

Impact Health Policy Weekly

Framing the Week

The House faces a busy week, with plans to vote on a reauthorization of Section 702 of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act (set to expire on April 30), the Senate-passed [FY 2026 budget resolution](#) and DHS funding (with the exact sequencing still to be determined), as well as the farm bill. All of these bills must first go through the House Rules Committee.

In an effort to appease conservatives seeking to expand the scope of budget reconciliation, House Speaker Johnson plans to release an outline for Reconciliation 3.0, which may include measures addressing fraud, waste, and abuse, as well as an extension of the ban of Medicaid funding to Planned Parenthood (set to expire on July 4). Last week, House Budget Committee Chairman Jodey Arrington (R-TX) and House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform James Comer (R-KY) introduced a pair of bills aimed at preventing fraud in federal programs.

- **Stopping Fraudulent Payments Act ([H.R. 8464](#))**: Requires federal agencies to pause making payments when an elevated risk of fraud has been identified. Its scope is broad and could apply to Medicaid, Medicare, and ACA premium tax credits.
- **Pre-Payment Fraud Prevention and Treasury Data Access Act ([H.R. 8463](#))**: Requires the Treasury Department to work with agencies to verify payment and payee information before funds are released. Similarly, this could apply to health care programs.

The Senate-passed resolution includes instructions only for the House and Senate Committees on Judiciary and Homeland Security to provide \$70 billion to fund Immigration and Customs Enforcement and Border Patrol for 3.5 years. Committee recommendations are due May 15, with the goal of sending a bill to President Trump by June 1.

Tomorrow, the House Ways and Means Committee will hold a [hearing](#) with health system CEOs as well as the president of Protect Our Care. This is the second in a series of hearings on health care affordability, with the first [hearing](#) in January focused on the role of health insurance companies.

We anticipate Republicans will focus on consolidation and competition, like they did during the first hearing. They may also highlight recommendations in [Paragon Health Institute's latest report](#) that calls for site-neutral payment reform in Medicare, overhauling the Physician Fee Schedule, and changes to the 340B program, among other reforms. Democrats will likely focus on the effects of Medicaid cuts in H.R. 1.

Regulatory Update

The Office of Management and Budget completed reviewing:

- **Head Start. [Proposed Rule](#)**: Restoring Flexibility to Support Head Start Program Access

OMB is reviewing the following rules:

- **Coverage and Payment:**
 - **Medicaid:**
 - **State Directed Payments.** [Proposed Rule](#): Medicaid Managed Care State Directed Payments and Medicaid Fee-For-Service Targeted Medicaid Practitioner Payments
 - **Medicaid Tax Waivers.** [Proposed Rule](#): Amending the Indirect Hold Harmless Threshold of Health Care-Related Taxes
 - **Work Requirements.** [Interim Final Rule](#): Establishing State Community Engagement Requirements for Certain Individuals Under Section 1902(xx) of the Social Security Act
 - **Medicare.** Proposed Rules: CY 2027 policy changes and payment rates for [hospital outpatient departments](#), [physicians](#), and [ESRD facilities](#)
 - **Marketplace.**
 - [Final Rule](#): 2027 Notice of Benefit and Payment Parameters
 - [Proposed Rule](#): Exchange Pre-Enrollment Eligibility Verification
 - **No Surprises Act.** [Final Rule](#): Independent Dispute Resolution Operations
 - **Organ Transplant.** [Final Rule](#): Alternative Payment Model Updates and the Increasing Organ Transplant Access
- **Drug Price Negotiation.** [Proposed Rule](#): Medicare Drug Price Negotiation Program
- **Accrediting Organizations.** [Final Rule](#): Strengthening Oversight of Accrediting Organizations (AO), Burden Reduction, and Related Provisions
- **Nutrition**
 - **Work Requirements.** [Proposed Rule](#): Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program: Modification to Work Requirements for Able-Bodied Adults
 - **Categorical Eligibility.** [Proposed Rule](#): Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program: Reforming Categorical Eligibility
 - **Cost Sharing.** [Proposed Rule](#): Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program: Changes in Federal-State Administrative Cost Sharing
- **Immigration.** [Interim Final Rule](#): Unaccompanied Children Program Foundational Rule; Update to Include Proof of Identity and Income Verification Standards
- **Medication-Assisted Treatment.** [Final Rule](#): Implementation of the SUPPORT Act: Dispensing and Administering Controlled Substances for Medication-Assisted Treatment
- **HIPAA.** [Final Rule](#): HIPAA Privacy Rule: Changes to Support Coordinated Care and Individual Engagement and Reduce Regulatory Burdens
- **Excepted Benefits.** [Proposed Rule](#): Amendments to Excepted Benefits

- **Disability.** [Interim Final Rule](#): Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Disability by Recipients of Department of Health and Human Services Financial Assistance
- **Discrimination.** [Final Rule](#): Rescinding Portions of Department of Health and Human Services Title VI Regulations to Conform More Closely with the Statutory Text and to Implement Executive Order 14281

This Week in Health Policy

An overview of upcoming events is included below. Events highlighted in **orange** are those that we will be covering in detail:

Mon. (4/27)

- **1:00pm – ASPE Meeting: Alzheimer’s Disease Care** – The Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation (ASPE) holds a meeting of the Advisory Council on Alzheimer’s Research, Care, and Services (Advisory Council) to discuss advancements in long-term services and supports and Alzheimer’s disease care, including faith and community-based care, and the Guiding an Improved Dementia Experience (GUIDE) model. [Details.](#)
- **3:00pm – HITAC Meeting: Health IT Infrastructure** – The Health Information Technology Advisory Committee (HITAC) holds a meeting of the Annual Report Workgroup to discuss program updates, including recommendations to the National Coordinator on the topics of interoperability, privacy and security, patient access, and use of technologies that support public health. [Details.](#)

Tue. (4/28)

- **10:00am – Hearing: Role of Health Systems in Affordability** – The House Ways and Means Committee holds a hearing to examine the impact of rising health care costs on patients and families and the role of health systems in driving health care affordability. [Details.](#)
- **10:00am – Hearing: President’s Education Budget Request for FY 2027** – The Senate Appropriations Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Subcommittee holds a hearing to examine the President’s proposed budget request for fiscal year (FY) 2027 for the Department of Education with the Secretary Linda McMahon. [Details.](#)
- **10:15am – Hearing: Equity Policies in Education** – The House Education and Workforce Subcommittee on Early Childhood, Elementary, and Secondary Education Subcommittee holds a hearing titled “Leveling Down: How Equity Policies Undermine Excellence and Harm Students.” [Details.](#)
- **11:00am – Markup: USDA and FDA FY 2027 Appropriations** – The House Appropriations Committee holds a markup of the fiscal year (FY) 2027 appropriations bill for the Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the FDA. [Details.](#)

Wed. (4/29)

- **10:00am – Markup: USDA and FDA FY 2027 Appropriations** – The House Appropriations Committee holds a continuation markup of the fiscal year (FY) 2027 appropriations bill for the Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the FDA. [Details.](#)

- **2:00pm – Hearing: FDA Food Regulation** – The House Energy and Commerce Health Subcommittee holds a hearing to examine legislative proposals on the regulation and oversight of food at the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), with a focus on addressing the chronic disease epidemic. [Details.](#)
- **2:00pm – Hearing: Denaturalization** – The Senate Judiciary Subcommittee on Constitution holds its third hearing to examine protecting American citizenship, focusing on denaturalization and its constitutional limits. [Details.](#)
- **2:30pm – Hearing: COVID-19 Vaccine Safety** – The Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Subcommittee on Investigations holds a hearing to examine Biden administration health officials and COVID-19 vaccine safety signals. [Details.](#)
- **4:00pm – Hearing: Veterans Health Care** – The Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee holds a hearing to examine several pieces of legislation related to the provision of health care for veterans. [Details.](#)

Thurs. (4/30)

- **2:00pm – Health Affairs Discussion: Provider Prices in the Commercial Sector** – Health Affairs holds a discussion on how provider prices affect commercial health care spending and the key factors that drive rising hospital prices. [Details.](#)

Featured Analysis

- **AI Policy Roundup** – In Policy Hub [here.](#)
- **ACA Subsidy Update: 2026 Marketplace Enrollment Down, Program Integrity Savings, and Sen. Moreno's Proposed One-Year Extension** – In Policy Hub [here.](#)
- **Innovation Center Model Portfolio Overview** – In Policy Hub [here.](#)
- **Impact Health Vaccine Policy Tracker** – In Policy Hub [here.](#)

Congressional Lookback

Thurs. (4/23)

- **Senate Democrats, led by Ron Wyden (D-OR)**, released a new report titled “Trump’s Big Pharma Giveaway” alongside the Drug Deal Disclosure Act ([S.4355](#)), legislation aimed at forcing [transparency](#) around confidential agreements between the Trump Administration and major pharmaceutical manufacturers. [Details.](#)
- **House Republicans on the Energy and Commerce and Financial Services Committees** released the SECURE Data Act and the GUARD Financial Data Act to establish a national data privacy standard. [Details.](#)
- **The House Appropriations Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies** released its proposed appropriations for fiscal year 2027. [Details.](#)

- The House Education and **Workforce Subcommittee on Health, Employment, Labor, and Pensions** held a hearing to examine **pharmacy** benefit managers (PBMs), their role in employer-sponsored **insurance** under the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, and the growing concern over financial conflicts involving brokers and consultants who advise health plans. [Details.](#)
- The Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP) Committee convened a hearing to review the FY 2027 budget request for the Department of Health and Human Services. [Details.](#)

Wed. (4/22)

- The Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies convened a hearing to review the FY 2027 budget request for the Department of Health and Human Services. [Details.](#)
- The House Ways and Means (W&M) Committee **convened** a hearing focused on Medicare fraud as part of ongoing Republican-led oversight efforts targeting fraud, waste, and abuse across federal health programs. [Details.](#)

Regulatory Lookback

Fri. (4/24)

- President Trump **announced** the 17th Most-Favored-Nation pricing agreement with a major pharmaceutical manufacturer, Regeneron, as part of his broader effort to align U.S. drug prices with the lowest prices paid in other developed nations. [Details.](#)
- The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and the Advanced Research Projects Agency for Health (ARPA-H) **announced** new coordinated regulatory and research actions to accelerate the development and access to treatments for serious mental illness. [Details.](#)
- The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Office of the Inspector General (OIG) **released** findings from a review of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services' (CMS) oversight of compounded drugs in Medicare Part D, identifying critical data limitations that undermine program integrity and patient safety. [Details.](#)

Thurs. (4/23)

- The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) and the FDA **announced** a new Regulatory Alignment for Predictable and Immediate Device (RAPID) coverage pathway aimed at accelerating Medicare beneficiary access to certain FDA-designated Breakthrough medical devices. [Details.](#)

Wed. (4/22)

- CMS **announced** it is pausing the Medicare Part D rollout of its Better Approaches to Lifestyle and Nutrition for Comprehensive hEalth (BALANCE) Model while extending a transitional demonstration, the Medicare GLP-1 Bridge, through December 31, 2027. [Details.](#)
- The Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) **issued** a formal request for nominations to fill upcoming vacancies on the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force. [Details.](#)

Tues. (4/21)

- **The Center for Medicare & Medicaid Innovation (CMMI/Innovation Center)** [held](#) a webinar to answer questions about the LEAD (Long-term Enhanced ACO Design) Model following the release of an [updated LEAD RFA](#). [Details](#).

Mon. (4/20)

- **President Trump** [issued](#) an Executive Order (EO) aimed at accelerating the development, review, and access to novel treatments for serious mental illness, with a particular emphasis on psychedelic-based therapies. [Details](#).

Comment & Application Deadlines

- **May 1:** GAO is [seeking](#) nominations for positions on the Board of Governors of the Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI). [Details](#).
- **May 17:** CMMI is [accepting applications](#) for the Long-term Enhanced ACO Design (LEAD) Model ([Impact summary](#)). [Details](#).
- **May 23:** The Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) issued a formal request for nominations to fill upcoming vacancies on the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force. [Details](#).
- **May 26:** The Federal Trade Commission (FTC) and the Department of Justice (DOJ) [launched](#) a joint public inquiry regarding the effectiveness of the Hart-Scott-Rodino Antitrust Improvements Act's (HSR Act) premerger reporting requirements. [Details](#).
- **May 30:** The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) issued a request for information (RFI) on the use of digital health technologies (DHTs) in clinical investigations for drugs and biological products, seeking stakeholder feedback on opportunities and challenges related to the use of these tools in product development and regulatory review. [Details](#).
- **June 1:** CMS released the fiscal year (FY) 2027 inpatient rehabilitation facility (IRF) PPS proposed rule. [Details](#).
- **June 1:** CMS released the FY 2027 inpatient psychiatric facility (IPF) PPS [proposed rule](#). [Details](#).
- **June 1:** CMS released the FY 2026 skilled nursing facility (SNF) prospective payment system (PPS) proposed rule. [Details](#).
- **June 5:** CMS released the FY 2027 hospice payment rate update proposed rule. [Details](#).
- **June 3:** CMMI released a [NOFO](#) for the second cohort of the Innovation in Behavioral Health Model. [Details](#).
- CMS released the FY 2027 inpatient prospective payment system (IPPS) and long-term care hospital prospective payment system (LTCH PPS). [Details](#).
- **June 15:** CMS released a [proposed rule](#) to advance interoperability and improve prior authorization for prescription drugs. [Details](#).
- **July 31:** The ACL announced the [launch of Phase 1](#) of the ACL Caregiver AI Prize Competition. [Details](#).

Litigation Highlights

The **Supreme Court** will hear arguments this week in [Mullin v. Doe](#), [Cisco Systems v. Doe I](#) regarding whether the Administration can end Temporary Protective Status (TPS) for Syrian and Haitian immigrants

Hundreds of cases have been filed in response to changes at the federal level since the beginning of the Trump-Vance Administration. A sampling of recent cases include:

- **Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI):** In [National Association of Diversity Officers in Higher Education v. Donald J. Trump \(D. Md.\)](#), litigation was filed on April 20th against an [Executive Order](#) issued by President Trump on March 26th entitled “*Addressing DEI Discrimination by Federal Contractors*.” The order requires federal agencies, within 30 days, to add a standardized clause to federal contracts and subcontracts banning certain DEI practices and to cancel, suspend, or terminate agreements that fail to include or comply with the clause. The Executive Order builds upon the anti-DEI directive President Trump signed on his first day in office, “*Ending Illegal Discrimination and Restoring Merit-Based Opportunity*” ([Executive Order 14173](#)). The new order shifts the 2025 compliance framework from a certification-based model to a binding contractual requirement.
- **Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP):** A hearing is scheduled for Friday, May 1, in [Aragon v. Rollins](#), a lawsuit brought by SNAP participants challenging USDA-approved state waivers that restrict which foods may be purchased with SNAP benefits, such as sugary drinks, energy drinks, and candy. Plaintiffs argue the waivers disrupt food access, harm individuals with dietary needs, create checkout confusion, and exceed USDA's authority.
- **Public and Environmental Health:** In [Renew Northwest v. U.S. Department of the Interior](#), a district court granted a preliminary injunction in favor of a range of renewable energy trade associations, finding they are likely to succeed on their APA claims challenging a series of federal agency actions that collectively restrict and delay wind and solar permitting. The Department of Interior's actions are thus temporarily blocked as the cases proceeds.
- **Immigration:** [Doe v. U.S. Citizenship & Immigration Services \(D.D.C.\)](#) is a recently filed case challenging a 2025 USCIS Interim Final Rule that eliminated automatic extensions of employment authorization documents (EADs) for individuals awaiting renewal decisions, ending a policy that allowed continued work authorization during processing delays. The plaintiff, a noncitizen protected under the Violence Against Women Act and the sole financial provider for her U.S. citizen child, alleges the rule will cause her to lose work authorization while her renewal application is still pending.

For additional information regarding these cases and hundreds of others, please see our [litigation tracker](#), which is updated regularly.