

## Impact Health Policy Weekly

Tomorrow night, President Trump will make his first joint Congressional address in response to a [letter](#) from Speaker Mike Johnson inviting the President to share his America First vision for Congress's legislative future. The President is also expected to announce an additional 10 percent tariff on Chinese goods and whether the Administration will move forward with the previously planned 25 percent tariffs on Canada and Mexico, or a lower percentage.

### **Fiscal Year 2025 Appropriations**

Government funding expires on March 14, with several health care programs expiring at the end of the month. Last week, Senate Appropriations Chair Susan Collins (R-ME) received instructions from the Trump Administration to begin prepping a continuing resolution (CR) that would fund the government through the end of the fiscal year, September 30. Some Republican lawmakers have shown interest in codifying the “most egregious” examples of waste of government spending, as identified by Elon Musk and the Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE), in the package, but Speaker Johnson indicated that such codifications would not occur until fiscal year (FY) 2026.

On the other side of the aisle, Democrats are seeking guardrails in the package to prohibit the Trump Administration and DOGE from eliminating Congressionally approved funding. Additionally, on Friday, top Democrat appropriators, Sen. Patty Murray (D-WA) and Rep. Rose DeLauro (D-CT), issued a [joint statement](#) indicating that “Republican leadership is walking away from bipartisan negotiations to fund the government—and raising the risk of a shutdown in so doing.” To avoid a shutdown, Congress may pursue a clean one-month CR.

### **Trump Administration Nominations**

On Wednesday, the Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions (HELP) Committee will convene its [confirmation hearing](#) for the National Institutes of Health (NIH) Director nominee, Dr. Jayanta Bhattacharya, and the following day, Dr. Marty Makary, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) Commissioner nominee, will have his [confirmation hearing](#) before the Committee. The Senate will also hold confirmation votes this week for Department of Education Secretary nominee, Linda McMahon, and Department of Labor Secretary nominee, Lori Chavez-DeRemer.

### **FDA Vaccine Advisory Committee Meeting Cancelled**

Last week, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) cancelled its March 13<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Vaccines and Related Biological Products Advisory Committee on influenza strains for the 2025-2026 influenza season. This follows the postponement of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) and Healthcare Infection Control Practices Advisory Committee (HICPAC) March meetings.

## Regulatory Update

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

- **FY 2026 Medicare Payment Rules:** Proposed rules updating payments for [acute care hospitals and long-term care hospitals](#), as well as [hospice providers](#). The proposed rules are slated for April.
- **ACA Marketplace Program Integrity:** A [proposed rule](#) likely focused on addressing fraud in Marketplace plans, which has been a primary concern for [House Republicans](#) and conservative think tanks, such as the [Paragon Health Institute](#). The proposed rule will likely reverse a number of Biden-era policies related to enrollment and eligibility for premium subsidies, which were promulgated through the annual notice of benefit and payment parameters (NBPP). Peter Nelson, the new head of Center for Consumer Information and Insurance Oversight (CCIO), identified numerous Biden-era regulations in a [report](#) he wrote during his time at the Center of the American Experiment, a conservative think tank. Given the timing of the proposed rule, it seems that the Trump Administration intends for its policies to be finalized and effective before the start of the 2026 Open Enrollment Period on November 1, 2025.

## This Week in Health Policy

### Mon. (3/3)

- **9:00am – Cato Briefing** – The Cato Institute convenes an in-person briefing titled, "Federal Health Care Regulation." [Details](#).

### Tue. (3/4)

- **9:00pm – President Trump's Address to Congress** – President Donald Trump will deliver his first address to a joint session of Congress since returning to office. [Details](#). Sen. Elissa Slotkin (D-MI) will deliver the Democratic response to President Trump's address to a joint session of Congress. [Details](#).

-

### Wed. (3/5)

- **10:00am – Hearing: NIH Nomination** – The Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee holds a hearing to consider the nomination of Dr. Jayanta Bhattacharya to be Director of the National Institutes of Health (NIH). [Details](#).
- **10:00am – Hearing: Sanctuary Cities/Immigration Policies** – The House Oversight and Government Reform Committee holds a hearing with the mayors of Boston, Chicago, Denver, and New York City to examine their refusal to cooperate with federal immigration authorities. [Details](#).
- **10:00am – Hearing: OMB Nominations** – The Senate Budget Committee holds a hearing to examine the nomination of James Bishop to be Deputy Director of the Office of Management and Budget (OMB). [Details](#).
- **10:00am – AEI Discussion: Tax Reform** – The American Enterprise Institute for Public Policy Research holds a discussion on tax reform with House Ways and Means Chairman Jason Smith (R-MO). [Details](#).

- **2:00pm – Hearing: Rural Broadband** – The House Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Communications and Technology holds a hearing to examine the Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Program and how to support rural broadband access. [Details.](#)
- **2:30pm – Hearing: Reforming Small Business Technology Funding** – The Senate Small Business and Entrepreneurship Committee holds a hearing to examine reforming the Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) and Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) programs, which are an important source of early-stage technology funding for small businesses. [Details.](#)

#### Thurs. (3/6)

- **9:00am – Washington Post Discussion: Impact of Gun Violence on Children** – The Washington Post holds a discussion on how gun violence has impacted communities around the country, initiatives to find common ground and efforts to bolster public safety and health. [Details.](#)
- **10:00am – Hearing: FDA Nomination** – The Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee holds a hearing to examine the nomination of Dr. Martin Makary to be Commissioner of the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). [Details.](#)
- **2:00pm – Hill Discussion: Medicare Physician Payments** – The Hill holds a discussion with Reps. Greg Murphy (R-NC) and Jimmy Panetta (D-CA) on the state of Medicare physician payments, including how rising inflation, labor shortages and the demands of an aging population are affecting medical providers, and bipartisan solutions for Congress. [Details.](#)
- **Meeting: MedPAC** – The Medicare Payment Advisory Commission (MedPAC) meets to discuss Medicare issues and policy questions. [Details.](#)

#### Fri. (3/7)

- **Meeting: MedPAC** – MedPAC meets to discuss Medicare issues and policy questions. [Details.](#)

#### Additional Multi-Day Events

- **Mar 3-Mar 4 – HHS Meeting: Population-Based Total Cost of Care Models** – The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) holds a meeting of the Physician-Focused Payment Model Technical Advisory Committee (PTAC) to hear presentations and deliberate on proposed PFPMs with a focus on developing and implementing Population-Based Total Cost of Care (PB-TCOC) models. Abe Sutton, Director at the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation (CMMI) will be participating. [Details.](#) FYI, LT. Sutton will deliver opening remarks on the March 4 session

#### Featured Analysis

- **\*NEW\* Insights for Impact: Federal Nutrition Programs** – In Policy Hub Insight Bank [here.](#)
- **\*NEW\* 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](#).
- **Policy Round-Up: CBO, GAO Reports on ACA Premium Tax Credits; DACA Marketplace Eligibility** – Available [here](#).

### Congressional Lookback

#### Fri. (2/28)

- **MedPAC** held day two of its [February 2025 public meeting](#) and held sessions on prior authorization and health care access for foster children. All Impact Health session summaries are available in Policy Hub [here](#).

#### Thurs. (2/27)

- **MACPAC** convened virtually for day one of its [February 2025 public meeting](#) and held sessions on transitions of care, non-DSH supplemental payment, the self-directed model, and access to OUD and SUD treatments. All Impact session summaries are available on Policy Hub [here](#).

#### Wed. (2/26)

- **The E&C Health Subcommittee** convened a [hearing](#) to examine [pharmacy](#) benefit manager (PBM) practices and discuss bipartisan reform efforts. [Details](#).

#### Tues. (2/25)

- **The E&C Committee** held a full committee markup session to consider and adopt its [Authorization and Oversight Plan](#) for the 119th Congress. [Details](#).
- **The House E&C Republican Leadership** issued an [RFI](#) to gather input on a federal comprehensive data [privacy](#) and security framework. Comments are due April 7. [Details](#).

#### Mon. (2/24)

- **The House Rules Committee** voted 9-4 along party lines to advance the Fiscal Year (FY) 2025 [Budget](#) Resolution ([H. Con. Res. 14](#)) and two Congressional Review Act Resolution ([H.J. Res. 20](#) and [H.J. Res. 35](#)) to the House floor.

### Regulatory Lookback

#### Fri. (2/28)

- **HHS** issued a [policy statement](#) to rescind the Richardson Wavie, which required HHS to use notice and comment rulemaking rules and regulations for matters relating to public property, loans, grants, benefits, or contracts. [Details](#).

#### Wed. (2/26)

- **President Trump** signed an [Executive Order](#) to strengthen price transparency requirements for hospitals and health plans through increased enforcement and new requirements. [Details](#).

### Comment & Application Deadlines

- **March 7:** HHS OCR issued a [proposed rule](#) to update the HIPAA Security Rule to enhance cybersecurity protections. [Details](#).
- **March 10:** The FDA released [draft guidance](#) on accelerated approval and considerations for determining whether a confirmatory trial is underway. [Details](#).
- **March 15:** The DEA issued a [proposed rule](#) that would establish a new special registration for the prescription of a controlled substance via telemedicine. [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](#)
- **July 1:** The CDC [seeking nominations](#) for membership on the Clinical Laboratory Improvement Advisory Committee (CLIAC). [Details](#).