

Impact Health Policy Weekly

Over the weekend, the Senate adopted an amended [budget resolution](#) by a vote of 51-48. The resolution directs Senate Committees to find a minimum of \$4 billion in savings, while the House is instructed to cut at least \$1.5 trillion. It also features using the current policy baseline to make President Trump's 2017 tax cuts permanent and increasing the debt ceiling by \$5 trillion. The all-night vote-a-rama featured an [amendment](#) to strike the House directions for the Energy and Commerce Committee to cut \$880 billion, which would most likely target Medicaid, but the amendment failed by a vote of 50-49, with Sens. Susan Collins (R-ME), Josh Hawley (R-MO), and Lisa Murkowski (R-AK) joining Democrats and Independents.

House Speaker Mike Johnson (R-LA) plans on putting the Senate-passed resolution on the House floor on Wednesday, and despite [opposition](#) from several Republicans, the resolution is expected to pass. Both chambers will then recess at the end of the week and return on April 28, where the committees of jurisdiction will begin drafting the budget reconciliation package pursuant to the resolution instructions.

HHS Layoffs

Following the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) recent reorganization [announcement](#) and the coinciding layoffs, the Senate HELP Committee invited Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr. to participate in a [hearing](#) on Thursday on the Department's restructuring. It is unclear whether Secretary Kennedy has agreed to participate yet. On the House side, House Energy & Commerce Democrat Leaders Rep. Frank Pallone (D-NJ) and Rep. Diana DeGette (D-CO) have also [called on](#) Chair Brett Guthrie (R-KY) to hold a hearing with Secretary Kennedy on the HHS reorganization.

State Nutrition Updates

HHS Secretary Robert F. Kennedy is supporting states looking to use waivers to modify child nutrition programs and the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) in line with the Make America Health Again (MAHA) agenda. West Virginia [passed legislation](#) supported by Secretary Kennedy banning seven food dyes from school lunches beginning August 2025. Secretary Kennedy also [said](#) during a speech that any waivers for states to restrict SNAP, including banning sugar-sweetened beverages, will be approved. Notably, the Department of Agriculture, not HHS, runs school meal programming and SNAP so USDA Secretary Brooke Rollins will oversee whether waivers are approved. The secretaries say that they are working together, but Secretary Rollins may be more receptive to pushback from food producers if they are negatively impacted.

Regulatory Update

The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) completed reviewing the [final CY 2026 Medicare Advantage Rate Notice](#). We expect to see the final rate notice today. OMB is also reviewing the following:

- **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. (4/7)

- **12:00pm – AEI Discussion: MA Improvements** – The American Enterprise Institute (AEI) holds a discussion on the changing Medicare Advantage (MA) landscape, including quality measures, risk adjustment, decreasing demand for Fee-for-Service, and consumer protections. [Details.](#)
- **1:00pm – CAP Discussion: NIH Funding Cuts** – The Center for American Progress (CAP) holds a discussion on how cuts to the National Institutes of Health (NIH) will limit progress in preventing and curing diseases and damage the economy in the process. [Details.](#)
- **4:00pm – AEI Discussion: DOGE Impact** – AEI holds a discussion of the Department of Government Efficiency's (DOGE) efforts to date and an examination of its receipts. [Details.](#)

Tue. (4/8)

- **10:00am – Atlantic Discussion: Health Summit** – The Atlantic holds its 2025 Health Summit, featuring conversations on health care innovation, Alzheimer's Disease diagnosis, and AI and drug discovery, among others. [Details.](#)
- **10:00am – Hearing: Reducing Federal Real Estate** – The House Oversight and Government Reform DOGE Subcommittee holds a hearing to evaluate the federal government's real estate portfolio, its maintenance and operating costs, and the overall financial burden on taxpayers. They will also review the Trump Administration's efforts to streamline the federal property footprint and explore additional strategies to ensure responsible stewardship of taxpayer dollars. [Details.](#)
- **10:00am – Markup: SUPPORT Act, Organ Transplant, and Senior's Access to Medications** – The House Energy and Commerce Committee holds a markup of 26 bills, including [H.R. 2483](#), SUPPORT for Patients and Communities Reauthorization Act of 2025, [H.R. 1520](#), Charlotte Woodward Organ Transplant Discrimination Prevention Act, and [H.R. 2484](#), Seniors' Access to Critical Medications Act, among others. [Details.](#)
- **10:00am – Hearing: Small Business Taxes** – The Senate Small Business and Entrepreneurship Committee holds a joint hearing with the House Committee on Small Business to examine prosperity on Main Street, focusing on keeping taxes low for small businesses. [Details.](#)
- **10:00am – Hearing: President Trump's Trade Policy** – The Senate Finance Committee holds a hearing to examine the President's 2025 trade policy agenda. [Details.](#)
- **10:00am – Hearing: SNAP Work Requirements** – The House Committee on Agriculture holds a hearing titled "The Power of Work: Expanding Opportunity through Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)." [Details.](#)
- **10:00am – Hearing: Biosimilar Uptake and Utilization** – The House Ways and Means Health Subcommittee holds a hearing to examine the challenges and opportunities surrounding biosimilar uptake and utilization in America's health care system. [Details.](#)

- **10:15am – Hearing: Freedom of Information Act Perspectives** – The Senate Judiciary Committee holds a hearing to examine the Freedom of Information Act, focusing on perspectives from public requesters. [Details.](#)
- **1:00pm – Health Affairs Discussion: Food, Nutrition, and Health** – Health Affairs holds a discussion on its [theme issue on food, nutrition, and health](#) exploring the relationships between food security, nutrition security, income, and health; Food is Medicine programs; and innovative Medicaid initiatives. [Details.](#)
- **2:00pm – Hearing: TANF Non-Assistance Funds/Program Reform** – The House Ways and Means Subcommittee on Work and Welfare holds a hearing on findings from a Government Accountability Office (GAO) [investigation](#) into Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) non-assistance spending and need for reform. [Details.](#)
- **2:00pm – CMS Meeting: AHEAD Model Hospital Global Budgets** – The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) holds a meeting to review the States Advancing All-Payer Health Equity Approaches and Development (AHEAD) Model hospital global budget methodology. [Details.](#)
- **4:00pm – Hearing: Emerging Biotechnology Report** – The House Armed Services Subcommittee on Cyber, Information Technologies, and Innovation, holds a hearing on the final report of the National Security Commission for Emerging Biotechnology with the Commission Chair Sen. Todd Young (R-IN). [Details.](#)

Wed. (4/9)

- **10:00am – Hearing: FDA Oversight/Illicit Products** – The House Oversight and Government Reform Committee holds hearing on the necessary steps to reduce inefficiencies and bureaucracy at the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA). This includes accelerating the approval of effective, innovative products, preventing illicit and counterfeit goods from entering the U.S., and ensuring a safe and healthy food supply. [Details.](#)
- **10:00am – Hearing: AI Energy and Competitiveness** – The House Energy and Commerce Committee holds a hearing to examine the infrastructure needs to meet artificial intelligence’s (AI) demands, and to understand how the federal government can facilitate further developments in computing power and AI modeling, while ensuring the right guardrails are in place to protect consumers. [Details.](#)
- **10:00am – Markup: Childhood Cancer** – The Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions (HELP) Committee holds markup to consider the bipartisan [S.932](#), Give Kids a Chance Act, to increase access to lifesaving treatments for children with cancer. [Details.](#)
- **10:00am – Hearing: USDA Oversight** – The House Appropriations Committee holds a hearing to review the Department of Agriculture’s (USDA) programs with VA Secretary Brooke Rollins. [Details.](#)
- **10:00am – Hearing: VA Oversight** – The House Appropriations Committee holds a hearing to review the state of the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) programs with VA Secretary Doug Collins. [Details.](#)

- **10:00am – Hearing: Trump Administration’s 2025 Trade Policy Agenda** – The House Ways and Means Committee holds a hearing to examine the Trump Administration’s 2025 trade policy agenda with the United States Trade Representative, Ambassador Jamieson Greer. [Details.](#)
- **10:30am – Hearing: Health and Human Services Public Witness Day** – The House Appropriations Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Subcommittee holds a public witness day to hear testimony on Down Syndrome, biosecurity, and HIV, among other topics. [Details.](#)
- **12:00pm – AEI Discussion: Safety of Unapproved Antiobesity Medications** – AEI holds a discussion on the regulatory landscape, patient safety considerations, and the role of compounding pharmacies in providing access to alternative medications used to treat obesity. [Details.](#)
- **2:30pm – Hearing: Using AI to Improve Government Efficiency** – The Senate Joint Economic Committee holds a hearing to examine reducing waste, fraud and abuse through innovation, focusing on how AI and data can improve government efficiency. Dr. Sterling Thomas, Chief Scientist at the Government Accountability Office (GAO) will be testifying. [Details.](#)

Thurs. (4/10)

- **10:00am – Hearing: HHS Reorganization** – The Senate HELP Committee invited Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr. to participate in a HELP Committee hearing on the reorganization of HHS. [Details.](#)
- **10:00am – Hearing: Daylight Savings** – The Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee holds a hearing to examine the various issues around whether the country should continue “springing forward” and “falling back” each year with time, including potential health implications. [Details.](#)
- **3:00pm – Brookings Discussion: Role of U.S. Government on Drug Supply Chain Reliability** – The Brookings Institution holds a discussion over the role of the U.S. government in drug supply chain reliability, including on what has historically driven shortages and how changes in government policies have impacted shortage risk and supply chain resiliency, and the role onshoring could play in addressing supply chain reliability. [Details.](#)
- **Meeting: MACPAC** – The Medicaid and CHIP Payment and Access Commission (MACPAC) holds a public meeting to discuss Medicaid and CHIP payment and policy issues. [Details.](#)
- **Meeting: MedPAC** – The Medicare Payment Advisory Commission (MedPAC) meets to discuss Medicare issues and policy questions. [Details.](#)

Fri. (4/11)

- **Meeting: MACPAC** – MACPAC holds a public meeting to discuss Medicaid and CHIP payment and policy issues. [Details.](#)
- **Meeting: MedPAC** – MedPAC meets to discuss Medicare issues and policy questions. [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

Wed. (4/2)

- **The Senate HELP Subcommittee** [convened](#) a hearing focused on expanding access and affordability in employer-sponsored health care. [Details](#).

Regulatory Lookback

Fri. (4/4)

- **CMS** released the CY 2026 Policy and Technical Changes to the MA program and Part D program [final rule](#). [Details](#).

Wed. (4/2)

- **The USDA** [announced](#) a set of steps that it will take to bring states into compliance with timeliness requirements for SNAP application processing. [Details](#).

Comment & Application Deadlines

- **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](#).