



Health Policy Briefing

May 29, 2018

House Passes RTT, STAR Legislation

The House of Representatives passed S. 292, the Childhood Cancer STAR Act by voice vote last week. The bipartisan bill will advance research on survivorship and treatments for pediatric cancer. It will also bolster the surveillance of pediatric cancer and require the National Cancer Advisory Board to include at least one pediatric oncology expert. S. 292 passed the Senate in March by unanimous consent. The House also passed S. 204, the Trickett Wendler, Frank Mongiello, Jordan McLinn, and Matthew Bellina Right to Try Act of 2017, by a vote of 250-169 that fell largely along party lines. Twenty-two Democrats joined Republicans in supporting the bill. The legislation will give terminally ill patients access to experimental treatments that have not yet been approved for commercial distribution by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). The investigational products must have successfully completed a phase 1 clinical trial. The Senate passed the bill in August 2017 by unanimous consent. The policy has been a top priority for the Trump Administration. Both bills now head to the President’s desk for his signature.

Senate Passes VA Choice Reform Legislation

The Senate passed S. 2372, the VA MISSION Act of 2018, by a vote of 92-5 last week. Sens. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.), Brian Schatz (D-Hawaii), Jeff Merkley (D-Ore.), Mike Rounds (R-S.D.) and Bob Corker (R-Tenn.) voted against the legislation. The veterans’ health bill will provide \$5.2 billion to extend the Veterans Choice program, which was scheduled to run out of money at the end of the month. The legislation would also expand veteran eligibility to receive care outside the VA through private doctors and hospitals. The bill passed the House last week in a 347-70 vote. It will now be sent to President Trump for his signature.

In related news, Chairman of the Senate Veterans’ Affairs Committee Johnny Isakson (R-Ga.) has signaled that his panel will convene a hearing next month on the nomination of acting secretary Robert Wilkie to serve as Secretary of Veterans Affairs. Ranking Member Jon Tester (D-Mt.) has indicated that he will support the nomination, stating that Wilkie is a strong candidate for the position.

Inside

- Lawmakers Make Progress in Appropriations Process..2
- Senate HELP Plans to Hold June 20 Mark Up.....2
- Opioid-Related News Update.....2
- PAHPAI Advanced to Senate Floor.....3
- Premiums Expected to Rise 15 Percent.....3
- Uninsured Rate Remains Flat.....3
- US Pledges \$7 Million For DRCEbola Outbreak.....4
- GAO Freezes Rescissions Funds.....4
- White House Proposes New Title X Regulation.....4
- Updated HIV/AIDS Strategy Report Released.....4
- Upcoming Congressional Meetings and Markups.....5
- Recently Introduced Health Legislation.....5

Lawmakers Make Progress in Appropriations Process

The Senate and House Appropriations committees voted on fiscal year (FY) 2019 allocations – known as 302(b) figures - for each of the 12 subcommittees last week. The 302(b) figures are the total amount of discretionary funding allotted for each of the annual appropriations bills. The Senate Appropriations Committee would provide Labor-Health and Human Services-Education with \$2 billion above FY 2018 levels, while the House panel would keep spending flat. The House allocations were criticized by subcommittee Ranking Member Rosa DeLauro (D-Conn.), who argued that the Labor-HHS-Education bill should have received an increase of more than \$5 billion in order to be proportionate. Appropriators are aiming to markup the legislation in mid-June.

Additionally, the Senate Appropriations Committee unanimously advanced its spending bill for the Agriculture Department and Food and Drug Administration (FDA) last week. The \$23.2 billion measure is \$225 million above currently enacted levels. The FDA would receive \$2.97 billion in discretionary funding, a \$159 million increase over current levels.

Senate HELP Plans to Hold June 20 Markup

Chairman Lamar Alexander (R-Tenn.) announced plans for the Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions (HELP) Committee to hold a markup on June 20 to consider several pieces of legislation, including health professions workforce legislation and a bill that would ban drug gag clauses -- contracts that prohibit pharmacists from discussing drug costs with patients. The Patient Right to Know Drug Prices Act (S. 2554) is sponsored by Sen. Susan Collins (R-Maine) and would apply to plans offered through the individual market and by private employers. HELP also plans to consider another one of Sen. Collins' bills that aims to improve tracking of dementia and Alzheimer's. A bill sponsored by Sen. Todd Young (R-Ind.) that would use predictive analytics to help children and families impacted by the opioid crisis is also slated for consideration. Other bills that may be on the agenda for June 20 include S. 2465, to reauthorize a sickle cell disease prevention and treatment demonstration program and provide for sickle cell disease research, surveillance, prevention, and treatment; reauthorization of the PREEMIE Act; and S. 1112, to address the rising rate of maternal death in the U.S. Chairman Alexander did note that some of the bills still require additional work and compromise among members.

Opioid-Related News Update

The Senate Finance Committee has unveiled the 22 bills aimed at combating the opioid crisis that it plans to consider during a markup in the coming weeks. Most of the bills would make reforms to Medicare and Medicaid payment policies. It is still unclear how lawmakers plan to ultimately proceed with opioid response measures. While there is some overlap among House and Senate proposals, the two chambers are advancing separate legislation. The Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions (HELP) Committee has also marked up opioid legislation this year.

The House Energy and Commerce and House Ways and Means Committees reported out more than 60 bills to the floor for votes. This week, two more Committees reported out bills ready for floor consideration.

The House Oversight Committee has advanced bipartisan legislation to reauthorize the Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP). H.R. 5925, the CRISIS Act, would retain the High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas (HIDTA) and the Drug Free Communities (DFC) programs and expand responsibilities under the ONDCP. The Office has been a recent target for cuts by the Trump administration and is currently operating under an expired authorization.

The Senate Judiciary Committee voted to send five opioid-related measures to the Senate floor last week:

- S. 2645, "Access to Increased Drug Disposal Act of 2018, which would establish a demonstration program under which the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) provides grants to certain states to enable those states to increase participation in drug take-back programs.
- S. 2535, "Opioid Quota Reform Act," which aims to strengthen DEA discretion in setting opioid quotas. It would

require the agency to consider public health when adjusting opioid production limits.

- S. 2789, “Substance Abuse Prevention Act,” to prevent substance abuse and reduce demand for illicit narcotics. It would reauthorize the ONDCP, including the Drug-Free Communities and High-Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas programs.
- S. 2838, “Using Data to Prevent Opioid Diversion Act of 2018,” would require the DEA to report certain information on the distribution of opioids.
- S. 207, “Synthetic Abuse and Labeling of Toxic Substances Act of 2017” to make it easier to identify dangerous analogues of controlled substances.

PAHPAI Advanced to Senate Floor

The Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions (HELP) Committee advanced S. 2852, the Pandemic and All-Hazards Preparedness and Advancing Innovation Act of 2018, by a vote of 22-1. Sen. Rand Paul (R-Ky.) was the only panel member to vote against the bill. S. 2852 would be the second reauthorization of U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) programs that respond to both naturally-occurring health emergencies and bioterrorist threats. The pandemic and preparedness programs are set to expire this fall. PAHPAI would extend them through 2023.

The bill would require HHS to evaluate performance measures and existing standards for the Public Health Emergency Preparedness cooperative agreement and the Hospital Preparedness Program. It would also allow the Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority (BARDA) to develop strategic initiatives for threats that pose a significant risk to national security. PAHPAI would require the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to clarify how medical countermeasure developers can receive feedback from the agency under a regulatory management plan. Additionally, the bill directs the Government Accountability Office (GAO) to produce a report within three years of enactment making recommendations on how the animal rule can be used to speed the research and development of medical countermeasures.

Chairman Lamar Alexander (R-Tenn.) stated that the bill will continue to be refined as it heads to the Senate floor. Lawmakers are considering potential provisions to accelerate the development of pandemic flu treatments and liability protections for health care provider ‘good Samaritans’ during public health emergencies. The House Energy and Commerce Committee is expected to hold a hearing on a similar reauthorization bill on June 6.

Premiums Expected to Rise 15 Percent

Premiums in the individual market are expected to rise an average of 15 percent next year, according to the latest Congressional Budget Office (CBO) analysis released last week. The agency estimates that repeal of the Affordable Care Act’s (ACA) individual mandate will contribute to a 10 percent rise in premiums for 2019 because healthier people will drop out of the marketplace. CBO attributes the rest of the increase to rising health care costs and the absence of cost sharing reduction (CSR) payments. CBO estimates that the Obamacare market will be stable in most areas of the country over the next decade. Latest figures indicate that the number of uninsured people will increase by 3 million between 2018 and 2019.

Uninsured Rate Remains Flat

New data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) indicate that the number of uninsured Americans has remained relatively flat over the past three years. The CDC estimates that 29.3 million people – 9.1 percent of the population – were without health insurance in 2017. In 2016 this figure stood at 9 percent; in 2015, it was 9.1 percent. The number of people covered by the Affordable Care Act (ACA) exchanges has also remained unchanged. The CDC did find an increasing gap between the uninsured rate in states that expanded Medicaid under Obamacare and states that did not. The uninsured rate in non-expansion states (19 percent) was more than twice as large as that of expansion states (9.1 percent).

US Pledges \$7 Million For DRC Ebola Outbreak

The U.S. will contribute as much as \$7 million to combat the Ebola outbreak occurring in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), HHS Secretary Alex Azar announced last week. This money is in addition to the \$1 million the U.S. has already contributed. The World Health Organization (WHO) estimates that it will require \$26 million to stop the spread of the disease; \$25.4 million has already been raised. WHO began administering experimental Ebola vaccinations in the DRC last week. More than 7,500 doses have been deployed. Health officials will first vaccinate health care workers, then others who have come in contact with someone with Ebola, and then the contacts of those contacts. Twenty-seven people have died in this outbreak.

GAO Freezes Rescissions Funds

The Government Accountability Office (GAO) has officially frozen the majority of funds included in the Trump administration's \$15 billion rescissions package. The money is frozen for a 45-day period to allow time for Congress to act on the rescission request. Congress has until June 22 to claw back the spending authority. If lawmakers fail to do so, the funds will be made available again for use.

In related news, ten GOP senators introduced rescissions legislation last week in an effort to ensure that the bill reaches the Senate floor within the 45-day window. The bill was introduced by Sens. Mike Lee (Utah), Ron Johnson (Wis.), Pat Toomey (Pa.), Joni Ernst (Iowa), David Perdue (Ga.), John Kennedy (La.), Rand Paul (Ky.), Jeff Flake (Ariz.) and Ben Sasse (Neb.). Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.) has said that the Senate would consider the claw back if it successfully passes the House. A number of other Republican senators, however, such as Sens. Shelley Moore Capito (W.Va.), Lisa Murkowski (Alaska), Susan Collins (Maine), and Richard Shelby (Ala.), have voiced concerns about the proposal.

White House Proposes New Title X Regulation

The Trump administration has released a proposed regulation that would restrict family planning funding from certain health care providers like Planned Parenthood in order to prohibit Title X recipients from referring patients for abortions or sharing locations or finances with abortion providers. Title X is the federal government's only program solely dedicated to family planning services for low-income people. The proposed rule would also drop a requirement that clinics include abortion as an option for patients upon receipt of a positive pregnancy test. Critics of the proposal rule have characterized it as an attack on reproductive health care providers and have expressed concerns that it will limit access to critical health care services and interfere in the doctor-patient relationship.

Updated HIV/AIDS Strategy Report Released

The [National HIV/AIDS Strategy for the United States](#), updated to 2020, was released last week. The progress report highlights what the Trump administration has deemed successes in 2017, such as its response to the opioid epidemic and its effort to reduce the spread of infectious diseases due to injection drug use. According to the report, the number of new HIV diagnoses dropped by five percent between 2011 and 2015, while the percentage of people living with virally suppressed HIV increased from 46 percent in 2010 to 57 percent in 2014. There was also a 300 percent increase in the number of adults prescribed pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) services.

Upcoming Congressional Meetings and Markups

Senate Finance Examining Efforts to Prevent Opioid Overutilization and Misuse in Medicare and Medicaid; 1:00 p.m., Bensalem Township Municipal Building, 2400 Byberry Road, Bensalem, PA 19020; May 29

House Homeland Security Subcommittee on Border and Maritime Security field hearing “An Insecure Border and the Opioid Crisis: The Urgent Need for Action to Save Lives;” 10:00 a.m., 550 E. Van Buren Street, Phoenix, AZ 85004; May 30

House Veterans’ Affairs Health Subcommittee hearing “An Assessment of the Potential Health Effects of Burn Pit Exposure among Veterans;” 3:00 p.m., 334 Cannon Bldg.; June 7

Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee hearing “The Cost of Prescription Drugs: Examining the President’s Blueprint ‘American Patients First’ to Lower Drug Prices;” 10:00 a.m., 430 Dirksen Bldg.; June 12

House Veterans’ Affairs Health Subcommittee legislative hearing on: H.R. 2787; H.R. 3696; H.R. 5521; H.R. 5693; H.R. 5864; Draft bill, the VA COST SAVINGS Enhancement Act; Draft bill, the Veterans Serving Veterans Act; and Draft bill, to improve the productivity and management of VA health care facilities; 3:00 p.m., 334 Cannon Bldg.; June 13

Recently Introduced Health Legislation

H.Res.904 — Expressing support for the designation of the first Tuesday in June as “National Cancer Survivor Beauty and Support Day”; Sponsor: Rep. Schneider, Bradley Scott [D-IL-10]; Committees: House - Oversight and Government Reform

H.R.5874 — To amend the Indian Health Care Improvement Act to improve the recruitment and retention of employees in the Indian Health Service, restore accountability in the Indian Health Service, improve health services, and for other purposes; Sponsor: Rep. Noem, Kristi L. [R-SD-At Large]; Committees: House - Natural Resources, Energy and Commerce, Ways and Means, Oversight and Government Reform

H.R.5878 — To provide for a national strategy to address and overcome Lyme disease and other tick-borne diseases, and for other purposes; Sponsor: Rep. Smith, Christopher H. [R-NJ-4]; Committees: House - Energy and Commerce

H.R.5881 — To amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for transparency of Medicare secondary payer reporting information, and for other purposes; Sponsor: Rep. Bilirakis, Gus M. [R-FL-12]; Committees: House - Ways and Means, Energy and Commerce

H.Res.906 — Congratulating the American College of Emergency Physicians on its 50th anniversary; Sponsor: Rep. Ruiz, Raul [D-CA-36]; Committees: House - Energy and Commerce

H.R.5889 — To require the Secretary of Health and Human Services to disseminate information, resources, and if requested, technical assistance to early childhood care and education providers and professionals working with young children on ways to properly recognize and respond to children who may be impacted by trauma related to substance abuse; Sponsor: Rep. Brat, Dave [R-VA-7]; Committees: House - Education and the Workforce

H.R.5891 — To establish an interagency task force to improve the Federal response to families impacted by substance abuse disorders; Sponsor: Rep. Grothman, Glenn [R-WI-6]; Committees: House - Education and the Workforce

H.R.5892 — To establish an Advisory Committee on Opioids and the Workplace to advise the Secretary of Labor on actions the Department of Labor can take to address the impact of opioid abuse on the workplace; Sponsor: Rep. Lewis, Jason [R-MN-2]; Committees: House - Education and the Workforce

H.R.5899 — To amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize school-based health centers, and for other purposes; Sponsor: Rep. Faso, John J. [R-NY-19]; Committees: House - Energy and Commerce

H.R.5900 — To provide for a national strategy to address and overcome Lyme disease and other tick-borne diseases, and for other purposes; Sponsor: Rep. Smith, Christopher H. [R-NJ-4]; Committees: House - Energy and Commerce

S.Res.517 — A resolution designating May 2018 as “Older Americans Month”; Sponsor: Sen. Collins, Susan M. [R-ME]; Submitted, considered, and agreed to without amendment and with a preamble by Unanimous Consent.

S.2888 — A bill to amend Title VII of the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize programs that support interprofessional geriatric education, training, and advance research to develop a geriatric-capable workforce, improving health outcomes for a growing and diverse aging American population and their families, and for other purposes; Sponsor: Sen. Collins, Susan M. [R-ME]; Committees: Senate - Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

H.R.5912 — To amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to delay the reduction in Federal medical assistance percentage for Medicaid personal care services and home health services furnished without an electronic visit verification system, and for other purposes; Sponsor: Rep. Langevin, James R. [D-RI-2]; Committees: House - Energy and Commerce

H.R.5914 — To require a study and report on policy and regulatory changes that may have contributed to the opioid epidemic; Sponsor: Rep. Meadows, Mark [R-NC-11]; Committees: House - Energy and Commerce

H.R.5917 — To authorize the Secretary of Health and Human Services to award grants for career support for skilled, internationally educated health professionals, and for other purposes; Sponsor: Rep. Roybal-Allard, Lucille [D-CA-40]; Committees: House - Energy and Commerce

H.R.5918 — To direct the Secretary of Defense to carry out a program on service dog training for members of the Armed Forces with post-traumatic stress disorder or other post-deployment mental health conditions; Sponsor: Rep. Shea-Porter, Carol [D-NH-1]; Committees: House - Armed Services

H.R.5921 — To direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish a registry to ensure that members of the Armed Forces who may have been exposed to per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances on military installations receive information regarding such exposure, and for other purposes; Sponsor: Rep. Shea-Porter, Carol [D-NH-1]; Committees: House - Veterans' Affairs, Armed Services

H.R.5922 — To direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out a pilot program to increase access to hepatitis C testing for Vietnam-era veterans, and for other purposes; Sponsor: Rep. Stefanik, Elise M. [R-NY-21]; Committees: House - Veterans' Affairs

S.2891 — A bill to amend title XI of the Social Security Act to require applicable manufacturers to include information regarding payments made to physician assistants, nurse practitioners, and other advance practice nurses in transparency reports submitted under section 1128G of such Act; Sponsor: Sen. Grassley, Chuck [R-IA]; Committees: Senate - Finance

S.2892 — A bill to require the Comptroller General of the United States to submit a report to Congress on the provision of peer support services under the Medicaid program; Sponsor: Sen. Cardin, Benjamin L. [D-MD]; Committees: Senate - Finance

S.2894 — A bill to amend the Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994 to establish in the Department of Agriculture the position of Rural Health Liaison; Sponsor: Sen. Jones, Doug [D-AL]; Committees: Senate - Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry

S.2897 — A bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to delay the reduction in Federal medical assistance percentage for Medicaid personal care services furnished without an electronic visit verification system; Sponsor: Sen. Murkowski, Lisa [R-AK]; Committees: Senate - Finance

- S.2898 — *A bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to remove lifetime limits under State Medicaid programs on medication-assisted treatment for substance use disorders; Sponsor: Sen. Casey, Robert P., Jr. [D-PA]; Committees: Senate – Finance*
- S.2899 — *A bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to provide States with the option of providing medical assistance at a residential pediatric recovery center to infants with neonatal abstinence syndrome; Sponsor: Sen. Brown, Sherrod [D-OH]; Committees: Senate – Finance*
- S.2900 — *A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to include screening for potential substance use disorders and a review of any current opioid prescriptions as part of the initial preventive physical examination and the annual wellness visit under the Medicare program; Sponsor: Sen. Brown, Sherrod [D-OH]; Committees: Senate – Finance*
- S.2901 — *A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to expand the use of telehealth services for the treatment of opioid use disorder and other substance use disorders; Sponsor: Sen. Thune, John [R-SD]; Committees: Senate – Finance*
- S.2902 — *A bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to facilitate Medicaid access to State prescription drug monitoring programs, and for other purposes; Sponsor: Sen. Cassidy, Bill [R-LA]; Committees: Senate – Finance*
- S.2904 — *A bill to require the Secretary of Health and Human Services to provide guidance to States regarding Federal reimbursement for furnishing services and treatment for substance use disorders under Medicaid using telehealth services; Sponsor: Sen. Carper, Thomas R. [D-DE]; Committees: Senate – Finance*
- S.2905 — *A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for certain integrity transparency measures under Medicare parts C and D; Sponsor: Sen. Toomey, Pat [R-PA]; Committees: Senate – Finance*
- S.2906 — *A bill to establish a permanent community care program for veterans, to improve the recruitment of health care providers of the Department of Veterans Affairs, to improve construction by the Department, and for other purposes; Sponsor: Sen. Manchin, Joe, III [D-WV]; Committees: Senate - Veterans' Affairs*
- S.2908 — *A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for electronic prior authorization under Medicare part D for covered part D drugs, and for other purposes; Sponsor: Sen. Roberts, Pat [R-KS]; Committees: Senate – Finance*
- S.2909 — *A bill to require the Comptroller General of the United States to study and report on State Medicaid agencies' options related to the distribution of substance use disorder treatment medications under the Medicaid program; Sponsor: Sen. Heller, Dean [R-NV]; Committees: Senate – Finance*
- S.2910 — *A bill to evaluate access to services and treatment for substance use disorders and to telehealth services and remote patient monitoring for pediatric populations under Medicaid; Sponsor: Sen. Roberts, Pat [R-KS]; Committees: Senate – Finance*
- S.2911 — *A bill to require the Secretary of Health and Human Services to provide guidance to States regarding Medicaid items and services for non-opioid pain treatment and management; Sponsor: Sen. Heller, Dean [R-NV]; Committees: Senate – Finance*
- S.2912 — *A bill to require the Secretary of Health and Human Services to publish data related to the prevalence of substance use disorders in the Medicaid beneficiary population and the treatment of substance use disorders under Medicaid, and for other purposes; Sponsor: Sen. Cassidy, Bill [R-LA]; Committees: Senate – Finance*
- S.2920 — *A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to impose certain requirements under the Medicare program with respect to outlier prescribers of opioids; Sponsor: Sen. McCaskill, Claire [D-MO]; Committees: Senate – Finance*

S.2921 — A bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to help ensure coverage of inpatient treatment services furnished in institutions for mental disease; Sponsor: Sen. Heller, Dean [R-NV]; Committees: Senate – Finance

S.2922 — A bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to help improve access to care for pregnant and postpartum women receiving substance use disorder treatment, including for opioid use disorders, in an institution for mental diseases; Sponsor: Sen. Stabenow, Debbie [D-MI]; Committees: Senate – Finance

S.2923 — A bill to support the development of evidence-based family-focused residential treatment programs; Sponsor: Sen. Grassley, Chuck [R-IA]; Committees: Senate – Finance

S.2924 — A bill to encourage the use of family-focused residential treatment programs for substance use disorder treatment; Sponsor: Sen. Scott, Tim [R-SC]; Committees: Senate – Finance

S.2926 — A bill to amend part B of title IV of the Social Security Act to require the Secretary of Health and Human Services to conduct a family recovery and reunification program replication project to help reunify families and protect children with parents or guardians with a substance use disorder who have temporarily lost custody of their children; Sponsor: Sen. Menendez, Robert [D-NJ]; Committees: Senate – Finance

H.R.5925 — To codify provisions relating to the Office of National Drug Control, and for other purposes; Sponsor: Rep. Gowdy, Trey [R-SC-4]; Committees: House - Oversight and Government Reform, Energy and Commerce, Foreign Affairs, Judiciary, Intelligence (Permanent Select), Appropriations

H.R.5926 — To require the Secretary of Health and Human Services to issue guidelines for prescribing naloxone, and for other purposes; Sponsor: Rep. Keating, William R. [D-MA-9]; Committees: House - Energy and Commerce

H.R.5927 — To amend the Public Health Service Act to expand, intensify, and coordinate research and other activities of the National Institutes of Health with respect to prenatal opioid exposure and neonatal abstinence syndrome; Sponsor: Rep. Soto, Darren [D-FL-9]; Committees: House - Energy and Commerce

H.R.5932 — To increase the recruitment and retention of school-based mental health services providers by low-income local educational agencies; Sponsor: Rep. Chu, Judy [D-CA-27]; Committees: House - Education and the Workforce

H.R.5933 — To prevent substance abuse and reduce demand for illicit narcotics; Sponsor: Rep. Collins, Doug [R-GA-9]; Committees: House - Oversight and Government Reform, Judiciary, Energy and Commerce

H.R.5938 — To amend the VA Choice and Quality Employment Act to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish a vacancy and recruitment database to facilitate the recruitment of certain members of the Armed Forces to satisfy the occupational needs of the Department of Veterans Affairs, to establish and implement a training and certification program for intermediate care technicians in that Department, and for other purposes; Sponsor: Rep. Gonzalez-Colon, Jennifer [R-PR-At Large]; Committees: House - Veterans' Affairs

H.R.5942 — To improve the health of minority individuals, and for other purposes; Sponsor: Rep. Lee, Barbara [D-CA-13]; Committees: House - Energy and Commerce, Ways and Means, Agriculture, Education and the Workforce, Budget, Judiciary, Veterans' Affairs, Armed Services, Natural Resources

S.2928 — A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide coverage under the Medicare program for FDA-approved qualifying colorectal cancer screening blood-based tests, and for other purposes; Sponsor: Sen. Capito, Shelley Moore [R-WV]; Committees: Senate – Finance

S.2931 — A bill to develop national milestones to measure success in curtailing the opioid epidemic; Sponsor: Sen. Markey, Edward J. [D-MA]; Committees: Senate - Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

S.2934 — *A bill to increase the recruitment and retention of school-based mental health services providers by low-income local educational agencies; Sponsor: Sen. Nelson, Bill [D-FL]; Committees: Senate - Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions*

S.2943 — *A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exempt Indian tribal governments and other tribal entities from the employer health coverage mandate during the time the employer health coverage mandate exists; Sponsor: Sen. Daines, Steve [R-MT]; Committees: Senate - Finance*

H.R.5958 — *To amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to require pharmacy-negotiated price concessions and pharmacy incentive payments and adjustments to be included in negotiated prices at the point-of-sale under part D of the Medicare program, and for other purposes; Sponsor: Rep. Collins, Doug [R-GA-9]; Committees: House - Energy and Commerce, Ways and Means*

H.R.5961 — *Making appropriations for Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2019, and for other purposes; Sponsor: Rep. Aderholt, Robert B. [R-AL-4]; Committees: House - Appropriations*

H.R.5963 — *To delay the reimposition of the annual fee on health insurance providers until after 2020; Sponsor: Rep. Noem, Kristi L. [R-SD-At Large]; Committees: House - Ways and Means, Energy and Commerce*

H.R.5965 — *To require health insurance coverage for the treatment of infertility; Sponsor: Rep. DeLauro, Rosa L. [D-CT-3]; Committees: House - Energy and Commerce, Oversight and Government Reform, Armed Services, Veterans' Affairs*

H.R.5966 — *To improve the provision of health care for women veterans by the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes; Sponsor: Rep. Keating, William R. [D-MA-9]; Committees: House - Veterans' Affairs*

S.Res.526 — *A resolution expressing the sense of the Senate that politicians should not interfere with a woman's personal health care decisions or attempt to prevent providers from offering their full medical recommendations to their patients; Sponsor: Sen. Murray, Patty [D-WA]; Committees: Senate - Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions*

S.Res.529 — *A resolution promoting minority health awareness and supporting the goals and ideals of National Minority Health Month in April 2018, which include bringing attention to the health disparities faced by minority populations of the United States such as American Indians, Alaskan Natives, Asian Americans, African Americans, Hispanics, and Native Hawaiians or other Pacific Islanders; Sponsor: Sen. Cardin, Benjamin L. [D-MD]; Submitted in the Senate, considered, and agreed to without amendment and with a preamble by Voice Vote.*

S.Res.531 — *A resolution expressing support for the designation of May 2018 as "National Brain Tumor Awareness Month"; Sponsor: Sen. Daines, Steve [R-MT]; Submitted in the Senate, considered, and agreed to without amendment and with a preamble by Unanimous Consent.*

S.2956 — *A bill to intensify stem cell research showing evidence of substantial clinical benefit to patients, and for other purposes; Sponsor: Sen. Wicker, Roger F. [R-MS]; Committees: Senate - Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions*

S.2960 — *A bill to require health insurance for the treatment of infertility; Sponsor: Sen. Booker, Cory A. [D-NJ]; Committees: Senate - Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions*

S.2976 — *An original bill making appropriations for Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2019, and for other purposes; Sponsor: Sen. Hoeven, John [R-ND]; Committees: Senate - Appropriations*

S.2981 — *A bill to provide certain protections from civil liability with respect to the emergency administration of opioid overdose drugs; Sponsor: Sen. Markey, Edward J. [D-MA]; Committees: Senate - Judiciary*