

Impact Health Policy Weekly

Over the weekend, Senate Majority Leader John Thune (R-SD) indicated plans to begin moving the chamber's budget reconciliation resolution as soon as Wednesday, with a vote-a-rama expected to start on Thursday. The resolution is likely to represent a compromise between the House and Senate versions, and includes a minimum of \$3 billion in spending cuts for the Senate Committees and at least \$1.5 trillion in spending cuts for the House Committees, providing Republicans flexibility to craft their cuts. Prior to this though, Senators will await a decision from the Senate parliamentarian on whether they will be able to use "current policy baseline," which would allow Republicans to extend the 2017 tax cuts without any cost.

Pharmaceutical Tariffs

President Trump plans to impose numerous tariffs beginning on Wednesday, but it is not exactly clear what the tariffs will look like at this point. Regarding pharmaceutical tariffs, there is uncertainty whether these tariffs will come on Wednesday or later, and there is some speculation that the tariffs could either be a uniform 25 percent tariffs or reciprocal tariffs that reflect any subsidies foreign governments use to support specific domestic industries. The Brookings Institute [examines](#) how such tariffs may impact drug prices, onshoring of pharmaceutical production, and potential shortages, while the Biotechnology Innovation Organization (BIO) warns that recent [survey results](#) indicate that potential pharmaceutical tariffs could impede access to cures and stifle innovation.

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 [final rule](#) for 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

Tue. (4/1)

- **10:00am – Hearing: American AI Leadership** – The House Oversight and Government Reform Subcommittee on Economic Growth, Energy Policy, and Regulatory Affairs holds a hearing to examine the global state of play in the field of artificial intelligence (AI), the energy and data center infrastructure necessary to support this technology, and how securing and strengthening

America's lead in AI is key to maintaining national security and economic prosperity for all Americans. [Details.](#)

- **10:00am – Hearing: Children's Health/School Lunch Program** – The Senate Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry Committee holds a hearing to examine [S.222](#), to amend the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act to allow schools that participate in the school lunch program to serve whole milk. [Details.](#)
- **10:15am – Hearing: Veteran Health Care Biomedical Innovation** – The House Veterans' Affairs Subcommittee on Health holds a hearing titled "Harnessing Biomedical Innovation: Modernizing VA Healthcare for the Future." [Details.](#)
- **10:15am – Hearing: FDA Regulation of OTC Monograph Drugs** – The House Energy and Commerce Health Subcommittee holds a hearing to examine how the Food and Drug Administration's (FDA) Over-The-Counter Monograph Drug User Fee Program is working and what challenges may persist. [Details.](#)
- **10:30am – Hearing: Cybersecurity Vulnerabilities in Legacy Medical Devices** – The House Energy and Commerce Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee holds a hearing to examine concerns regarding vulnerabilities in legacy medical devices, their impact on patient safety and health operations, and strategies to enhance cyber resilience. [Details.](#)
- **10:30am – Hearing: Big Tech Oversight** – The Senate Judiciary Subcommittee on Antitrust, Competition Policy, and Consumer Rights holds a hearing to examine "big fixes for big tech." [Details.](#) Note:

Wed. (4/2)

- **8:00am – Politico Discussion: Health Policy Outlook** – Politico holds its annual health care summit featuring discussions with lawmakers, federal agency heads, and industry leaders on chronic diseases, pharmacy benefit managers (PBMs), physician payment reform, and health care AI, among others. [Details.](#)
- **10:00am – Hearing: AI Innovation and Competition** – The House Judiciary Subcommittee on the Administrative State, Regulatory Reform, and Antitrust holds a hearing to examine the competitive landscape within the AI sector, emphasizing the importance of solutions that preserve economic dynamism, technological innovation, and America's global leadership. [Details.](#)
- **10:15am – Hearing: Universal Injunctions** – The Senate Judiciary Committee holds a hearing to examine District Judges, focusing on exploring legislative solutions to the bipartisan problem of universal injunctions. [Details.](#)
- **2:00pm – Hearing: Expanding Employer-Sponsored Health Care** – The House Education and the Workforce Subcommittee on Health, Employment, Labor, and Pensions holds a hearing titled "A Healthy Workforce: Expanding Access and Affordability in Employer-Sponsored Health Care." [Details.](#)
- **2:00pm – Hearing: Veteran Mental Health Policies** – The House Veterans' Affairs Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations holds a hearing to examine the VA's mental health policies. [Details.](#)

Thurs. (4/3)

- **1:30pm – CRFB Discussion: Medicare Sustainability** – The Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget (CRFB) holds its third annual Health Solution Summit, featuring a discussion with Government Accountability (GAO) Office Director Leslie Gordon on improving Medicare’s sustainability. [Details](#).

Fri. (4/4)

- **1:00pm – AEI Discussion: Drug Innovation/CBO Modeling** – The American Enterprise Institute for Public Policy Research (AEI) holds a discussion on how drug development responds to policy changes—including those introduced by the Inflation Reduction Act—and what that means for coming policy debates. In addition, Christopher Adams, Principal Analyst at the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) will present on how CBO’s drug innovation model is evolving based on recent evidence. [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](#).

Congressional Lookback

Fri. (3/28)

- **Sen. Klobuchar (D-MN)** led a [letter](#) to the USDA inquiring about reports that previously approved funding in The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) was cancelled. [Details](#).

Wed. (3/26)

- **The Committee on Oversight and Government Reform** convened a [full committee markup](#) of nine bills aimed at expanding the power of the Trump Administration and authorizing the continuation of DOGE activities. [Details](#).

Tues. (3/25)

- **The SFC [voted to advance](#)** Dr. Mehmet Oz as Administrator of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) sending his nomination to the full Senate for confirmation. [Details](#).

Regulatory Lookback

Thurs. (3/27)

- **HHS [announced](#)** plans for a reduction in force that it says will save \$1.8 billion per year. [Details](#).

- **The DOJ** launched the [Anticompetitive Regulations Task Force](#) within its Antitrust Division to identify and advocate for the elimination of state and federal regulations that hinder free market competition. [Details](#).
- **The Paragon Institute** released a [report](#) entitled “Addressing Medicaid Money Laundering: The Lack of Integrity with Medicaid Financing and the Need for Reform.” [Details](#).

Wed. (3/26)

- **President Trump** signed [Executive Order 14243](#) titled “Stopping Waste, Fraud, and Abuse by Eliminating Information Silos,” aimed at increasing government transparency and efficiency. [Details](#).
- **The CBO** released an [updated assessment](#) of the U.S. debt ceiling and the Treasury’s ability to finance government operations under the current borrowing constraints. [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](#).