

HEALTH POLICY UPDATE: JUNE 23, 2022

Congressional Schedule:

- The Senate convened at 10 a.m. Following leader remarks, the Senate will resume consideration of the Schumer, D-N.Y., motion to discharge the nomination of Jessica G. L. Clarke to be U.S. district judge for the Southern District of New York from the Senate Judiciary Committee. At 11, the Senate will vote on agreeing to the Schumer motion to discharge the Clarke nomination and agreeing to the Schumer motion to invoke cloture on the motion to concur in the House amendment to the legislative vehicle for the bipartisan gun violence package (S 2938) with a further Senate amendment.
 - Nominations:
 - Jessica G. L. Clarke to be U.S. district judge for the Southern District of New York
 - Bills:
 - S 2398 — Legislative vehicle for a bipartisan gun violence package
- The House reconvenes at noon for legislative business. The chamber is expected to consider a bill (HR 5585) that would establish ARPA-H as an independent division with HHS and authorizes \$500 million a year through FY 2027 for the agency and a Senate amendment to a bill (HR 3967) that would make veterans who during their military service were exposed to burn pits or other toxic substances automatically eligible for VA health care and disability benefits.
 - Bills:
 - HR 5585 — Advanced Research Project Agency-Health (ARPA-H) Act
 - HR 3967 — Honoring our Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics (Honoring our PACT) Act

Health policy update:

- BBB drug pricing and drug price negotiation items
 - Office of Chuck Grassley (Press Release): Commerce Committee Advances Grassley, Cantwell Bipartisan Bill to Combat Rising Prescription Drug Prices - <https://www.grassley.senate.gov/news/news-releases/commerce-committee-advances-grassley-cantwell-bipartisan-bill-to-combat-rising-prescription-drug-prices>
 - Office of Susan Collins (Press Release): Diabetes Caucus Co-Chairs Collins, Shaheen Release Bipartisan Legislation to Lower Insulin Costs - <https://www.collins.senate.gov/newsroom/diabetes-caucus-co-chairs-collins-shaheen-release-bipartisan-legislation-to-lower-insulin-costs>

- Axios: Proposed insulin price cap poses test for Dems - <https://www.axios.com/2022/06/23/proposed-insulin-cost-cap-poses-test-for-democrats>
- Bloomberg: Health Care Briefing: Bipartisan \$35 Insulin Cap Making Headway - <https://about.bgov.com/news/health-care-briefing-bipartisan-35-insulin-cap-making-headway/>
- Stat News: New Senate proposal to lower insulin prices would let drugmakers lock in their current profits - https://www.statnews.com/2022/06/23/senate-proposal-insulin-prices-lock-in-profits/?utm_campaign=pharmalittle&utm_medium=email&hsmi=217446325&hsenc=p2ANqtz-8hVFMjQmvypTN99XEelxNICT5FVfXMdtbiQ7UV4v-hBPZnf-kvgbhQ2SO-ydImYrDEKZk3i8VCvVUXO1P7N_pUdSFwA&utm_content=217446325&utm_source=hs_email
- Fierce Healthcare: PBM reform bill that boosts FTC powers inches closer to passage in Senate - <https://www.fiercehealthcare.com/payers/pbm-reform-bill-boosts-ftc-powers-inches-closer-passage-senate>
- Nurse staffing
 - Skilled Nursing News: All Hands on Deck: How Staffing Pressures Have Challenged Overextended MDS Coordinators - <https://skillednursingnews.com/2022/06/all-hands-on-deck-how-staffing-pressures-have-challenged-overextended-mds-coordinators/>
 - Becker's Hospital Review: 56 nursing programs launched in 2022 - <https://www.beckershospitalreview.com/nursing/56-nursing-programs-launched-in-2022.html>
 - RevCycleIntelligence: Private Capital Investments May Help Sustain Skilled Nursing Facilities - <https://revcycleintelligence.com/news/private-capital-investments-may-help-sustain-skilled-nursing-facilities>
- STIs
 - No new items
- Colon cancer-related items
 - Medical Xpress: Listeria-based booster improves vaccine's protecting against recurring colon cancer - <https://medicalxpress.com/news/2022-06-listeria-based-booster-vaccine-recurring-colon.html>

- Organ donation and transplantation items
 - Still looking for House Oversight report
 - No new items
- Vision/dental care in Medicare-related items
 - No new items
- Physical rehabilitation
 - No new items
- Hospital and physician payment-related items
 - U.S. Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor & Pensions (Press Release): Senators Burr, Brown Introduce Bill to Enhance Seniors' Access to Diagnostic Laboratory Services - <https://www.help.senate.gov/ranking/newsroom/press/senators-burr-brown-introduce-bill-to-enhance-seniors-access-to-diagnostic-laboratory-services>
 - Inside Health Policy: IRS To Hold Public Hearing On 'Family Glitch' Fix - <https://insidehealthpolicy.com/daily-news/irs-hold-public-hearing-%E2%80%98family-glitch%E2%80%99-fix>
 - Inside Health Policy: CMS Chief Pushes Congress To Extend ACA Subsidies, Manchin Reengages - <https://insidehealthpolicy.com/daily-news/cms-chief-pushes-congress-extend-aca-subsidies-manchin-reengages>
 - Modern Healthcare: 'Bias is profitable': Health disparities may cost \$1T by 2040 - https://www.modernhealthcare.com/healthcare-economics/bias-profitable-health-disparities-may-cost-1t-2040?utm_source=modern-healthcare-am-thursday&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=20220622&utm_content=article-2-headline
- Nursing home quality initiative
 - House Appropriations Committee (Press Release): Appropriations Committee Releases Fiscal Year 2023 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Funding Bill - <https://appropriations.house.gov/news/press-releases/appropriations-committee-releases-fiscal-year-2023-labor-health-and-human>