legislation** – The Bipartisan Policy Center (BPC) holds a discussion on the challenges the Supreme Court’s decision ending Chevron deference pose for Congress in how it legislates and directs regulatory agencies. BPC will present recommendations from its working group on bipartisan steps that Congress can take to address the questions raised by the Court. [Details.](#)

Featured Analysis

- **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](#).

Regulatory Lookback

Fri. (3/21)

- **The FDA** announced a further [60-day delay](#) in the implementation of the final rule on “Nonprescription Drug Product With an Additional Condition for Nonprescription Use” (ACNU). [Details.](#)

Thurs. (3/20)

- **The FDA** announced a new [Chemical Contaminants Transparency Tool](#) database. [Details.](#)

Wed. (3/19)

- **CMS** released a [report](#) and [datasets](#) on the implementation of the Federal IDR process during the first six months of 2024. [Details.](#)
- **President Trump** signed an [EO](#) entitled, “Continuing the Reduction of the Federal Bureaucracy.” [Details.](#)

Tues. (3/18)

- **HHS Secretary Kennedy** [directed](#) the FDA to take action on infant formula to ensure its quality, safety, and nutritional adequacy and keep the supply chain resilient. [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.](#)