

**From:** Armstrong, Kimberly (OS/ASPR/BARDA) /O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=5B778C7E17734740B14FBAE4D3ED652C-ARMSTRONG, <Kimberly.Armstrong@hhs.gov>

Kessler, David (HHS/IOS) /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=e48dd41384bd4ff2922381bdf703afd7-Kessler, David <David.Kessler@hhs.gov>;  
Chuk, Meredith (FDA/OC) /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=7b7c8bbc80e04c6d946bfec9c87b2242-meredith.ch <Meredith.Chuk@fda.hhs.gov>;  
Epstein, Jay (OS/ASPR/IO) /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=ebf6165027174408910db26359b24bd2-Epstein, Jay <Jay.Epstein@hhs.gov>;  
Eisnor, Derek (OS/ASPR/BARDA) /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=840cbca8cb0544159b40503db6ff04e4-Eisnor, Derek <Derek.Eisnor@hhs.gov>;  
Roos, Jason (OS/ASPR/H-CORE) /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=492c36bce1824efaaa6606c904527cee-Roos, Jason <Jason.Roos@hhs.gov>;  
Johnson, Robert (OS/ASPR/CAG) /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=0851e89240324306b78740a4a60745e2-Johnson, Robert <Robert.Johnson@hhs.gov>;  
**To:** Lane, Cliff (NIH/NIAID) [E] /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=11a174ee688e426392d98ba9cd5e1945-cliff.lane. <clane@niaid.nih.gov>;  
Dieffenbach, Carl (NIH/NIAID) [E] /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=84dd76f76be949d087a3565b6b5e7fcb-carl.dieffe <cdieffenba@niaid.nih.gov>;  
O'Connell, Dawn (OS/ASPR/IO) /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=18214a88325a46739f963c2056d46cd1-O'Connell, Dawn <Dawn.Oconnell@hhs.gov>;  
Michael Boyd <michael.boyd1@gilead.com>;  
Levine, Rachel (HHS/OASH) /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=e691235ff2f3496e9b53eeb5f538b2f6-Levine, Rachel <Rachel.Levine@hhs.gov>;  
Miknyoczki, Sheila (OS/ASPR/BARDA) /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=a7ce8e6eb0b84ebd81c4fee9d6cb1fab-Miknyoczki, Sheila <Sheila.Miknyoczki@hhs.gov>  
Murphy, Lauren (OS/ASPR/BARDA) (CTR) /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=77f071471c024433a729012d780762b9-Murphy, Lauren <Lauren.Murphy@hhs.gov>;  
Lucas, Pamela (OS/ASPR/IO) (CTR) /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=32c227dd4946456caa0526d1cd8693fe-Lucas, Pamela <Pamela.Lucas@hhs.gov>;  
Michelle Springer <michelle.springer1@gilead.com>;  
Lee, Kinbo (HHS/OASH) /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=25da49a3105c470a9cd2be9b83c57458-Lee, Kinbo <Kinbo.Lee@hhs.gov>;  
Chaloupek, Jeffrey (OS/ASPR/BARDA) (CTR) /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=f5e16d64acc24cc0bf4afbc71e248fa0-Chaloupek, Jeffrey <Jeffrey.Chaloupek@hhs.gov>;  
**CC:** Howe, Ryan P. (CMS/CM) /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=63933c853d3c46469aa699a7b23f01c6-H4JL <Ryan.Howe@cms.hhs.gov>;  
Ventura, Robert J. (CMS/CM) /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=f2fc9fabff4e44009383478fbaa62582-PC32 <Robert.Ventura@cms.hhs.gov>;  
Sams, Ian (HHS/ASPA) /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=486e1c5f2f544391bdf4b50abc329b44-Sams, Ian <Ian.Sams@hhs.gov>;  
Brian Nilstoft <Brian.Nilstoft@gilead.com>;  
Kristie Banks <Kristie.Banks@gilead.com>;  
Tomas Cihlar <Tomas.Cihlar@gilead.com>;  
Daniel O'Day <daniel.oday@gilead.com>;  
Rekha Ramesh <Rekha.Ramesh@gilead.com>;  
Seshamani, Meena (CMS/OA) /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group

(FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=de12693faf9347edad1be4de20223303-SD1P  
<Meena.Seshamani@cms.hhs.gov>;  
Cha, Stephen (HHS/IOS) /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group  
(FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=23e67977d77947d69baf2ace846821a8-Cha, Stephe  
<Stephen.Cha@hhs.gov>;  
Barclay, Lisa (HHS/OGC) /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group  
(FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=872be990f41a4c7aaef491129db0ab89-Barclay, Li  
<Lisa.Barclay@hhs.gov>

**Subject:** RE: UPDATED: Discussion - USG || Gilead

**Date:** 2021/12/27 14:00:31

**Priority:** Normal

**Type:** Note

A few more USG additions:

- Rachel L. Levine, M.D., Assistant Secretary for Health
- Meghan Pennini, COVID-19 Therapeutics Distribution Lead, BARDA
- Jeff Chaloupek, Program Manager, BARDA

**From:** Armstrong, Kimberly (OS/ASPR/BARDA)

**Sent:** Monday, December 27, 2021 1:57 PM

**To:** Kessler, David (HHS/IOS) <David.Kessler@hhs.gov>; Chuk, Meredith (FDA/OC) <Meredith.Chuk@fda.hhs.gov>; Epstein, Jay (OS/ASPR/IO) <Jay.Epstein@hhs.gov>; Eisnor, Derek (OS/ASPR/BARDA) <Derek.Eisnor@hhs.gov>; Roos, Jason (OS/ASPR/H-CORE) <Jason.Roos@hhs.gov>; Johnson, Robert (OS/ASPR/CAG) <Robert.Johnson@hhs.gov>; Lane, Cliff (NIH/NIAID) [E] <CLANE@niaid.nih.gov>; Dieffenbach, Carl (NIH/NIAID) [E] <CDieffenba@niaid.nih.gov>; O'Connell, Dawn (OS/ASPR/IO) <Dawn.Oconnell@hhs.gov>; Michael Boyd <michael.boyd1@gilead.com>; Levine, Rachel (HHS/OASH) <Rachel.Levine@hhs.gov>; Miknyoczki, Sheila (OS/ASPR/BARDA) <Sheila.Miknyoczki@hhs.gov>

**Cc:** Murphy, Lauren (OS/ASPR/BARDA) (CTR) <Lauren.Murphy@hhs.gov>; Lucas, Pamela (OS/ASPR/IO) (CTR) <Pamela.Lucas@hhs.gov>; Michelle Springer <michelle.springer1@gilead.com>; Lee, Kinbo (HHS/OASH) <Kinbo.Lee@hhs.gov>; Chaloupek, Jeffrey (OS/ASPR/BARDA) (CTR) <Jeffrey.Chaloupek@hhs.gov>; Howe, Ryan P. (CMS/CM) <Ryan.Howe@cms.hhs.gov>; Ventura, Robert J. (CMS/CM) <Robert.Ventura@cms.hhs.gov>; Sams, Ian (HHS/ASPA) <Ian.Sams@hhs.gov>; Brian Nilstoft <Brian.Nilstoft@gilead.com>; Kristie Banks <Kristie.Banks@gilead.com>; Tomas Cihlar <Tomas.Cihlar@gilead.com>; Daniel O'Day <daniel.oday@gilead.com>; Rekha Ramesh <Rekha.Ramesh@gilead.com>; Seshamani, Meena (CMS/OA) <meena.seshamani@cms.hhs.gov>; Cha, Stephen (HHS/IOS) <Stephen.Cha@hhs.gov>; Lisa Barclay (Lisa.Barclay@hhs.gov) <Lisa.Barclay@hhs.gov>

**Subject:** RE: UPDATED: Discussion - USG || Gilead

Attendees for the call at 2pm are as follows:

**Gilead Sciences**

- Daniel O'Day, Chief Executive Officer
- Merdad Parsey, Chief Medical Officer
- Kristie Banks, VP COVID-19 Business Unit
- Michael Boyd, SVP Government Affairs & Policy

- • Tomas Cihlar, SVP Virology Research
- • Chuck Clapton, VP Government Affairs
- • Kathleen Love-Weitz, VP Program Strategy Lead, Veklury
- • Brian Nilstoft, Exec. Director Pharmaceutical Manufacturing
- • Anu Osinusi, VP Virology Clinical Development
- • Rekha Ramesh, VP Policy

## USG

- • David Kessler
- • Jason Roos, incoming Chief Operating Officer for H-CORE (formerly known as CAG and OWS)
- • Robert Johnson, outgoing Chief Operating Officer for the Countermeasure Acceleration Group and Deputy Director of BARDA
- • Cliff Lane, Deputy Director for Clinical Research and Special Projects, NIAID
- • Carl Dieffenbach, Director of the Division of AIDS, NIAID and senior advisor for COVID small molecule therapeutics
- • Jay Epstein, Senior advisor for COVID monoclonal antibody therapeutics
- • Meredith Chuk, outgoing COVID response lead for clinical outreach, reimbursement and communications
- • Derek Eisnor, incoming COVID response lead for clinical outreach, reimbursement and communications
- • Sheila Miknyoczki, project officer, BARDA – moving forward, Sheila will be your main point of contact
- • Kim Armstrong, Chief of the Immunology and Emerging Infectious Diseases Therapeutics Branch, BARDA

-----Original Appointment-----

**From:** Kessler, David (HHS/IOS) <[David.Kessler@hhs.gov](mailto:David.Kessler@hhs.gov)>

**Sent:** Sunday, December 26, 2021 10:57 PM

**To:** Kessler, David (HHS/IOS); Armstrong, Kimberly (OS/ASPR/BARDA); Chuk, Meredith (FDA/OC); Epstein, Jay (OS/ASPR/IO); Eisnor, Derek (OS/ASPR/BARDA); Roos, Jason (OS/ASPR/H-CORE); Johnson, Robert (OS/ASPR/CAG); Lane, Cliff (NIH/NIAID) [E]; Dieffenbach, Carl (NIH/NIAID) [E]; O'Connell, Dawn (OS/ASPR/IO); Michael Boyd; Levine, Rachel (HHS/OASH); Miknyoczki, Sheila (OS/ASPR/BARDA)

**Cc:** Murphy, Lauren (OS/ASPR/BARDA) (CTR); Lucas, Pamela (OS/ASPR/IO) (CTR); Michelle Springer; Lee, Kinbo (HHS/OASH); Chaloupek, Jeffrey (OS/ASPR/BARDA) (CTR); Howe, Ryan P. (CMS/CM); Ventura, Robert J. (CMS/CM); Sams, Ian (HHS/ASPA); Brian Nilstoft; Kristie Banks; Tomas Cihlar; Daniel O'Day; Rekha Ramesh; Seshamani, Meena (CMS/OA); Cha, Stephen (HHS/IOS); Lisa Barclay ([Lisa.Barclay@hhs.gov](mailto:Lisa.Barclay@hhs.gov))

**Subject:** UPDATED: Discussion - USG || Gilead

**When:** Monday, December 27, 2021 2:00 PM-3:00 PM (UTC-05:00) Eastern Time (US & Canada).

**Where:**

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Lane, Cliff (NIH/NIAID) [E] /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=11a174ee688e426392d98ba9cd5e1945-cliff.lane. <clane@niaid.nih.gov>;  
Dieffenbach, Carl (NIH/NIAID) [E] /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=84dd76f76be949d087a3565b6b5e7fcb-carl.dieffe <cdieffenba@niaid.nih.gov>;  
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Levine, Rachel (HHS/OASH) /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=e691235ff2f3496e9b53eeb5f538b2f6-Levine, Rachel <Rachel.Levine@hhs.gov>;  
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Michelle Springer <michelle.springer1@gilead.com>;  
Lee, Kinbo (HHS/OASH) /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=25da49a3105c470a9cd2be9b83c57458-Lee, Kinbo <Kinbo.Lee@hhs.gov>;  
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Cha, Stephen (HHS/IOS) /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=23e67977d77947d69baf2ace846821a8-Cha, Stephen

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<Stephen.Cha@hhs.gov>;  
Barclay, Lisa (HHS/OGC) /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group  
(FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=872be990f41a4c7aaef491129db0ab89-Barclay, Li  
<Lisa.Barclay@hhs.gov>

**Sent Date:** 2021/12/27 14:00:29

**Delivered Date:** 2021/12/27 14:00:31

**From:** Kiteworks Team <noreply@hello.kiteworks.com>

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<Rachel.Levine@hhs.gov>

**Subject:** Unlock Zero Trust With Content-based Risk Policies [webinar]

**Date:** 2023/02/14 11:07:11

**Priority:** Normal

**Type:** Note

# Kiteworks

**WEBINAR**

## Unlock the Power of REAL Zero Trust Through Content-based Risk Policies

February 22 @ 9 AM PT | 12 PM ET

**REGISTER  
NOW**

**Panelist**



**Daniel Turner**

*VP of GTCI, Forcepoint*

**Panelist**



**Amit Toren**

*SVP of Corp. & Business Development, Kiteworks*

## Moderator



**Patrick Spencer, Ph.D.**

*VP of Research & Corp. Mktg., Kiteworks*

Kiteworks and Forcepoint have joined forces to apply zero-trust controls on the content itself for better threat and private information protection in one solution.

Attend this moderated webinar to get details on the 4 key components of the integrated solution ...

- • Assumes all entities are untrusted by default, including the content itself
- • Enforces least-privilege content access
- • Ensures comprehensive always-on monitoring
- • Delivers real-time data loss prevention with integrated policy management tracking and controls

**REGISTER  
NOW**

**If you would rather register for our other webinar session on  
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Kiteworks, 1510 Fashion Island Blvd, Suite 100, San Mateo, CA 94404, United States, 650-485-4300

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<Rachel.Levine@hhs.gov>

**Sent Date:** 2023/02/14 11:06:15

**Delivered Date:** 2023/02/14 11:07:11

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**To:** <HHS@bulletinintelligence.com>  
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**Date:** 2022/09/26 07:35:02  
**Priority:** Normal  
**Type:** Note

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# News Briefing

AM EDT

to Combat Opioid Crisis, Support Recovery.  
n Ban From 19th Century.

ncy Rules For Airlines, Travel Sites During Upcoming Monday Meeting.  
White House Conference On Hunger.  
arked Decrease In New Monkeypox Cases.

edline While Some States See Increase In Cases.  
Of Monkeypox Vaccine Available At Pride Event.

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spread During Fall, Winter Seasons.  
Comprehensive COVID-19 Studies, Transparency To Public.  
Do Not End All COVID-19 Travel Restrictions Yet.  
Pediatric Use Of Updated Omicron-Targeted COVID-19 Vaccine.  
Booster Shots Seeing Slower Uptake Than First 2021 Boosters.  
COVID-19 Pandemic Supply Chain Lessons.  
Vaccinations Due To Drop In Demand From Some Lower Income Countries.  
The United States.  
In COVID-19 Vaccinations.  
Continue Fight Against COVID-19 Globally.  
COVID-19 Pandemic Entry Restrictions.  
Public Health Emergency Declaration.  
Policy For Travelers.  
For Even More Relaxation Of COVID-19 Pandemic Protocols.  
Nullifying COVID-19 Vaccine Mandate For Police Union Members.  
Ending COVID-19 Pandemic.  
COVID-19 Pandemic Warrants Correction.  
Steps In Resuming Activities Through COVID-19 Pandemic.  
Universal Testing During COVID-19 Pandemic.  
Americans Wear Mask Indoors.  
Schools Lost Students During COVID-19 Pandemic.  
Healthcare Settings.  
Masks Could Threaten Efficacy Of Treatments And Vaccines.  
Masks Rise Through COVID-19 Pandemic.  
Masks Optional In Nursing Homes.  
Masks For COVID-19 Transmission.  
Masks In Florida.  
Masks Funeral Industry.  
Masks For Agency's COVID-19 Pandemic Analysis System.  
Masks Student Loan Relief Is Tied To COVID-19 Pandemic.  
Masks COVID-19 Pandemic Being Over Only Partially Correct.  
Masks Control But Not Over.  
Masks Impact Of Michigan's Response To COVID-19 Pandemic.  
Masks Need For Modernization Of Government Technology.

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es Heavier Than Expected.  
or Unemployment Assistance For Deceased Persons.  
e COVID-19 Care When Federal And State Resources Expire.  
s Could Resist Current Vaccines.  
Lapsing Awareness Of Risk Of COVID-19.  
der Control," But Not "Over."  
ID-19 Pandemic Being Over Premature.  
ombat Long COVID-19.

Using Taxpayer Funds To Drive Immigrant Girls To States Where They Can Obtain Abortions.

ead Of IHS.  
With Over 8B Scanning Attempts In DDOS-Style Attack In 2020.  
n Cancer Care.  
Tranquilizer Xylazine In Street Drugs.  
d Help Combat Research Security Risks.  
rt Failure, HBP, Shows Potential As AUD Treatment.  
Of Common Fund's Bridge To Artificial Intelligence Program.  
Over Bill That Will Penalize Physicians For Spreading "So-Called Misinformation."  
ee Bill, Leaving Out VALID Act.  
tric Studies Of Medical Products Should Be Conducted.  
ecting Agency's Ability To Respond To Health Crises.  
tablish Pathogen Genomics Network.  
dating CDC Food Guidelines.  
scussing Mental Health With Students.  
Records Examined.

o Fight "Rainbow Fentanyl."  
one To Be Bought In Bulk By Harm Reduction Groups.  
rugs, Provide Treatment Has Reportedly Fallen Flat.  
early 25% During First Year Of Pandemic.  
ve Of Concern.  
ng Back Against Fentanyl.  
ld Blue-Chip Firms Accountable For Role In Fentanyl Epidemic.  
o Work Toward Recovery To Decrease Opioid Overdoses.

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Incorporate Religion Into Their Practices.  
s In Los Angeles.  
ity Of Mental Health Treatment, APA Says.

ent Enormous Challenges To Affordability.  
Forms Will Extend Lives Of Patients With Cancer Through Lower Out-Of-Pocket Costs For Pharmacy Drugs.  
ed Largest Quarterly Decline In Net Drug Prices.  
o Be Measured By Cost Curve Impact.

s To Pay For Lab Charges, Medical Appointments: Experts.  
uctible Plans May Have Greater Medical Debt, Researchers Say.  
on's Efforts To Protect Abortion Access While Dems Push For More Action.  
For Biden, Harris.

ould Back Limits On Abortion.  
tleground States.  
governor's Vow To Eliminate Them In Light Of Abortion Ban.  
idterms Approach.

Abortion Ban From Being Enforced.  
ush For Abortion Bans, Female Protesters Voice Objections.  
Now Says He Would Sign Abortion Ban With Exceptions For Rape, Incest.  
ve Health Providers In Murky Legal Areas.  
ms Retain Control Of Senate.  
Reveal An America Where There Is Unequal Access To Family Planning.  
Concerned About Impact Of Overturning Roe On Reproductive Rights.

grant Flights.  
Is Political Stunt That Reveals Policy Failure.  
d Welfare Money For Football Facility.  
ntal Disabilities Were More Likely To Die From COVID-19 At Pandemic's Peak.  
e Poverty Is An Idea That Is Here To Stay.

Due To Lack Of Inspection.  
Aldi-Brand Salad Dressing.

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Manage Most Of State's \$1.8B Medicaid Program.  
for Low-Income People In Nebraska.  
t Period On Interim Rule On Medicaid Funding.  
er Playing Everyone Looking For Medicaid Expansion?

ncare Systems "Operate Like For-Profit Companies."  
Oppose Mandatory Arbitration Of Disputes.  
To Stop Misuse Of Antibiotics During Rise In Bacterial, Fungal Infections.  
e Grapple With Home-Care Worker Shortage.  
omote Adoption Of Research Animals.  
g, Vaping In City Parks, Outdoor Recreational Venues.  
roved Working Conditions At Minnesota Hospitals.  
ine Consumer Suits Over Recall Of Smoking Cessation Drug Chantix.  
Cancer Drugs From Spectrum Pharmaceuticals, Oncopeptides.  
ASTEUR Act To Incentivize The Antibiotic Market.  
pproval Of Amylyx Pharmaceuticals ALS Treatment By Thursday.  
reeze Eggs May Not Get Pregnant, Researchers Say.  
onders For Burnout, Stress See Spike In Number Of Patients.  
removes Less Of Lung To Excise A Small Tumor.  
firming Care Should Be Met With Vitriol.  
Health Data Licensing Could Force Them To Scale Back Programs.  
a Laws Raise Health Concerns.  
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y Be Related To Broader Challenges, Study Suggests.  
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County Health Officials, Vape Shops.  
Ebola Virus May Have Saved A Patient With Cancer.  
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Swimming Still Impacts Black Children Today.  
Efforts To Expand Access To Plant-Derived Psychedelics.

Children In Zimbabwe.  
Resources Into Global Vaccine Programs Before Next Pandemic.  
Have Reduced Amount Of Smoking Due To Cost Of Living.  
Push President To Pass Tobacco Control Law.  
The "Fate Of Cigarettes."

"Catastrophic Consequences" For Using Nuclear Weapons In Ukraine.  
Gov. DeSantis For Florida, Cancels Planned Trip Ahead Of Expected Hurricane.  
Rep. Gohmert To Depart From Party Line.  
Biden To Run For Reelection In 2024.  
Lawsuit Against Georgia's Election Integrity Law As Midterms Loom.  
"Welcome To America" Ahead Of Midterms.  
Protest In Philadelphia Rally.  
Rep. Amodeo Points In Arizona Senate Race.  
Republican House Majority.  
Rep. Amodeo In Re-Election Campaign.  
Governor Is "Languishing."  
Efforts For Those Not Religious.

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## To Combat Opioid Crisis, Support Recovery.

On Friday, President Biden announced "his administration would distribute \$1.5 billion to states and territories, including Florida. HHS will distribute "the funding through the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's (SAMHSA) National Recovery Month." Assistant Secretary of Health and Human Services for Mental Health and Substance Use Disorder said the opioid and overdose crisis indeed depends on collaboration between federal entities, state, local and tribal communities, and individuals in crisis and individuals in recovery."

These "grants will expand access to treatment and recovery support services, allow states to invest in better overdose reversal products, which are used to help reverse an opioid overdose."

The Administration also announced an additional \$12 million "for law enforcement agencies working 'on the front lines' against global drug trafficking operations." This money, "which adds to \$275 million of funding announced in April, will help combat the crime associated with drugs, the White House said."

Secretary Xavier Becerra as saying, "Providing access to evidence-based, person-centered care is a central part of HHS' strategy in evidence-based support and services for individuals, families, and communities on the road to recovery. Through

[Medical Marketing &Media](#) (9/23, Bushak) also covered the story.

[The Sun Sentinel](#) (9/23, Man, 525K) reported the Administration "said Friday that Florida is getting funding to combat the opioid crisis. The Department of Children and Families is getting a grant of \$101.3 million. A separate grant, for \$500,000, is going to

[NJ.com](#) (9/23, 1.47M) reported, "New Jersey's Department of Human Services is getting \$66.8 million from the federal government

[The Detroit News](#) (9/23, 1.5M) reports, "The Biden administration has awarded Michigan nearly \$36.9 million to support efforts to tackle the opioid

[The Wisconsin State Journal](#) (9/23, Andrea, 844K) reported, "Wisconsin will receive more than \$16 million in federal grant money to help people struggling with addiction, the White House announced Friday." The state's "Department of Health Services is expected to receive \$16.9 million as part of the funding. The state's tribal nations will receive about \$1.8 million of their own to combat the crisis."

[The Nevada Appeal](#) (9/23, Kane, 372K) reported, "Nevada will soon receive about \$16 million in federal funding to fight the opioid crisis that has become a leading cause of death in the state, the White House announced "\$1.5 billion in grant funds nationwide to address the opioid epidemic and help people in recovery, \$1.5 billion in grants to states, according to a fact sheet from the White House."

[The Birmingham Post-Herald](#) (9/23, 1.1M) reports, "White House officials announced \$16 million in funding Friday for Alabama to fight the opioid crisis by in

[The Des Moines Register](#) (9/23, Barton, 154K) reported, "The White House on Friday said the Iowa Department of Health and Human Services would receive \$16 million from nationwide funding to help combat the nation's opioids epidemic."

[The Arizona Republic](#) (9/23, 1.05M) reported, "Five Arizona tribes will receive \$3.63 million in grants to address opioid and other drug addiction and substance use. The Gila River Health Care Corporation, Hopi Tribe, Navajo Nation, Pascua Yaqui Tribe and Yavapai Apache Nation were among the recipients, the White House said."

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### **Abortion Ban From 19th Century.**

(5.1M) reported on Friday, Judge Kellie Johnson of Pima County Superior Court "ruled that a near-total abortion ban was unconstitutional, throwing into question one day before the start of a 15-week ban that passed the Legislature this year." This "stricter ban was enacted shortly after the Supreme Court, in *Roe v. Wade*, determined that there was a constitutional right to abortion." The judge denied Planned Parenthood's request for the court to 'harmonize the laws' in Arizona was flawed."

(10.52M) reported these "conflicting restrictions on abortion had created confusion, with Arizona Attorney General Mark Brignone (R) previously insisting that the 15-week ban was the law of the land." The stricter "law threatens abortion providers who have no exception for victims of rape or incest." Certain "states did not update the laws on their books after *Roe v. Wade* from Michigan to West Virginia as to whether those laws still apply."

The ruling means people seeking abortions will have to go to another state to obtain one. An appeal of the ruling is likely to be heard on Friday, the White House "condemned" the ruling which "allowed the state's abortion ban to be enforced, saying

that this ruling, "if allowed to stand, will result in 'catastrophic, dangerous, and unacceptable' consequences for women and will force survivors of rape and incest to bear the children of their assaulters, while leaving health care providers to face

criticism." Gans, 5.69M) reported, "Sen. Kyrsten Sinema (D-Ariz.) criticized a near-total abortion ban that a judge upheld in Phoenix."

(5.1M) reported Democrats in Arizona "vowed Saturday to fight for women's rights after a court reinstated a law that was struck down last year. They are looking to capitalize on an issue they hope will have a major impact on the midterm elections." GOP "candidates will urge voters to support others who assist with an abortion unless it's necessary to save the mother's life."

Other sources in the story were the [Wall Street Journal](#) (9/23, Kusisto, Calfas, Subscription Publication, 8.41M), [CNN](#) (9/23, Reston, 1.1M).

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### **White House Agency Rules For Airlines, Travel Sites During Upcoming Monday Meeting.**

President Joe Biden on Monday is expected to announce a new proposed rule that would require airlines and travel sites to be more transparent for baggage, flight changes or cancellations, a White House official tells CNN." And "at a meeting with top Cabinet members, Biden is expected to take similar action to increase transparency and limit add-on fees for American consumers." The Monday "meeting is part of the Council on Economic Advisors' Economic Recovery Council," and "participants are expected to include Buttigieg, Secretaries Janet Yellen of Treasury, Lloyd Austin of Defense, and Director of the Office of Management and Budget Shalanda Young and Chair of the Council of Economic Advisors Jeffrey Kling."

### **White House Conference On Hunger.**

President Joe Biden will headline the White House conference on hunger, nutrition and health on Sept. 28, unveiling his plan to address the issue. "This event, "planned for the Ronald Reagan Building in Washington, will feature panels and working group sessions with lawmakers, cabinet officials and everyday Americans." HHS Secretary Xavier Becerra is among the featured speakers.

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### **Marked Decrease In New Monkeypox Cases.**

(1.0K) reported HHS Secretary Xavier Becerra, along with "two leaders of the White House monkeypox response team" on a visit to D.C.'s recently opened Monkeypox Vaccine Clinic on Martin Luther King Jr. Ave., S.E." During "a briefing for reporters" and a tour of the clinic, the D.C. and federal officials pointed to a sharp decline in new monkeypox cases in D.C. as a sign of success in "boosting the number of people at risk for monkeypox who have been vaccinated." Becerra lauded DC's medical "and public health" efforts, including gay and bisexual men, to encourage them to get vaccinated and promptly treating those who tested positive for the virus.

(1.37M) reported assistance "for a mental health crisis is now just three digits away: 9-8-8. Early data show that people are using 9-8-8 as an easy-to-remember alternative to 911." Rather than "being directed to police, callers (or texters) are calling 9-8-8 for suicidal thoughts to drug addiction. They can even advise people who aren't in crisis but hope to help a struggling friend." HHS Secretary Xavier Becerra.

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### **Decline While Some States See Increase In Cases.**

(1.6M) reports, "Nearly four months after the first report of monkeypox in the United States, the virus is showing promise in adults, pregnant women and young children." However, "case numbers are accelerating in a few states and jurisdictions, which make up nearly two-thirds of the infected, but only about one-fourth of those vaccinated so far." Biden Administration "is working in your armamentarium, that can be somewhat precarious. ... But you've got to go with what you have at the same time."

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### **Doses Of Monkeypox Vaccine Available At Pride Event.**

(1.694K) reported, "The St. Louis area is keeping the number of monkeypox cases at bay thanks to targeted education and vaccination effort yet against monkeypox, about 1,000 doses" were made "available to those who are eligible at the Tower Grove Park."

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### **Spread During Fall, Winter Seasons.**

(1.5:11 p.m. CDT, story 8, Duncan, 1.58M) reported, "The flu season is expected to flare-up soon after virtually disappearing during the omicron surge in January." There are "concerns about a possible twindemic, meaning flu and COVID outbreaks." COVID-19 this fall. As we move indoors, both are much easier to spread. The last couple years we have not been experiencing very sick from the flu. From Australia, where their winter and summer is different than ours, we're starting to see cases in states."

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### **Comprehensive COVID-19 Studies, Transparency To Public.**

Commentator Hu Xijin "said on Sunday that as China ponders its COVID-19 policies, epidemic experts need to speak out and make studies transparent to the public." Hu's statements "earned him 34,000 likes on the popular Twitter-like microblog Weibo. The internet quick to censor voices deemed a risk to social stability." China "has significantly tightened its COVID-19 policies since the death toll since the pandemic began remains low – around 5,226 as of Saturday – and as many other countries let go of their strict measures."

### **China Not End All COVID-19 Travel Restrictions Yet.**

"Hong Kong can't remove all travel restrictions at this stage of the Covid pandemic, though there is room to quickly ease them. The business community wants officials to lift the three-day movement restrictions that remain for incoming travelers from mainland China, but that would be too risky. The statistics on imported infections show moving too quickly could pressure the health care system."

### **Pediatric Use Of Updated Omicron-Targeted COVID-19 Vaccine.**

"Moderna said on Friday it has requested U.S. authorization for use of its Omicron-targeting COVID vaccine in adolescents and children between the ages of six months and under six years is expected to be completed later this year." "Moderna filed two separate FDA authorization requests, one for adolescents ages 12 to 17 and another for kids ages 6 to 11. The youngest children, 6 months through 5-years-old, later this year." The CDC, "in a document published Tuesday, said it is seeking authorization by the FDA. The CDC's vaccine advisory committee has meetings scheduled for October 19 and 20." [Axios](#) (9/23, Habeshian, 1.26M) also reported the story.

### **Booster Shots Seeing Slower Uptake Than First 2021 Boosters.**

"Updated COVID-19 boosters have gone into 4.4 million arms in the United States since a new revaccination campaign targeting the Omicron variant of the coronavirus than the rollout of the first boosters last year." The US "government has mostly from Pfizer/BioNTech." The "production of the similarly retooled Moderna shots has been slower due to what the company's contract manufacturing site run by Catalent Inc," but on Tuesday the FDA "said it had cleared some vaccine from that plant." [ABC News](#) (9/23, Musto, 3.06M) reported, "Nationally, a total of 109 million Americans have received their first booster dose – representing less than 30% of the total U.S. population over the age of 5 has received their first booster." But "following the federal green light, there has been a sharp increase in the number of Americans getting vaccinated." On Thursday, CDC Director Dr. Rochelle Walensky "became the latest to get a booster." [ABC News](#), "I'm here getting my updated fall vaccine because I think it's critically important to do. We are really encouraged by the vaccine."

[ABC News](#) and [Fox Business](#) (9/24, Musto, 3.06M) also reported the story.

### **COVID-19 Pandemic Supply Chain Lessons.**

[Supply Chain Dive](#) (Subscription Publication, 8.41M) reported Pfizer Global Supply Chain SVP Jim Cafone spoke at the yearly Council of Supply Management Executives pandemic like the gaps in current supply chains. Pfizer will apply the lessons to how supply chains for life-saving medicines.

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### **Donations Due To Drop In Demand From Some Lower Income Countries.**

The U.S. and Pfizer will be lowering their number of global vaccine donations in response to a 'reduced demand,' though that the U.S. has committed to providing." According to a Pfizer statement, "more than 400 million doses have been produced to deliver 600 million vaccine doses for this program."

### **in The United States.**

Moynihan (1.91M) reported "the prevalence of omicron subvariant BA.5 is declining slightly in the U.S." according to data released this week "it caused about 83% of infections," which is down from an August peak of 87% of new cases. Amid the new data from this new bivalent vaccine have demonstrated that it will protect you against...the strains that we have circled.

### **Drop In COVID-19 Vaccinations.**

Leaders gathered "to discuss equitable access to COVID vaccines, tests and treatments" across the globe on Thursday. When made to fight COVID-19," United States Ambassador to the United Nations Linda Thomas-Greenfield stated "the fact that less than 20% "of people living in low-income countries are fully vaccinated," including just "35% of health care workers. Initiatives" to combat that disparity including "a \$50 million commitment from the U.S to improve access to medical care."

### **to Continue Fight Against COVID-19 Globally.**

World Health Organization Senior Adviser Bruce Aylward "warned that richer nations must not step back from tackling COVID-19. It had a point domestically as the United States has good access to all COVID tools" and "it has also not cut its global health aid." World leaders "if you go to sleep right now and this wave hits us in three months."

### **COVID-19 Pandemic Entry Restrictions.**

John Lee (20.6M) reported "Hong Kong said on Friday that it would abandon mandatory hotel quarantine for people coming from other countries. Their COVID-19 restrictions for travelers. Across Asia, COVID-19 "hospitalizations and deaths have fallen" and "authorities are seeing a recovery in economic activity." However, recovery of activities like tourism in Japan and Taiwan may occur more quickly than in Hong Kong. Beijing, which has ultimate say over what the city does, and the international community."

Beijing, which has ultimate say over what the city does, and the international community." Mainland China now becomes a last stalwart of strict COVID-19 pandemic restrictions, clinging to its zero COVID-19 policy. "The country is more isolated than ever" and could affect other Asian nations' economies because the absence of Chinese tourists has "left a significant economic gap." "It has saved millions of lives" but "it's unlikely that the country can keep the virus out indefinitely."

### **Thailand Emergency Declaration.**

Thailand's government will lift an emergency decree it imposed in March 2020 to battle the coronavirus, officially ending the state of emergency. People who show proof of being vaccinated" and people who test positive for COVID-19 in Thailand "will no longer need to quarantine."

### **Quarantine Policy For Travelers.**

Chief Executive John Lee said Friday "the city would no longer require incoming travelers to quarantine in designated hotels."

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ive PCR test within 48 hours before boarding a plane to Hong Kong." However, visitors "will need to present a negative PCR test before the flight" and "undergo three days of home monitoring."

n, Roantree) reported visitors and citizens returning from abroad "will be allowed to go to work or school but will not be allowed to enter Hong Kong also "still bans public groups of more than four people and masks are mandatory for all."

l travelers must submit the results of at least one rapid antigen test each day for a week along with take a PCR test on the first, third, fifth, and sixth days after arrival.

### **Call For Even More Relaxation Of COVID-19 Pandemic Protocols.**

s leaders in Hong Kong are stating the end of the city's hotel quarantine policy for travelers doesn't go far enough, and business leaders in Hong Kong "said the government needs to provide a clear roadmap to reopen fully" as "almost three years of COVID-19 pandemic in Hong Kong business community's concerns is a recent report that "showed Singapore had overtaken the city to become the most visited city in the world."

### **NYC Court Ruling Nullifying COVID-19 Vaccine Mandate For Police Union Members.**

Subscription Publication, 8.41M) reported a state Supreme Court judge on Friday ruled New York City cannot discipline police officers for not getting the vaccine. The city will appeal the ruling.

ty will appeal the ruling of New York Supreme Court Judge Lyle Frank which determined the city's COVID-19 vaccine mandate was "unlawful" over non-compliance with the rule. While Frank's order called the city's right to issue such mandates undisputed, it also stated that the city was "violating the law by creating a new condition of employment" instead of addressing the matter through collective bargaining with the union.

ported Frank's ruling would reinstate every member of the union who has fired or put on leave for non-compliance with the mandate. The heels of New York City Mayor Eric Adams rescinding the city's vaccine mandate for employees of private companies, the ruling is a major victory. Coverage are the [New York Post](#) (9/23, McCarthy, 7.45M) and the [New York Daily News](#) (9/23, Seiwell, Sommerfeldt, 2.5M).

### **California Schools Struggling During COVID-19 Pandemic.**

otts, 3.37M) reports "one of California's smallest public schools," Kneeland Elementary, "was on the verge of closing last year due to low enrollment in kindergarten through the eighth grade. However, "since 2020, enrollment has more than doubled, to 33 students" and enrollment in other schools, including rural ones, did not grow during the pandemic." However, Kneeland was able to attract students because of its proximity to a major highway.

### **NYC Court Ruling Nullifying COVID-19 Pandemic Warrants Correction.**

9/25, 3.37M), Doyle McManus writes despite COVID-19 losing "its status as a disease that was utterly beyond control and that the pandemic this winter could turn [President] Biden's optimistic claim" that the pandemic is over to ashes. McManus cited Dr. Anthony Fauci's warning "to live with the virus" and calls Biden's statement "bad on two levels, public health and politics." McManus argues "the city's decision to emphasize "without more vaccinations and more research, the disease will still cause tens of thousands of needless deaths" is a major victory.

### **NYC Court Ruling Nullifying COVID-19 Pandemic Warrants Correction.**

ard, 10.52M) reported "many Americans remain conflicted and confounded about what activities are safe" despite the fact that the CDC has issued guidelines for safe activities.

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are currently practicing "a crazy quilt of contradictory decisions about how to spend their discretionary time and money" due to a "number of competing motivations behind the decisions like employer demands, age and geography, which is "resulting in

### **Universal Testing During COVID-19 Pandemic.**

reports the city of Davis in California figured out a way in the early days of the COVID-19 pandemic to "test thousands" in the surrounding area experienced a different kind of pandemic than virtually anywhere else in the country." The role of the local cultural school already had "expertise in pandemic testing" and the university agreed to spend almost a million dollars to "test in saliva for Covid each week." That and a donation of \$40 million enabled UC-Davis to test "its students and staff every

### **Americans Wear Mask Indoors.**

(CNN, 1.91M) reported the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends "more than 32% of Americans should wear masks indoors as a measure based on their risk for severe COVID-19." Although COVID-19 rates have been declining, deaths "remain high" and "we think that the number of deaths is 'not an acceptable number as far as I'm concerned, we've gotta get it down much, much

### **Schools Lost Students During COVID-19 Pandemic.**

(CNN) reported school tracking website Burbio found "80% of the urban public school districts receiving the largest share of federal aid last school year. Additionally, "40 of the 50 districts with more than 10,000 students...had more Title 1 students who qualify for free lunch in Detroit Public Schools where "enrollment fell 3.7% and dropped again by half a percentage point last year."

### **Healthcare Settings.**

(CNN, 2.44M) reported the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention "on Friday issued new guidelines for the use of personal protective equipment, making the masking only compulsory in areas with a high risk of COVID-19 community spread. Additionally, the CDC said "22% of counties in the United States and "Moderna has asked the Food and Drug Administration to authorize its omicron

### **Antibiotics Could Threaten Efficacy Of Treatments And Vaccines.**

The World Health Organization (WHO) Director Dr. Anthony Fauci is among experts who "foresee a [COVID-19 infection] wave beginning to swell in late 2022" and "render "current COVID countermeasures like drugs and vaccines powerless." Fauci labeled a new variant, BA.2.75.2, "a major concern for the fall." BA.2.75.2 "is picking up mutations that make it more similar to globally dominant BA.5 and the new variant "being even more transmissible and better at dodging immune responses.

### **Depression Rise Through COVID-19 Pandemic.**

New data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention show "suicide is the third leading cause of death among people aged 18-44" and "the number of people who have been suicidal has increased 50%." Mental healthcare providers encourage parents to look for sudden changes in their children's behavior.

### **Healthcare Workers Make Masks Optional In Nursing Homes.**

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the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention "has ended a blanket plea for Americans in hospitals and nursing homes. A majority of counties can 'choose not to require' all doctors, patients, and visitors to mask." However, "the CDC says COVID-19 is still spreading in nursing homes to let up on masking" as "73% of counties are currently rated at 'high risk.'"

### **Risk For COVID-19 Transmission.**

As reported the Chicago Dept. of Public Health stated the city and Cook County, Illinois "moved from a medium to low risk area. The area has been classified at the low level of COVID-19 impact" according to Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

### **COVID-19 in Florida.**

The CDC (Aug. 13, 2023, 223K) reported Florida is seeing a decline in COVID-19 cases, deaths, hospitalizations, and the positivity rate. However, according to HHS statistics. And the positivity rate in Florida is down to its lowest figure "since the state's April 22 report." However, the airborne pathogen remains high or substantial in all but two Florida counties."

### **Funeral Industry.**

As reported (Aug. 13, 2023, Subscription Publication, 8.41M) reports the COVID-19 pandemic has had a profound impact on funeral homes and services to accommodate customers who do not wish to travel to attend services. Despite the challenges, profits for funeral homes are up.

### **Investigation For Agency's COVID-19 Pandemic Analysis System.**

As reported (Aug. 13, 2023, Subscription Publication, 8.41M) HHS officials "have challenged key findings of a watchdog investigation into the cybersecurity of COVID-19 data. The investigation was rescinded on Aug. 24, it had been probing "the launch of the agency's governmentwide COVID-19 analysis system. A senior HHS official is among those officials questioning the findings, saying "the contracts were crucial to the agency's COVID-19 response."

### **President Loan Relief Is Tied To COVID-19 Pandemic.**

As reported (Aug. 13, 2023, 10.52M), Columnist Marc Thiessen wrote President Joe Biden's comment that the COVID-19 pandemic is over "could be seen as a sign of presidential loan forgiveness." Thiessen argues Biden claims to find his authority to make the move "in the Heroes Act" which was passed during the pandemic. Thiessen says "if the pandemic is no longer present, neither is the legal basis for using it to forgive student loans."

### **COVID-19 Pandemic Being Over Only Partially Correct.**

As reported (Aug. 13, 2023, 10.52M) University of New York Professor of Epidemiology Denis Nash wrote "the most remarkable thing about" President Joe Biden's statement "is that he is so confident he is right. He will believe, or worse, amplify, them in the most literal sense." While Biden's "statement is in some ways correct" for the fact that the CDC and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention show about 20% of people who have been infected with COVID-19 are suffering symptoms. Nash adds "the pandemic is not over. We are in the final phase of the pandemic...we are not yet out of the woods."

### **COVID-19 Under Control But Not Over.**

As reported (Aug. 13, 2023, 10.52M) which is behind a paywall, Rose Padlan wrote "President Biden should have said the coronavirus pandemic is under control but not over." Padlan adds the continued mutation of the virus makes it difficult to predict. Padlan argues "because of vaccination, the pandemic is under control but not over."

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### **ment Of Michigan's Response To COVID-19 Pandemic.**

a first draft of a report from "disaster preparedness firm Tidal Basin" shows "Michigan's response to the COVID-19 pandemic was flawed. The report, which was based on interviews with 24 state agencies and departments" and was critical "of local and state coordination, and found several recommendations for improvement are more investment "in state government technology."

### **Need For Modernization Of Government Technology.**

(2020, 10.52M) says while "the existence of fraud does not mean" unemployment assistance programs during the COVID-19 pandemic were "a good idea" but "important lessons for how governments should manage aid and loan programs going forward." The Board says "the Board's findings" but the retroactive measures are "a costly and inefficient approach." A better strategy is "modernizing the courts to verify application data with information from payroll taxes and other filings."

### **Unemployment Assistance Heavier Than Expected.**

reported as of Thursday "more than 313,000 individuals had requested applications through" Connecticut's "online portal for unemployment applications." The portal represents a way "to apply for the state's coronavirus pandemic bonus program for essential workers and \$500 for part-timers."

### **Unemployment Assistance For Deceased Persons.**

(2020) reported "states paid out billions of dollars in pandemic unemployment claims to more than 200,000 applicants who were deceased" as reported by the US Dept. of Labor's Office of the Inspector General. Additionally, the audit showed "nearly 1 million dollars in unemployment assistance paid out to deceased persons in 15 states." Some estimates state that almost a quarter of the total \$875.2 billion in unemployment assistance paid out during the pandemic was for deceased persons.

### **Need To Scale COVID-19 Care When Federal And State Resources Expire.**

reports "starting next year, the federal government and the state of Colorado plan to play much smaller roles in managing the COVID-19 pandemic to prevent people from falling through the health care system's cracks." The state "still operates a reduced number of free testing sites and is not providing the new" bivalent boosters for now, "but those will close whenever federal funding for them runs out." While "people will have access to COVID-19 treatment" it is unclear "how much access uninsured people will have."

### **Coronavirus Could Resist Current Vaccines.**

(2020, 2.51M) reported "researchers say they have discovered a vaccine-resistant coronavirus in Russian horseshoe bats" and a "preprint" involved a second look at a virus in the bats and demonstrated the virus could attack human cells plus was unlikely to cause serious illness in most people."

### **Need For Lapsing Awareness Of Risk Of COVID-19.**

(2020, 2.44M) reported even as COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations are waning across the United States, experts like S

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social mirage, that the pandemic is over, or can be called over in some meaningful way." Those health experts state effects of long COVID and other lingering impacts of infection." They "continue to advise people to wear face coverings on public transit or in grocery stores."

### **"Under Control," But Not "Over."**

Cercone write in [Kaiser Health News](#) (9/26), "President Joe Biden caused a stir in a '60 Minutes' interview on Sept. 20 when he countered that the U.S. is still averaging about 400 deaths daily from the virus, that nearly 30,000 Americans remain hospitalized stemming from previous infections." Meanwhile, "PolitiFact has been tracking a campaign promise Biden made in 2020. During the presidential campaign, Biden said, 'I'm never going to raise the white flag and surrender. We're going to beat the virus on safer linguistic ground with his promise to get covid "under control" than saying 'the pandemic is over.'"

### **COVID-19 Pandemic Being Over Premature.**

Contributor Michelle A. Williams wrote President Joe Biden's declaration that the COVID-19 pandemic is over "is not only even harder to persuade Americans to get the new bivalent boosters" and "persuade Congress to fund essential COVID-19 response new indoor mask requirements should another surge arrive." Williams argues "declaring the pandemic over at this time is just background noise."

### **Combat Long COVID-19.**

Contributor and pulmonary and critical-care physician at Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston writes in the [New York Times](#), "During the pandemic, my colleagues and I" wanted to "develop a robust system of follow-up care for the patients who had been hospitalized for long COVID-19." But "when it opened, the clinic was deluged with self-referrals from patients who had not been hospitalized." "The Institutes of Health research funding has in part resulted in hospitals building clinics for those with long Covid, then the long COVID syndrome."

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### **Why Using Taxpayer Funds To Drive Immigrant Girls To States Where They Can Obtain Abortions.**

Contributor (K) reported, "The Biden administration is driving illegal immigrant girls to states where they can get late-term abortions by circumventing a federal law that prohibits the use of taxpayer money to facilitate the procedure." HHS, which "cares for illegal immigrants, is ensuring pregnant girls end up in states where abortions are still allowed." The department's "Office of Refugee Resettlement is implementing policies to ensure pregnant girls can get abortions." GOP lawmakers said, "Driving a pregnant minor to another state to get an abortion is a federal crime."

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### **Head Of IHS.**

Contributor (K) reported, "In a long-awaited vote, the U.S. Senate on Wednesday confirmed President Joe Biden's pick to lead the Interior Department."

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leading the agency's operations on her own Navajo Nation." The agency, which provides healthcare "for 2.6 million Navajo people," Biden took office." Tso promised "to prioritize patient safety, worker retention, and technology upgrades at aging clinics."

### **With Over 8B Scanning Attempts In DDOS-Style Attack In 2020.**

"HHS was hit with more than eight billion scanning attempts over 18 hours in a distributed denial-of-service-style attack in 2020." In an interview with FedScoop, José Arrieta said that attackers were waiting for the agency to lower its perimeter firewall. "They sent 8 billion packets slowing it down – to access the department's network." The article added, "According to Arrieta, HHS' defenses include firewalls, Trusted Internet Connections capacity at multiple locations, server capacity and Virtual Private Network capabilities."

### **Paywall In Cancer Care.**

In a paywall, "Drawing on Charles Dickens, NCI Acting Director Douglas Lowy has a teaching moment for oncology: we live in an era of human society – both in the United States and in low- and middle-income countries – fully benefit from modern cancer care."

### **Animal Tranquilizer Xylazine In Street Drugs.**

"Xylazine, an animal tranquilizer used for animals," Xylazine, "is appearing more frequently in street drugs across North America, alarming researchers because it's not an opioid...it can knock a user out for longer than most opioids – about six to eight hours – thus playing a growing role in overdose deaths." Nora Volkow said in an email, "The harms of xylazine are compounded when it is used in combination with other central nervous system depressants (e.g., fentanyl or heroin), which can increase the risk of fatal overdose. Xylazine is one component of the severe current drug crisis because it's cheaper and easier to obtain than illicit drugs."

"NIDA (4.11M) reports when reacting to overdose death figures in spring 2021, NIDA Director Dr. Nora Volkow "warned: 'The opioid epidemic in America. Behind each of these numbers, there is a person's life that has been lost, a family devastated, and a community that needs interventions that could help many people. We must meet people where they are to prevent overdoses, reduce harm, and connect people to care.' We're finding that people are overdosing because they've had no exposure to opioids that powerful. We like to see more research opening right now on the street is this incredible experiment in combination of drugs.'"

### **Open Access Would Help Combat Research Security Risks.**

"The New York Times (Subscription Publication) reported behind a paywall, "Members of the National Security Advisory Board for Biosecurity emphasized the need to address research questions without taking on the risks inherent in some kinds of experimentation involving pandemic-potential pathogens." The board's newly selected director "Renee Wegrzyn, who spoke at the meeting, said researchers may be able to avoid risky experiments by using open access data."

### **Heart Failure, HBP, Shows Potential As AUD Treatment.**

"A new study reported, "A generic drug used for decades to treat heart failure and high blood pressure," spironolactone, "shows efficacy in treating alcohol use disorder." Molecular Psychiatry suggests. But "one outstanding question is whether larger human studies will turn up any safety concerns." Renzo Leggio, MD, PhD, co-senior author of the new study and chief of a joint NIDA and NIAA lab in the clinical psychology division at NIDA.

"The New York Times (4.2M) reported, "Researchers from the National Institutes of Health studied" spironolactone, "a medication with existing FDA approval for heart failure and high blood pressure."

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knowing potential side effects." The research on the medication is needed, as in the US "17 million adults ages 18-64 have alcohol use disorder." The research is being funded by the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ), part of the Department of Health and Human Services." National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA) said, "These are very encouraging findings. Taken together, the present study argues for conducting randomized, controlled trials to evaluate the safety and potential efficacy in this population, as well as additional work to understand how spironolactone may affect outcomes in this population."

### **Study of Common Fund's Bridge To Artificial Intelligence Program.**

behind a paywall, "Researchers at University of California San Diego School of Medicine have been selected to lead component of the program."

### **Opposition to Bill That Will Penalize Physicians For Spreading "So-Called Misinformation."**

Wash Post (9/23, 23.99M), "A bill sitting on Governor Gavin Newsom's desk would levy career-ending penalties on doctors who spread misinformation. The law, "AB 2098, would allow the Medical Board of California to revoke a doctor's license to practice medicine in the state if the doctor "spreads information that is in consensus contrary to the standard of care.'" Johnson said, the "problem is that 'contemporary scientific consensus' is not always clear. For example, "Biden's chief medical advisor. In July 2020, he disagreed with medical professionals that the predominant view was that masks were effective. "Further, the CDC flip-flopped on the subject for months, and the World Health Organization initially said masks were not effective."

### **Senate Approves Fee Bill, Leaving Out VALID Act.**

Wash Post (9/23, 23.99M), "The Senate has approved a bill to fund the FDA's user fee program, but it left out the VALID Act, which would require the FDA to use the fees to fund the development of new tests. The bill, "S. 2800, was passed by a 52-47 vote. The VALID Act, "S. 2801, was not included in the package. The Senate Commerce Committee "agreed to reauthorize the FDA user fee, but left out the VALID Act from the package, hurting the chance that the bill would still be attached to other legislation this year, but the user fee bill, named the Food and Drug Administration Safety and Innovation Act, "S. 2800, was passed as an ideal vehicle for its passage."

### **Guidance on Pediatric Studies Of Medical Products Should Be Conducted.**

Wash Post (9/23, 23.99M), "The FDA issued draft guidance on pediatric studies of medical products. The guidance, "FDA Draft Guidance on Pediatric Studies of Medical Products, "is intended to provide clarity to investigators, sponsors, and regulatory reviewers on the requirements for pediatric studies. The guidance "shouldn't expose young people to risks greater than those encountered in their day-to-day lives."

### **Concerns About the Impact of the Supreme Court Decision on the Agency's Ability To Respond To Health Crises.**

Wash Post (9/23, 23.99M), "The Supreme Court's decision on the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) has raised concerns about the impact of the decision on the CDC. The CDC's ability to respond to health crises has been weakened by the decision, and what forces continue to restrict the CDC's ability to be nimble in the face of public health emergencies. The decision "came from the White House." On Sunday, President Biden "surprised many when he told Scott Pelley on CBS' '60 Minutes' that he was disappointed that the Supreme Court's decision would affect Americans alike who still feel the impacts of Covid everyday."

### **Proposal to Establish Pathogen Genomics Network.**



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reduction programs will soon be able to more easily bulk buy medication that can treat opioid overdoses, thanks to...  
been pushing for this change, which will make it much easier for them to distribute the lifesaving drug" Naloxone. N...  
level laws make it so people don't need a prescription to obtain it." But "because of the federal rules, manufacturers n...  
out the drug."

### **Drugs, Provide Treatment Has Reportedly Fallen Flat.**

s after Oregon residents voted to decriminalize hard drugs and dedicate hundreds of millions of dollars to treatment...  
the funds." Despite voters passing "the state's pioneering Drug Addiction Treatment and Recovery Act in 2020," which...  
heroin, cocaine, methamphetamine and other drugs," Oregon "still has among the highest addiction rates in the coun...

### **Nearly 25% During First Year Of Pandemic.**

93K) reported, "Admissions to drug treatment programs declined by nearly one-quarter during the first year of the...  
g to a new RAND Corporation study." While "treatment for substance use disorder has...been an area of focus for th...  
\$15 million in 29 organizations in rural communities to address psychostimulant misuse and related overdose death...  
amine, rose from 547 in 1999 to 23,837 in 2020, an increase exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic, according to...

### **Wave Of Concern.**

new wave of concern has spread across the United States over multi-colored 'rainbow fentanyl' pills, powders and b...  
several states, and potentially posing a threat to young people." But parents of young children "should not overly pa...  
going opioid crisis." Rainbow fentanyl "comes in bright colors and can be used in the form of pills or powder that cor...  
and potentially deadly if someone overdoses while trying to achieve a high off of the drugs."

### **Fighting Back Against Fentanyl.**

Van Susteren wrote for [USA Today](#) (9/23, 12.7M), that the US took action in response to 9/11 deaths and to the CO...  
that killed more than 71,000 Americans last year...our government is relying on outdated tactics and old ideas" to fi...  
es and see the situation for what it is: an international attack on our people." Van Susteren concluded, "We must co...  
d exporting of fentanyl raw materials. Let's use trade and financial restrictions to get Mexico to clean up its cartels, a...  
this crisis head-on." NIDA was mentioned.

### **Hold Blue-Chip Firms Accountable For Role In Fentanyl Epidemic.**

[Diego](#) (9/24, 12K), Calexico mayor pro tem Raul Ureña and councilmember Gloria Romo wrote, "Opioid-related eme...  
rial County had the highest number of emergency visits across California. And in San Diego County this past year th...  
s year." They wrote, "As we struggle to provide resources and support to those suffering from opioid and drug addi...  
d have not yet been held accountable to continue to do business. We are not talking about the pharmaceutical com...  
blue-chip consulting firm McKinsey &Company that devised the strategy to 'turbocharge' sales of Oxycontin while the...  
al elected officials for investigating with intention to hold companies that have done wrong accountable. And we ask...

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### **To Work Toward Recovery To Decrease Opioid Overdoses.**

Star (9/24, 662K), CareSource Indiana President Steve Smitherman wrote, "Substance use and substance use disorders are a national and state-wide public health crisis in Indiana. Data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) National Center for Health Statistics shows that in the U.S. during a 12-month period ending in April 2021, an increase of 28.5% from the same period in 2020. The CDC also tells us that from January to December 2020, there was a 41% increase in drug overdose deaths. We must recognize that the process of accessing and completing proper treatment and care for SUD was hindered during the pandemic. Barriers greatly increased as well as the barriers standing in their way of receiving assistance. Because of this, we need to work toward recovery to decrease opioid overdoses."

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### **How to Incorporate Religion Into Their Practices.**

reported that David H. Rosmarin, an associate professor at Harvard Medical School, "is one of a growing number of psychologists who are addressing the day's mental health crisis." In recent years, there "has been an increase in training opportunities to integrate faith and psychology, which has been published in professional journals." But Rosmarin "says that convincing others in a profession, who are statistically less likely to be religious, is a challenge."

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### **Challenges in Los Angeles.**

(2.37M) reports, "There's no way to sugarcoat it: These are challenging times to live in Los Angeles. In the last few years, we've seen skyrocketing inflation and immense income inequality; record-breaking drought and heat waves; an alarming rise in homelessness; and the lingering effects of a devastating global pandemic. Amid – and because of – these adversities, our children are suffering." The piece discusses a series featuring "individuals who have faced their own challenges – like living with a psychological condition."

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### **Disparities in Quality of Mental Health Treatment, APA Says.**

(2.44M) reported, "According to data from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, in 2020, 40.3% of people with a mental health condition," and research available on the CDC's "website also showed that 40.3% of Hispanic people experienced disparities in access and quality of mental health treatment, according to the American Psychiatric Association. The report also identified disparities in access to mental health services and culturally competent mental health professionals' among the many contributing factors."

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### **Gene Therapies Present Enormous Challenges To Affordability.**

The era of multimillion-dollar gene therapies has arrived, providing a ray of hope to patients with debilitating diseases. However, the number of patients who'll likely receive the treatments is relatively low, it's unclear how small employers, state Medicaid programs, and Medicare will pay for them. "The FDA "recently approved two gene therapies," and both "previously-approved non-oncological gene therapies are still in development."

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lished last year in JAMA Pediatrics found that if a \$1.85 million sickle cell gene therapy was administered to only 7% of the Medicaid program included in the study would be nearly \$30 million." Now "the question of how to handle an influ

### **Reforms Will Extend Lives Of Patients With Cancer Through Lower Out-Of-Pocket Costs For Pharmacy Drugs**

White House is pitching an added benefit to Democrats' recent drug pricing reform package: lower cancer death rates. "The analysis found that Medicare patients' out-of-pocket costs for pharmacy drugs at \$2,000 per year, starting in 2025." The analysis found that "the cap would save an average of nearly \$1,600 per year on prescription drugs because of the out-of-pocket cap." The White House aims to reduce the death rate from cancer by at least 50% over the next 25 years. If patients can afford drugs that would otherwise be out of reach, says White House Cancer Moonshot Coordinator Danielle Carnival.

### **Wholesale Drug Prices Used Largest Quarterly Decline In Net Drug Prices.**

Amid ongoing debate over the cost of prescription medicines, a new analysis finds that brand-name drugmakers in the U.S. saw a 4.4% decline in net drug prices from 4.4% a year earlier." Yet "when accounting for inflation, wholesale prices fell by 3.7%, and inflationary pressures on net prices were offset by a 0.7% increase in what health plans paid for medicines – after subtracting rebates, discounts, and fees – dropped by 0.8%." And "after adjusting for inflation, net drug prices fell 0.8% in the first quarter." The drops are "the largest quarterly decline in real terms seen by analysts at SSR Health, a research firm."

### **Market Share Will Also Be Measured By Cost Curve Impact.**

As reported by Statista, "Market share is often held up as the most relevant metric for the success of a drug. But as the industry pushes for greater patient access, that should also be used to define biosimilars' successes or failures." And analyzing data from the first quarter, "the drop in total spending in the infliximab category and Remicade biosimilars "impact to the cost curve has been quite significant." "The drop in total spending at warrants increased focus," as "reimbursement is driven by a product's average sales prices." Maintaining average sales prices is a dynamic, and is worth further analysis to ensure a robust and competitive biosimilars market that is sustainable in the long term."

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### **Patients To Pay For Lab Charges, Medical Appointments: Experts.**

As reported by Statista, "The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates 1.2 million Americans can benefit from PrEP." Insurers are not covering the cost of lab charges and medical appointments." People on PrEP "must get tested every three months to check for HIV and other sexually transmitted infections." "Many consumers are struggling to get insurers to fully pay the lab charges and medical appointments."

### **Medicaid Plans May Have Greater Medical Debt, Researchers Say.**

As reported by Statista, "The prevalence of medical debt may be tied to health insurance coverage status, as uninsured individuals are more likely to have medical debt, according to a study published in JAMA Network Open." Researchers "analyzed data from the Census Bureau's Survey of Consumer Finances (SCF) to assess health-related and insurance-related risk factors for medical debt." The study sample "included over 13,000 households." "Of those, 17 percent were covered by Medicare, 15 percent had Medicaid coverage, 5.2 percent had military coverage, and 62.8 percent were uninsured."

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e this motion is briefed.”

### **Push For Abortion Bans, Female Protesters Voice Objections.**

ark gender divide has emerged in debates unfolding in Republican-led states including West Virginia, Indiana and S  
stitutional protections for abortion. As male-dominated legislatures worked to advance bans, often with support of  
women.” This “contrast wasn’t lost on West Virginia Sen. Owens Brown, the only Black lawmaker in the Republican-c  
anning abortion at all stages of pregnancy last week.”

### **or Now Says He Would Sign Abortion Ban With Exceptions For Rape, Incest.**

Republican Tim Michels said Friday that he would sign an abortion ban with exceptions for rape and incest if it came to  
an – with an exception only for the life of the mother – was ‘an exact mirror’ of his position.” Gov. Tony Evers (D),  
abortion rights. Evers has backed a lawsuit by Attorney General Josh Kaul, a Democrat, that argues the state’s 1849  
ions before the point of viability.”

### **Leave Health Providers In Murky Legal Areas.**

inally, “since Roe v. Wade was overturned, clinics that do provide abortions have seen an increase in demand,” and  
of the pressure and keep wait times down by providing services via telemedicine. But as more states move to restrict  
providers are finding themselves navigating an increasingly complicated legal landscape.” And the legislation is “not a  
state with abortion restrictions but have a license that enables them to provide care via telehealth to patients in stat  
gray area legally, having to weigh how much risk they’re willing to assume to care for their patients, or consider ha

### **ems Retain Control Of Senate.**

Times (9/23, 3.37M) column that “the Supreme Court’s June decision overturning the constitutional right to abortio  
across the country, boosting her chances of overcoming the undertow incumbents typically face in a midterm electio  
ns likely to take control of the House, as Republicans need to pick up just five Democratic-held seats.” Meanwhile, “  
or Democrats before the high court thrust the abortion issue front-and-center by handing regulation back to individ

### **Reveal An America Where There Is Unequal Access To Family Planning.**

a New York Daily News (9/24, 2.51M) op-ed, “The post-Roe v. Wade era will reveal two disparate Americas where  
ts – those who can afford to make personal choices about family planning and those who cannot.” For the latter gro  
al wellbeing of impoverished mothers, as well as the health and wellbeing of their children and grandchildren.”

### **e Concerned About Impact Of Overturning Roe On Reproductive Rights.**

f the Metro Human Relations Commissions, wrote in the Tennessean (9/23, 645K) that “abortion is a delicate topic i  
the whole of women’s reproductive rights and maternal healthcare should be hugely important to each of us. Repro  
reat to a significant number of guarantees for those who give birth. Access to birth control and the ability to have qu  
l. With future court decisions to come that will likely endanger these rights as well, it is in our best interest to reeva

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## **Migrant Flights.**

the company that Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis (R) “used to send dozens of migrants to Martha’s Vineyard operates chartered flights. DeSantis has “exercised the almost absolute power to regulate safety in the skies,” although “there’s probably little the Federal Aviation Administration can do about it.” The agency’s legal authorities say – even though” President Biden “and other Democrats have condemned the flights.” [The Atlantic](#) (9/25, Reinhard, Sacchetti, Hennessy-Fiske, 10.52M).

## **Border Patrol Is Political Stunt That Reveals Policy Failure.**

border patrol is supported with a Bloomberg analysis that a “campaign by Republican governors in several states to transport thousands of migrants to the border – and also an indictment of the federal government’s failure to control the country’s borders.” Rather than “deflect blame,” the report says, “governors should mobilize an effective response.” So far this year, border officials “have reported a record 2.2 million encounters with migrants.” [The Atlantic](#) (9/25, Reinhard, Sacchetti, Hennessy-Fiske, 10.52M).

## **Mississippi Spent Welfare Money For Football Facility.**

Mississippi spent millions of dollars in welfare money on Brett Favre’s pet project, a university volleyball arena, the retirement of Favre, and a new welfare agency for another sports facility, new court documents show.” The governor at the time, Republican Phil Bryant, “used welfare money for the University of Southern Mississippi’s football team.” Bryant “told him federal money for children and low-income families.” [The Atlantic](#) (9/25, Reinhard, Sacchetti, Hennessy-Fiske, 10.52M).

## **People With Developmental Disabilities Were More Likely To Die From COVID-19 At Pandemic’s Peak.**

“New research finds that people with developmental disabilities were much more likely to die from COVID-19 at the peak of the pandemic nationwide for 2020” and found “that COVID-19 was the top cause of death among people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, far above death following heart disease and cancer for those without such disabilities.” [The Atlantic](#) (9/25, Reinhard, Sacchetti, Hennessy-Fiske, 10.52M).

## **Reducing Poverty Is An Idea That Is Here To Stay.**

[The Atlantic](#) (9/23, Manjoo, 20.6M), columnist Farhad Manjoo wrote, “Among the big changes ushered in by the pandemic was the expansion of the Child Tax Credit. If trying to jazz up a government program whose very name – the Child Tax Credit – I worry will have a lot of people asking why it exists in effect last year, President Biden’s expanded version of the Child Tax Credit provided parents of most American children with a new benefit. In effect, the credit gave people another lump sum of cash assistance.” Manjoo wrote, “There is a possibility that the expansion of the credit is an idea here to stay.” [The Atlantic](#) (9/23, Manjoo, 20.6M).

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## Healthcare Systems “Operate Like For-Profit Companies.”

(9/24, Thomas, Silver-Greenberg, 20.6M) feature reported its investigation into nonprofit healthcare systems found “hospitals funneling billions into affluent areas” while using federal programs to increase their profits. The Times highlighted that Bon Secours St. Joseph’s “closed a psychiatric ward” due to years of underinvestment, and “yet the hollowed-out hospital...has the highest profit margin, according to the hospital’s financial data,” thanks to “a federal program that allows clinics in impoverished neighborhoods to pocket the difference.” With over “half of all hospitals in the United States” being “set up as nonprofits, a design that many are not returning benefits to the communities they operate in.

(9/24, A1, Silver-Greenberg, Thomas, 20.6M) reported in a separate article on how “senior executives at one of the country’s largest hospital chains have a playbook for wringing money out of patients – even those who were supposed to receive free care because of their Medicaid status.”

## Residents Oppose Mandatory Arbitration Of Disputes.

The Washington Post reported, “Arbitration clauses appear frequently, often little noticed, in contracts with businesses of many kinds: banks, car leases, cell phone contracts, and more. They are also ‘widespread in long-term care facilities, in nursing homes, assisted living, board and care homes,’ said Linda Smetanka, a spokeswoman for the National Long-Term Care Ombudsman.” But advocates for residents, families and consumers “have opposed mandatory arbitration for decades because it strips away the right to sue. It compulsory arbitration ‘binds the resident upfront,’ Ms. Smetanka said.”

## Efforts To Stop Misuse Of Antibiotics During Rise In Bacterial, Fungal Infections.

The Washington Post (9/24, 4K) reported, “The CDC is devoting funding to dozens of local health departments for programs to reduce antibiotic and antifungal misuse during the Covid-19 pandemic.” The CDC “has already issued \$120 million to departments in New York, California, and Texas to improve antibiotic and antifungal prescribing within health-care settings.” CDC Office Of Antibiotic Stewardship is “developing model programs for each jurisdiction, and will grant additional funding through 2024.”

## States Grapple With Home-Care Worker Shortage.

The Washington Post (9/25, 10.52M) reports a shortage of home-care workers across the US is “jeopardizing the independence of a generation of seniors, forcing them to spend their twilight years in nursing homes.” While “an overwhelming majority of people older than 50 want to remain in their homes, many are unable to do so safely. The shortage was exacerbated by the pandemic, which caused demand for in-home services to surge. Many workers quit for less taxing jobs in Amazon warehouses and as Uber drivers.” The Post says, “Workers can earn equal or higher wages than in nursing homes, but the work is not easier than bathing, dressing and feeding seniors.”

## Efforts To Promote Adoption Of Research Animals.

The Washington Post (9/25, 401K) reported, “Now-famous beagles rescued from” Envigo medical dog-breeding facility in Cumberland County, Virginia. “Rep. Tony Cárdenas (D-CA) ‘pushed for legislation that would promote adoption of research animals.’ Envigo was accused of “widespread animal welfare violations, the Virginia Mercury has reported,” and “federal agents in May seized hundreds of dogs and puppies from the facility.” The bill “would require any facility receiving funding from the National Institutes of Health to make ‘reasonable efforts’ to adopt or place research animals no longer needed for biomedical and behavioral research.”

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### **Smoking, Vaping In City Parks, Outdoor Recreational Venues.**

ports, Lima, Ohio, city council members "will be voting" to ban smoking and vaping "for all city-owned parks and outdoor recreation areas." The new ordinance states that "any violation of the proposed law would be considered a misdemeanor." The ordinance also bans smoking and vaping at outdoor construction in the downtown area.

### **Improved Working Conditions At Minnesota Hospitals.**

on, 855K) reported that Earlier in September "15,000 Twin Cities and Duluth hospital nurses went on strike" and the union is working on improving working conditions to retain existing nurses but also to address a worsening shortage by enticing former nurses back." Union leaders said, "There are plenty of licensed nurses ... to fill the vacant positions in Minnesota hospitals. ... But they are not coming back because the pay has doubled from 2,450 in 2019 to 5,587 in 2021, leaving 8% of jobs unfilled, according to the Minnesota Department of Health. The shortage was already there before the pandemic, with baby boomer nurses retiring and reaching the age at which they needed health care themselves."

### **Combine Consumer Suits Over Recall Of Smoking Cessation Drug Chantix.**

Steinberg, Subscription Publication, 4K) reported, "Chantix maker Pfizer Inc. urged the US Judicial Panel on Multidistrict Litigation to combine consumer suits over the smoking cessation drug over possible carcinogen contamination." In a Thursday filing, Pfizer said "other efforts to streamline the litigation are being made for efficiency because there are only 11 pending lawsuits, just a few plaintiffs' law firms, and Pfizer is the only defendant."

### **Fast Cancer Drugs From Spectrum Pharmaceuticals, Oncopeptides.**

An independent committee that advises the FDA on cancer drugs has weighed in on medicines from Spectrum Pharmaceuticals and Oncopeptides. The committee is casting negative votes on both." FDA staff "flagged safety concerns" for poziotinib's proposed dose, but "also noted that the drug is being tested at a lower dose. The planned confirmatory study will be at 8 mg twice daily." For Oncopeptides "multiple myeloma drug, Pepaxto, the committee is casting negative votes on both." However, European regulators approved the drug in August.

### **Support The PASTEUR Act To Incentivize The Antibiotic Market.**

ing strategy and patient advocate living with cystic fibrosis, Gunnar Esiason, writes for [The Hill](#) (9/25, 5.69M), "The antibiotic market is failing" due to growing antibiotic resistance from bacteria evolving to "become impervious to those drugs." "Without the development of new drugs, the only way to curb the spread of resistance is limiting antibiotic use." Esiason concludes, "Congress should pass the bipartisan Pioneering Antimicrobial Subscriptions to End Upsurging Resistance (PASTEUR) Act." PASTEUR basically "allows patients to pay for antibiotics on the shelf until medical necessity beckons, while enabling drug makers to keep the lights on."

### **Approval Of Amylyx Pharmaceuticals ALS Treatment By Thursday.**

7K) reported, "Eight years after the ALS Ice Bucket Challenge went viral across social media and raised hundreds of millions of dollars, Amylyx Pharmaceuticals "is on the brink of a major breakthrough for ALS patients." Amylyx "should receive word this week that the FDA has approved the local firm's drug treatment" AMX0035 for Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS). AMX0035, "which has already been used in the ALS Ice Bucket Challenge donations that's being considered for approval by the FDA," with a decision expected Thursday.

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### **Each By The FDA.**

(M), Cigar Association of America David M. Ozgo wrote, "When the Tobacco Control Act (TCA) was signed in 2009, it intended harms." However, President Obama "was clear that the law would allow also 'adults to make their own choices.' Permit the sale of tobacco products to adults." While cigar use among youths has had a dramatic decline, the FDA is taking this drastic step on distorted scientific evidence...in complete violation of the congressionally mandated guidance from President Obama guaranteed, when it comes to cigars, FDA should let adults be adults and withdraw the proposed rule.

### **With Juul.**

Out of a \$440 million multistate settlement with electronic cigarette maker Juul Labs in objection to certain conditions in school districts from suing the company." The state "would have received roughly \$11 million over six to 10 years." (Lundy, M. Christensen, 178K) also reported.

### **To Uphold Or Block Flavored Tobacco Products Ban.**

(M) reported, "California voters will decide in November whether to uphold or block" Senate Bill 793 which "Gov. Gavin Newsom signed." The law "would have prohibited retailers in California from selling flavored tobacco products, popular among teenagers." The proponents of the ballot measure said the new rules would help prevent tobacco use among younger people, "the products that smokers use as a way to quit standard cigarette smoking." The FDA is mentioned.

### **Cigarette, Tobacco Products Tax.**

(K) reported, "The California Governor Sept. 22 signed a law revising the Cigarette and Tobacco Products Tax." The California Department of Tax and Fee Administration more control over the taxes.

### **Sidewalks, Streets.**

(K) reports, "It may become illegal to smoke anywhere but on private property in Encinitas under a proposal to develop an ordinance that would expand the city's current ban on smoking in public places to include sidewalks and streets."

### **Hookah Bars.**

(K) reported that in June, Daytona Beach "put in an ordinance to force bars to close an hour earlier." However, Daytona Beach "developed and people end up instead at the hookah bars, which are open until 3 a.m." Currently, "the city is considering a new ordinance."

### **Increased Risk For Preeclampsia, Hypertensive Disorders During Pregnancy.**

(K) reports, "Undergoing in vitro fertilization using frozen embryos is linked to a greater risk of hypertensive disorders, including preeclampsia, during pregnancy," according to a study published in the journal Hypertension." Although "the link between frozen embryo transfers and elevated blood pressure is not clear," the study provides a clearer understanding of the risk. The study was also the largest to date that included data on women who had never smoked.

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toral fellow and study lead author Dr. Sindre Petersen said, "If our study only found that there was an association just because we found in our extra analysis that there was a strong association between frozen IVF and preeclampsia."

### **Onondaga County Health Officials, Vape Shops.**

(Eisenstadt, 467K) reports, "New York first outlawed flavored vapes in 2019 in response to a teen vaping epidemic that had been largely ignored by county health officials and vape shops. The illegal vapes are still sold in dozens of shops around the county. Vaping has become a national child-health disaster." While "some clerks who work in the shops that sell the vapes in Onondaga County are aware of the risks, they often don't tell customers."

### **Herpes Virus May Have Saved A Patient With Cancer.**

reports, "A new type of cancer therapy was made using a common virus that infects and harms tumors, showing big promise in a trial. The drug was made from a genetically modified form of herpes simplex and created cutting-edge cancer therapy." But even though the safety and effectiveness of the cancer-killing virus, "there was one patient who was "seemingly treated for cancer using the virus as part of" a trial. Project lead researcher Kevin Harrington "told BBC that it is rare to see a positive response in the early stages of a trial. Researchers presented their findings at the [ESMO Congress](#), a medical conference in Paris, France. The findings suggest a new approach for cancer patients. There were also side effects, like tiredness, but were generally mild."

### **Florida Suspects For Allegedly Trafficking 87 Pounds Of Marijuana.**

reports, "Florida law enforcement officials arrested two suspects this week after intercepting packages containing 87 pounds of marijuana. The reports." One suspect, "Bennie Neely, 41, was arrested on Wednesday on charges of trafficking in cannabis, a first-time offense. He is being held in court records." And "Corey Jovan Brown, 38, was arrested on the same charges on Friday."

### **Recreational Swimming Still Impacts Black Children Today.**

reports, "Black children drown at more than twice the rate of white children, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention says. The lack of swimming pool access continue today, and the racist history of recreational swimming still impacts Black people, leading to a higher risk of drowning. "While we are fighting against history's harsh legacies, one swimmer at a time." The "historical lack of access has another devastating impact on Black children, according to a 2017 USA Swimming Foundation study. Black children ages 10-14 drown in swimming pools at a rate more than twice that of white children."

### **Colorado Offers Chance To Expand Access To Plant-Derived Psychedelics.**

the [Colorado Sun](#) (9/26), "A historic opportunity for Colorado to once again lead the country in progressive drug policy. The Natural Medicine Health Act, "seeks to end the decades-long legacy of harmful prohibition of psychedelic drugs, and bring them back to the people. The Natural Medicine Health Act is our chance to create an equitable system of access to plant-derived psychedelics."

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### **Child Abuse In Zimbabwe.**

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n, 20.6M) reported, "A measles outbreak has killed more than 700 children and infected thousands of others across  
ins around the globe." As of Sept. 6, the country's Ministry of Health and Child Care "was reporting more than 6,500  
ors endangering child health in many countries."

### **Resources Into Global Vaccine Programs Before Next Pandemic.**

5.68M), Gavi CEO Dr. Seth Berkley said the world is not prepared for the next pandemic. Berkley said there need to  
and funded in advance...to ensure that next time the response is faster and more effective." Berkley argued, "Had C  
had at-risk contingency funding already been in place rather than having to be raised in the midst of a global crisis,  
and got larger volumes of doses out to people quicker."

### **Have Reduced Amount Of Smoking Due To Cost Of Living.**

New data from TECC found that 80% of British smokers have reduced the amount they smoke due to the cost of living  
their cigarette consumption in some way due to the cost of living crisis with a further 5% dropping the habit comple  
cigarette spending, and that "the highest proportion of smokers who have reduced how much they smoke in the UK

### **Can President To Pass Tobacco Control Law.**

K) reports, "The South African tobacco-free youth forum has urged President Cyril Ramaphosa and members of Parli  
d that approximately 44 000 people in South Africa die every year from tobacco-related diseases adding that passing  
ne forum has urged South Africans to sign a petition calling on policymakers to prioritise passing the bill into law."  
ya, 5K) also reports.

### **ne "The Fate Of Cigarettes."**

wrote for the [Globe and Mail \(CAN\)](#) (9/23, Knelman, 1.09M) about the history of the tobacco industry and its regulat  
te ever tougher controls, but recently "a seismic court ruling has threatened to disrupt" it. Knelman raises the possi  
ng the lines of the "radical concept of outlawing the sale of cigarettes to the next generation" as New Zealand inten  
y be decided by the next generation of business and political leaders, judges and lawyers, and, yes, voters, to figure  
points out that the total number of smokers worldwide has continued to rise and constitutes "a quiet but powerful l

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### **"Catastrophic Consequences" For Using Nuclear Weapons In Ukraine.**

ullivan on [NBC's Meet The Press](#) [Video](#) warned Russia would face "catastrophic consequences" if it uses nuclear we  
strophic consequences for Russia. The United States will respond decisively." However, [The Hill](#) (9/25, Schonfeld, 5  
ould entail."

ka, 3.57M) reports Sullivan told [CBS' Face The Nation](#) [Video](#) that Russian President Vladimir Putin's threat to use

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President Biden on Saturday "issued an emergency declaration for the state of Florida as Tropical Storm Ian intensified due to the storm." The Hill adds the President's order "directs federal assistance to supplement Florida's storm response of Homeland Security to help coordinate emergency relief efforts."

reports Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis (R) "declared a state of emergency throughout Florida and urged residents to prepare for rising seas," while [Politico](#) (9/25, Sarkissian, 6.73M) reports DeSantis "said the state is mobilizing resources as National Guard troops and preparing more than 2 million meals for residents." During a briefing, DeSantis "was joined by Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis. He has already moved 360 trailers carrying 2 million meals and 1 million gallons of water to areas along the Gulf Coast to support evacuation orders and plans."

[The Hill](#) reports that during a briefing, DeSantis said, "The impacts will be broad throughout the state of Florida. Expect heavy rain and flooding." Florida "is under a state of emergency," which DeSantis "expanded from two dozen counties to the entire state Sunday." Although the storm "is most likely to hit Florida's west coast or Panhandle regions, the state's east coast could see flooding over a range of scenarios."

[NBC News](#) [Video](#) (9/25, 5:31 p.m. CDT, story 1, Snow, 3.08M) reported, "All 67 counties in Florida under state of emergency for Tropical Storm Ian. The state has mobilized utility workers across the state. Tampa's last collision course with a major hurricane was a century ago."

[Reuters](#) (9/25) reports Tropical Storm Ian "hurtled toward western Cuba on Sunday, prompting the government to issue warnings of a hurricane on Monday." Hurricane warnings "had been issued for the Cuban provinces of Isla de Juventud, Pinar del Rio, and Matanzas. Flooding and possible mudslides in areas of higher terrain, especially over Jamaica and Cuba." By mid-week "the storm is expected to hit the coast of Cuba."

[World News Tonight](#) [Video](#) (9/25, 5:33 p.m. CDT, story 1, Johnson, 3.26M) reported, "The sooner [Ian] makes landfall, the sooner the storm is now. It hasn't organized much today. It's about 500 miles south of Cuba but we do expect it to rapidly intensify into Wednesday." Meteorologist Rick Knabb for the [CBS Weekend News](#) [Video](#) (9/25, 5:01 p.m. CDT, story 1, DuBois, 3.08M) reports, "The storm is moving into the eastern Gulf of Mexico as a strong hurricane. What we don't know is exactly where the center is going to make landfall and for impacts."

## **Democrats Depart From Party Line.**

It's a pattern throughout the Biden administration: The president says something in an interview or makes an unscripted statement that opens up a Pandora's box. It happened twice in last weekend's '60 Minutes' interview – the president declared the pandemic was over, and he vowed to "bring back the popular ones," with the midterms six weeks away "and Democratic control of Congress on the line, Biden will face a tough re-election administration lines." The bottom line, says Axios, is that "there's a divide in our politics – including within the Democratic Party." Biden is "a gut-instinct politician, but he is being contained by the technocratic impulses of his administration." [Axios](#) [Analysis](#) *Midterms Mean Shifting Focus Away From Biden*. [Fox News](#) (9/25, Panreck, 23.99M) reports, "Former White House press secretary Jen Psaki says the midterm elections end up being a referendum on President Biden." Speaking with NBC's Chuck Todd, Psaki "acknowledged the party's internal divide." She "said Republicans were throwing a lot of money behind ads focusing on crime and Pennsylvania Senate candidate Pat Toomey."

## **Most Democrats Want Biden To Run For Reelection In 2024.**

[Axios](#) reports, "A majority of US Democrats and Democrat-leaning independents want the party to replace President Joe Biden in 2024. 55% of this group prefer Biden for the nomination, while 56% say the Democratic Party should pick someone else, a slight majority."

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independents, 47% back former president Donald Trump for the 2024 nomination, while 46% prefer someone else. In a head-to-head rematch." Biden has "a 2-point lead over Trump in the hypothetical rematch, with 48 percent of voters supporting his predecessor." The findings are "reversed among registered voters, 48 percent of whom support Trump compared to 47% for Biden."

### **Lawsuit Against Georgia's Election Integrity Law As Midterms Loom.**

Only 15 months after the Department of Justice filed a lawsuit against the state of Georgia over an election integrity law, the Biden administration has little to say about the status of that lawsuit and whether Georgia's upcoming midterm election will be affected. Fox News Digital this past week that it does not have an update on its lawsuit against Georgia's election integrity law or whether it is under the jurisdiction of an election law President Biden called 'Jim Crow in the 21st Century' and 'a blatant attack on the Constitution.' The Brookings Institution's Meese Center for Legal and Judicial Studies Hans von Spakovsky, show a weak lawsuit that has grown even weaker.

### **"Commitment to America" Ahead of Midterms.**

House Minority Leader McCarthy "predicted that House Republicans' 'Commitment to America' plan would enable them to win the House in 2024." He said, "We're first going to preserve our constitutional rights, but we're going to hold government accountable for what the origins of COVID started. The DOJ - you've got an individual [who] called parents terrorists because they went to school." McCarthy on Fox News' Sunday Morning Futures [Video](#) (9/25, 1.23M), discussed GOP strategy for the midterms. Scalise said "We're showing the country that there can be a better way. We don't have to have this as the new normal where inflation is out of control, the economy is wide open that thousands of people come across every day. People don't even feel safe in their own neighborhoods." McCarthy said "Commitment to America is just showing people if you elect Republicans to replace these Democrats who have been voting against us, we can bring the bills we would bring to a Republican House floor to address all the problems that Joe Biden and Nancy Pelosi are responsible for."

[Video](#) (5.69M) reports House Republican Conference Chair Elise Stefanik on Fox News Sunday [Video](#) "said the media are trying to distract us from a policy platform outlining their agenda if they take the majority in the lower chamber."

[Video](#) (5.69M) reports Rep. Nancy Mace (R-SC) on NBC's Meet The Press [Video](#) "said Republicans will face pressure to impeach Biden." Mace adds Mace "declined to say how she would vote on a potential Biden impeachment, but noted that she did not vote on Biden's impeachment." "I'm taking it away."

[Video](#) (416K), Rep. Ro Khanna (D-CA) discussed the rollout of the House Republicans' legislative agenda. Khanna said "I can tell you what will happen if the Republicans take control of Congress. They will be talking about Hunter Biden the way they talk about how to get people's lives to be better; all they wanted to do was have Hunter Biden. All they wanted to do is have Hunter Biden after years of obstructionism. If the Democrats are there, we're gonna do more to actually lower prices for the middle class than the Republicans, but that is not what they intend to do if they win."

[Post](#) (9/25, 10.52M), E.J. Dionne Jr. writes that the House Republicans' "Commitment to America" is "so short on specifics that it's hard to see a Republican House candidate." However, McCarthy "might also have done his opponents a favor by signaling when he was speaking as clear as McCarthy and his colleagues spoke on Friday is that the GOP plans to wrap three issues - fears about China, the economy, and immigration." Dionne adds, "Here's another thing the Republicans made clear: If they take the majority, they plan to use the filibuster." Dionne concludes that Republicans "really do have a commitment - to making Washington a pitiless battlefield."

[Post](#) (9/25, 10.52M), Karen Tumulty writes, "It was not even close to what Republicans had hoped would sound like a plan to win the House."

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of campaign promises but also a blueprint for governing." In Tumulty's view, "with genuine unity beyond their grasp on as 'curb wasteful government spending' and 'fight inflation and lower the cost of living.'" The only thing Republican investigations."

### **Philadelphia Rally.**

ports Democratic Senate candidate John Fetterman on Saturday "held a campaign rally in a predominantly Black neighborhood his candidacy in February 2021." Fetterman has "centered much of his candidacy's appeal on his ability to woo voters who have migrated to Republicans in recent years." However, "as he's worked to attract those voters, it has remained unbalanced statewide in Pennsylvania – would turn out for Fetterman, particularly in vote-rich Philadelphia."

reports Fetterman on Sunday "fired back at Fox News host Tucker Carlson over comments mocking his tattoos during a monologue 'unhinged' and explained how the nine tattoos on his right forearm indicate the dates when someone died in his hometown. He wrote, "Gun violence and violent crime might be a joke to someone like Carlson, but they are very real to people in my town." Fetterman was inspired in part by their permanence – the fact that these people, their stories and my town will be with me forever."

### **Weight Points In Arizona Senate Race.**

glass is running low on Blake Masters and his chances to reverse course in the Arizona Senate race as Sen. Mark Kelly leads and turning their attention elsewhere on the 2022 map." Masters "found himself on the wrong side of the multiple shifts in support by the Senate Leadership Fund – a group backed by Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.). In addition, Kelly has a significant advantage points."

### **Republican House Majority.**

s on Sunday lowered its projection of a Republican House majority after the midterms as Democrats see glimmers of hope. CBS continues to predict Republicans will flip Democrats' razor-thin majority in the House, but CBS now estimates Republican support is in line with other analysts, who generally suggest that Democrats' standing has improved in recent months." The report also reported that according to its model, "the top concern the economy by a mile followed by inflation. With recession fears on the rise, voters are more likely to support Democrats."

**Congressional Ballot.** The Washington Post (9/25, 10.52M) reports Americans "are split nationally in their vote for Congress. While voters trust Democrats to handle crime and Democrats far more trusted to handle the issues of abortion and climate change, according to a Washington Post poll, "as "among registered Democratic voters, 3 in 4 say they are almost certain to vote compared with about 8 in 10 for Republicans." The poll also found that Democrats to Republicans in November and the country deeply divided, 2 in 3 registered voters see this election as a referendum on the economy."

poll shows "Democrats and Republicans are neck and neck on a generic congressional ballot just six weeks out from the midterms. 46 percent said they'd support a Republican candidate and 46 percent said they'd support a Democrat if the midterms were held today, 4 percent said they'd back someone else. Another 4 percent reported having no opinion on which party they'd support."

reports the poll found "two-thirds of American voters think the upcoming elections are more important than past midterms. The poll, "67 percent of voters feel casting a ballot in this year's midterms is more important than in past elections, with 23 percent of voters "said they felt this year's election has about the same importance as previous years, and just 5 percent said it's less important."

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**erm Battlegrounds.** The Washington Post (9/25, A1, 10.52M) reports, "Republicans are increasingly centering their pitch on violent criminal conduct." Republicans are "also increasingly seeking to connect crime with their immigration message on national security and also fuels the illicit drug trade." The strategy is "prompting growing accusations of racism from some Democratic candidates are "scrambling to distance themselves from slogans such as 'Defund the police' that were popular among voters but have complicated the party's image more broadly since that time, according to strategists across the political spectrum."

### **DeSantis In Re-Election Campaign.**

The New York Times (9/25, C, 10.52M) reports Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis (R) is targeting voters in the Republican primary by moving toward the center. Should his strategy prevail, he could be the front-runner in the 2024 presidential race. The article is partially redacted.

The New York Times (9/25, C, 10.52M) reports DeSantis and Texas Gov. Greg Abbott (R) are "locked in an increasingly high-stakes race over conservatism and pushing boundaries by using desperate migrants for political gain." DeSantis' "stunt" of flying migrants to the border is "the allies and aides" of Abbott. The Times says "no one in the Texas governor's office was given a heads-up that Mr. Abbott was in the car with the matter." In addition, DeSantis "grabbed the attention of right-wing America, using Mr. Abbott's tactic, of flying migrants to the border." "the two governors' policy moves antagonizing the Biden administration and the Democratic Party as a whole have been a major focus of the campaign."

**Latino Vote On Gun Safety.** The AP (9/25, Licon) reports Democrats courting Latino voters are campaigning on gun violence, a key issue for a group that often feels overlooked in national politics." Gun violence is "a particularly powerful issue in Florida." In a poll conducted in June by the Associated Press and NORC Center for Public Affairs Research, "35% of Latinos named gun violence as one of the five issues for the government to be working on in the next year. That compared with 18% in late 2021 and 10% in 2019."

### **Stacey Abrams Governor Is "Languishing."**

The New York Times (9/25, C, 10.52M), Charles Bullock III, a professor of public and international affairs at the University of Georgia, writes Stacey Abrams is "currently showing her solidly outside the margin of error, in a rematch with her Republican rival, Gov. Brian Kemp." The article discusses Abrams' toughest moves in the electorate." For Abrams, Bullock writes, "the challenge will be to achieve a 29-29 election - a victory that a Democratic candidate could attract 30 percent of the White vote and if Blacks cast 30 percent of all votes, the Democratic candidate would suffice - that's about what Biden, Warnock and Ossoff achieved."

### **French Column For Those Not Religious.**

The New York Times (9/25, C, 10.52M), Tish Harrison Warren spoke with David French, senior editor of The Dispatch, about religious freedom. French discusses a lawsuit filed by Planned Parenthood to force religious websites for a same-sex wedding" as an upcoming case that is important for religious liberty. French believes "America's history of granting the government the power to determine when a creative professional can be compelled to create art is a troubling precedent." "Would you want your own artistic expression compelled by the government?" French continues, "Most people are not. The government's power to override conscience is overridden by the government. They wouldn't want to hand that power to the opposing political party. Regardless of the government's conscience."

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editorials on September 25.

***chin's 'Big Oil Side Deal.'***" In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (9/25, 10.52M) argues that as Senate Democrats pass a spending bill funding federal operations," they should include "what opponents call 'the big oil side deal' – legislation in return for his summertime vote on the Inflation Reduction Act, Democrats' landmark climate and health-care bill. Biden's bill would improve the package. This is true even – or especially – if one's primary concern is climate change."

***ne Extension Could Be Delayed Again.***" In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (9/25, 10.52M) welcomes "a new Metro rail expansion project and points farther west." However, "Metro might not have enough rail cars in service to run on the network, meaning service elsewhere is slashed." The Post urges local leaders "to think beyond Metro's current anemic ridership. If ridership is short, passenger counts might never rebound to pre-pandemic levels." It warns that "ignoring Metro today means

***nd. Here Is The Right Response.***" In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (9/25, 10.52M) argues that the existence "of fraud in government programs offer important lessons for how governments should manage aid and loan programs going forward." The Post argues for "new information from payroll taxes and other filings, allowing officials to catch fraudulent activity earlier. In addition, new ID verification and machine-learning algorithms could quickly flag suspicious patterns in data." In light of the challenges observed, the right response is "to act in a national emergency — and start building a more nimble, responsive and resilient system for the future."

In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (9/25, Subscription Publication, 8.41M) argues World Bank President David Malpass as well as the New York Times have argued in public that Malpass is a "climate denier." The Journal argues the push for a "Republican Party" for climate change policy.

In an editorial, The [Wall Street Journal](#) (9/25, Subscription Publication, 8.41M) says Meloni came into the election with a coalition government formed behind caretaker Mario Draghi. A win for Meloni will bring in a complex new period of Italian politics. Italy will get the conservative government they seemed to want four years ago, and will now find out if it works.

In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (9/25, Subscription Publication, 8.41M) argues the Administration's trade policy is a complex one. Negotiations between the UK and US as an example.

***ation.***" In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (9/25, Subscription Publication, 8.41M) says the Third Circuit may be a target for talcum powder claims and class actions as their next big paydays. The Third Circuit recently heard arguments on whether to allow more than through class-action lawsuits.

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[Bats Raise Stakes In Ukraine](#)  
[g. Investors Keep Piling In Anyway.](#)  
[ing Unrest Over Women's Rights](#)  
[hion Line](#)  
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***ork News:***

Midterms-Abortion; North Korea Missile Test; Iran Protests; Shooting In Philadelphia; NJ High Schooler Dies; Italy E  
NASA Experiment.

Zelensky Interview; Iran Protests; Italy Elects Far-Right Govt; Midterms-Inflation; Shooting In Philadelphia; COVID/  
North Korea Missile Test; NASA Experiment; Ford Electric Vehicle.

Changes Canada; Protests In Russia; Iran Protests; NASA Experiment; Climate Change-Global Rivers; Profile-Texas Br

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c over. Which isn't just irresponsible, it's complete bullsh\*t. You can't just declare something and make it a reality. I  
ow she's in the afterlife now, looking up at Diana."

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Levine, Rachel (HHS/OASH) /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group  
**To:** (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=e691235ff2f3496e9b53eeb5f538b2f6-Levine, Rac  
<Rachel.Levine@hhs.gov>

**Subject:** RE: UPDATED: Discussion - USG || Gilead

**Date:** 2021/12/27 13:58:47

**Priority:** Normal

**Type:** Note

Thanks, I couldn't tell who the invite was forwarded to later.

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**From:** Levine, Rachel (HHS/OASH) <Rachel.Levine@hhs.gov>  
**Sent:** Monday, December 27, 2021 1:58 PM  
**To:** Armstrong, Kimberly (OS/ASPR/BARDA) <Kimberly.Armstrong@hhs.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: UPDATED: Discussion - USG || Gilead

I am also on the call, thanks, RLL

## **Rachel L. Levine, M.D.**

ADM, United States Public Health Service

Assistant Secretary for Health  
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health

**Email:** [rachel.levine@hhs.gov](mailto:rachel.levine@hhs.gov)  
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**From:** Armstrong, Kimberly (OS/ASPR/BARDA) <Kimberly.Armstrong@hhs.gov>  
**Sent:** Monday, December 27, 2021 1:57 PM  
**To:** Kessler, David (HHS/IOS) <David.Kessler@hhs.gov>; Chuk, Meredith (FDA/OC) <Meredith.Chuk@fda.hhs.gov>; Epstein, Jay (OS/ASPR/IO) <Jay.Epstein@hhs.gov>; Eisnor, Derek (OS/ASPR/BARDA) <Derek.Eisnor@hhs.gov>; Roos, Jason (OS/ASPR/H-CORE) <Jason.Roos@hhs.gov>; Johnson, Robert (OS/ASPR/CAG) <Robert.Johnson@hhs.gov>; Lane, Cliff (NIH/NIAID) [E] <clane@niaid.nih.gov>; Dieffenbach, Carl (NIH/NIAID) [E] <cdieffenba@niaid.nih.gov>; O'Connell, Dawn

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**Cc:** Murphy, Lauren (OS/ASPR/BARDA) (CTR) <[Lauren.Murphy@hhs.gov](mailto:Lauren.Murphy@hhs.gov)>; Lucas, Pamela (OS/ASPR/IO) (CTR) <[Pamela.Lucas@hhs.gov](mailto:Pamela.Lucas@hhs.gov)>; Michelle Springer <[michelle.springer1@gilead.com](mailto:michelle.springer1@gilead.com)>; Lee, Kinbo (HHS/OASH) <[Kinbo.Lee@hhs.gov](mailto:Kinbo.Lee@hhs.gov)>; Chaloupek, Jeffrey (OS/ASPR/BARDA) (CTR) <[Jeffrey.Chaloupek@hhs.gov](mailto:Jeffrey.Chaloupek@hhs.gov)>; Howe, Ryan P. (CMS/CM) <[Ryan.Howe@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Ryan.Howe@cms.hhs.gov)>; Ventura, Robert J. (CMS/CM) <[Robert.Ventura@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Robert.Ventura@cms.hhs.gov)>; Sams, Ian (HHS/ASPA) <[ian.Sams@hhs.gov](mailto:ian.Sams@hhs.gov)>; Brian Nilstoft <[Brian.Nilstoft@gilead.com](mailto:Brian.Nilstoft@gilead.com)>; Kristie Banks <[Kristie.Banks@gilead.com](mailto:Kristie.Banks@gilead.com)>; Tomas Cihlar <[Tomas.Cihlar@gilead.com](mailto:Tomas.Cihlar@gilead.com)>; Daniel O'Day <[daniel.oday@gilead.com](mailto:daniel.oday@gilead.com)>; Rekha Ramesh <[Rekha.Ramesh@gilead.com](mailto:Rekha.Ramesh@gilead.com)>; Seshamani, Meena (CMS/OA) <[Meena.Seshamani@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Meena.Seshamani@cms.hhs.gov)>; Cha, Stephen (HHS/IOS) <[Stephen.Cha@hhs.gov](mailto:Stephen.Cha@hhs.gov)>; Barclay, Lisa (HHS/OGC) <[Lisa.Barclay@hhs.gov](mailto:Lisa.Barclay@hhs.gov)>

**Subject:** RE: UPDATED: Discussion - USG || Gilead

Attendees for the call at 2pm are as follows:

#### **Gilead Sciences**

- Daniel O'Day, Chief Executive Officer
- Merdad Parsey, Chief Medical Officer
- Kristie Banks, VP COVID-19 Business Unit
- Michael Boyd, SVP Government Affairs & Policy
- Tomas Cihlar, SVP Virology Research
- Chuck Clapton, VP Government Affairs
- Kathleen Love-Weitz, VP Program Strategy Lead, Veklury
- Brian Nilstoft, Exec. Director Pharmaceutical Manufacturing
- Anu Osinusi, VP Virology Clinical Development
- Rekha Ramesh, VP Policy

#### **USG**

- David Kessler
- Jason Roos, incoming Chief Operating Officer for H-CORE (formerly known as CAG and OWS)
- Robert Johnson, outgoing Chief Operating Officer for the Countermeasure Acceleration Group and Deputy Director of BARDA
- Cliff Lane, Deputy Director for Clinical Research and Special Projects, NIAID
- Carl Dieffenbach, Director of the Division of AIDS, NIAID and senior advisor for COVID small molecule therapeutics
- Jay Epstein, Senior advisor for COVID monoclonal antibody therapeutics
- Meredith Chuk, outgoing COVID response lead for clinical outreach, reimbursement and communications
- Derek Eisnor, incoming COVID response lead for clinical outreach, reimbursement and communications
- Sheila Miknyoczki, project officer, BARDA – moving forward, Sheila will be your main point of contact
- Kim Armstrong, Chief of the Immunology and Emerging Infectious Diseases Therapeutics Branch, BARDA

-----Original Appointment-----

**From:** Kessler, David (HHS/IOS) <David.Kessler@hhs.gov>

**Sent:** Sunday, December 26, 2021 10:57 PM

**To:** Kessler, David (HHS/IOS); Armstrong, Kimberly (OS/ASPR/BARDA); Chuk, Meredith (FDA/OC); Epstein, Jay (OS/ASPR/IO); Eisnor, Derek (OS/ASPR/BARDA); Roos, Jason (OS/ASPR/H-CORE); Johnson, Robert (OS/ASPR/CAG); Lane, Cliff (NIH/NIAID) [E]; Dieffenbach, Carl (NIH/NIAID) [E]; O'Connell, Dawn (OS/ASPR/IO); Michael Boyd; Levine, Rachel (HHS/OASH); Miknyoczki, Sheila (OS/ASPR/BARDA)

**Cc:** Murphy, Lauren (OS/ASPR/BARDA) (CTR); Lucas, Pamela (OS/ASPR/IO) (CTR); Michelle Springer; Lee, Kinbo (HHS/OASH); Chaloupek, Jeffrey (OS/ASPR/BARDA) (CTR); Howe, Ryan P. (CMS/CM); Ventura, Robert J. (CMS/CM); Sams, Ian (HHS/ASPA); Brian Nilstoft; Kristie Banks; Tomas Cihlar; Daniel O'Day; Rekha Ramesh; Seshamani, Meena (CMS/OA); Cha, Stephen (HHS/IOS); Lisa Barclay (Lisa.Barclay@hhs.gov)

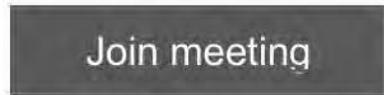
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**When:** Monday, December 27, 2021 2:00 PM-3:00 PM (UTC-05:00) Eastern Time (US & Canada).

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(b)(6) US Toll

[Global call-in numbers](#)

**Join from a video system or application**

Dial (b)(6)

Join using Microsoft Lync or Microsoft Skype for Business

Dial

If you are a host, [click here](#) to view host information.

Need help? Go to <https://help.webex.com>

**Sender:** Armstrong, Kimberly (OS/ASPR/BARDA) /O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=5B778C7E17734740B14FBAE4D3ED652C-ARMSTRONG, <Kimberly.Armstrong@hhs.gov>

**Recipient:** Levine, Rachel (HHS/OASH) /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=e691235ff2f3496e9b53eeb5f538b2f6-Levine, Rac <Rachel.Levine@hhs.gov>

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<b>Subject:</b> [Heads Up] What About The Risks Of Your Password Manager?
<b>Date:</b> 2022/06/14 10:41:08
<b>Priority:</b> Normal
<b>Type:</b> Note

Karakurt Ransomware Harassment. WSJ Biggest Cybersecurity Mistakes.

Email not displaying? | View K



CyberheistNews Vol 12 #24 | June 14th, 2022

## [Heads Up] What About the Risks of Your Password Manager? Stu Sjouerman SACP



In KnowBe4's new Password Policy eBook, "What Your Password Policy Should Be," we recommend that all users use a password manager to create and use perfectly random passwords. A perfectly random 12-character or longer password is impervious to all known password guessing and cracking attacks.

A human-created password has to be 20 characters or longer to get the same protection. Humans are not good at creating or using very long (and sometimes also complex) passwords, so we recommend using a trusted password manager program instead.

**A common question is if password managers are worth the risk of using them.**

The answer, in our opinion, is yes. We believe that the increase in risks a person will get from using a password manager is offset by all the advantages, which decrease and thoroughly offset the risks from not using one.

disadvantages.

Let's look at the risks and advantages of using a password manager. They can be summed up as follows:

disadvantages:

- • User must obtain and install password manager
- • User must learn how to use password manager
- • It may take a user longer to create or input a password using a password manager (but not always)
- • Subject to attacks
- • Password managers do not work with all programs or devices
- • If access to the password manager cannot be done (e.g., corruption, lost login access, etc.), the user loses all access to all login information contained therein at once
- • If attacker compromises the password manager, the attacker can possibly access and obtain all of the user's passwords (and sites they belong to) at once

**It is the last issue that presents the biggest risk in most concerned user's minds -- single point of failure.**

Next, the advantages:

- • Creates and allows the use of perfectly random passwords
- • Creates and allows the far easier use of different passwords for every site and service
- • Can be used to prevent password phishing
- • Can be used to simulate some MFA solutions so users do not need separate MFA programs
- • Can be shared among devices so passwords are where the user needs to use them
- • Passwords can be more easily and securely backed up
- • All passwords may be protected by MFA login requirement to password manager
- • May warn user of compromised passwords that the user was not otherwise aware of
- • Will warn user of identical passwords used between different sites and services
- • Can be shared with trusted person(s) in times of need, when original user is temporarily or permanently incapacitated or unavailable

It is a very real risk that someone's password manager could get compromised, and from that compromise all of the user's passwords to all stored sites and services are stolen very quickly at once. That is a risk that must be measured and weighed by the admins or users who are using password managers.

**CONTINUED at the KnowBe4 blog, with a form to download the new Password Policy eBook:**  
<https://blog.knowbe4.com/what-about-password-manager-risks>

## Understanding the Threat of NFT and Cryptocurrency Cyber Attack How to Defend Against Them

A growing number of organizations worldwide are **utilizing cryptocurrency for a host of investment, operational and transactional purposes**. Seemingly overnight, technologies like non-fungible tokens (NFTs) emerged and just as quickly, cybercriminals learned how to capitalize on organizations' naivety for their own benefit.

Are you still not sure about the **ins and outs of NFTs and cryptocurrencies**? Should your organization even care? The answer is YES, and we are here to help you make sense of it all. Join Roger A. Griener, KnowBe4's Data-Driven Defense Evangelist, as he shares what you need to know to **defend yourself in the new age of Web 3.0**.

Roger will cover:

- The business impact of NFTs and cryptocurrencies: What are they and why should you care
- The various and increasingly popular attacks against NFT and cryptocurrencies
- How you can best defend yourself and your organization from becoming the victim of an attack
- The projected future of NFTs and cryptocurrencies

**Stay up-to-date on the latest technologies and their hidden threats!** Plus, earn CPE for attending this event.

Date/Time: **TOMORROW, Wednesday, June 15 @ 2:00 PM (ET)**

**Save My Spot!**

<https://event.on24.com/wcc/r/3808653/26F4784C86D918E01E028B0029CCD40D?partnerref=CHN3>

## [CISA ALERT] Karakurt Ransomware Now Calls Your Business Contacts and Threatens Them

The U.S. Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) and its partners have issued a joint advisory on Karakurt, a data theft extortion group that harasses victims' employees, customers and business partners in order to pressure the victim to pay up.

"Karakurt actors have typically provided screenshots or copies of stolen file directories as proof of s

data," the alert says. "Karakurt actors have contacted victims' employees, business partners, and customers with harassing emails and phone calls to pressure the victims to cooperate.

"The emails have contained examples of stolen data, such as social security numbers, payment account information, private company emails, and sensitive business data belonging to employees or clients. Upon payment of ransoms, Karakurt actors have provided some form of proof of deletion of files and, occasionally, a statement explaining how the initial intrusion occurred."

Unlike many similar gangs, Karakurt doesn't encrypt the stolen data after stealing them, and instead relies solely on threatening to damage the organization and its customers and partners by publishing the data online.

**Continued at the KnowBe4 blog:**

<https://blog.knowbe4.com/karakurt-adds-irritating-phone-calls-to-its-crimes>

## [New PhishER Feature] Turn the Tables on the Cybercriminals with PhishFlip

Cybercriminals are always coming up with new, devious phishing techniques to trick your users. PhishER has a new PhishER feature that allows you to respond in real time and turn the tables on these threat actors. With PhishFlip, you can now immediately "flip" a dangerous attack into an instant real-world training opportunity for your users.

Your users are likely already reporting potentially dangerous emails in some fashion within your organization. You can now combine your existing PhishRIP email quarantine capability with the new PhishFlip feature to automatically replace active phishing threats with a new defanged look-alike back into your users' inboxes.

The new PhishFlip feature is included in PhishER—yes you read that right, no extra cost—so now you can turn the tables on these threat actors and flip targeted phishing attacks into a simulated phishing test for your users. This new feature dramatically reduces data breach risk and the burden on your IT and InfoSec teams.

**See how you can best manage your user-reported messages.**

Join us **Wednesday, June 22 @ 2:00 PM (ET)** for a live 30-minute demo of PhishER, the #1 Leader in Phishing Protection.

G2 Grid Report for SOAR Software.

With PhishER you can:

- • **NEW!** Automatically flip active phishing attacks into safe simulated phishing campaigns with PhishER. You can even replace active phishing emails with safe look-alikes in your user's inbox.
- • Easily **search, find and remove email threats with PhishRIP**, PhishER's email quarantine for Microsoft 365 and Google Workspace
- • **Cut through your Incident Response inbox noise** and respond to the most dangerous threats quickly
- • **Automate message prioritization** by rules you set into one of three categories: Clean, Spam, or Phishing
- • **Easy integration with KnowBe4's email add-in button, Phish Alert**, or forwarding to a mail client that works too!

Find out how adding PhishER can be a huge time-saver for your Incident Response team!

Date/Time: **Wednesday, June 22 @ 2:00 PM (ET)**

**Save My Spot!**

<https://event.on24.com/wcc/r/3714077/D13A6A36D4029E581EDBAB8547533245?partnerref=CHN>

## [BUDGET AMMO] WSJ: "The Biggest Mistakes Companies Make With Cybersecurity—and How to Avoid Them"

There is a fantastic article in the *Wall Street Journal* that finally covers some of the biggest cybersecurity mistakes that KnowBe4 has talked about these last 10 years. Here is a short excerpt and then a link to the full article that I strongly recommend you send to your C-level exec who owns the InfoSec budget.

"Every manager knows it by now: Cyberattacks are frequent and dangerous. You need tough defenses to stay safe. Every manager knows it. But they still get things wrong with cybersecurity. All the time.

"In our research at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology's Sloan School of Management, we see that managers should build organizations that are resilient to cyber threats, and have found a number of things that managers routinely get wrong, leading to wasted resources, poor decisions—and potentially catastrophic cyber vulnerabilities.

"Much of the problem, we believe, comes from managers seeing security as simply a matter of buying the right software, or tightening defenses, instead of taking steps to make safety a top priority for the whole company and strengthening the business so that it can withstand attacks and bounce back strongly."

Here's a look at six of those mistakes—and how to avoid them:

### 1. • **Focusing on tech instead of employees**

#### **CONTINUED AT:**

<https://www.wsj.com/articles/company-mistakes-cybersecurity-11654279659>

By the way, the WSJ just published a podcast series that tells the story of a Russian hacker who was committing cybercrime and the U.S. officials who eventually caught him. Very interesting:

<https://www.wsj.com/articles/introducing-hack-me-if-you-can-a-new-podcast-series-11654892516>

## [Free Tool]: Is Your Organization Ready for a SOC 2 Compliance Audit? Find Out Now!

You already have challenging compliance requirements and having enough time to get your audits done is a continuous problem.

According to the most recent ACA Compliance Group Report, "Key Trends and Forces Shaping Risk Management and Compliance Management," 44% of firms are being asked to **show proof that security controls are in place** to protect customer data in the cloud.

The **Statement on Standards for Attestation Engagements no. 18 Trust Services Criteria (SSAE 18) framework** is designed to help you do just that. Often, organizations use this framework to obtain an **ISAE 3000 and Organization Controls 2 (SOC 2)** certification.

If you're trying to wrap your head around how to best meet compliance requirements for the SSAE 18, you likely have a lot of questions. You want answers and need guidance on how to best meet the requirements. Get your organization ready for an audit - fast.

**Find out your organization's audit readiness now!**

KnowBe4's new **Compliance Audit Readiness Assessment (CARA)** is a free tool that helps you

your organization's readiness in meeting compliance requirements for the SSAE18 framework. The assessment guides you through a subset of specific **Control Components of the SSAE18 requirements** that help you identify areas within your current environment that may need attention.

CARA asks you to rate your readiness for each requirement and then provides an analysis of your results. It also provides guidance to help you create and implement controls to help **get your organization ready for a SOC 2 compliance audit.**

**Here's how CARA works:**

- • You will **receive a custom link** to take your assessment
- • **Rate your organization's readiness** for each requirement as Met, Partially Met, or Not Met
- • Get an **instant analysis and summary** of potential gaps in your cybersecurity preparedness
- • **Receive a personalized report** with control guidance suggestions to help you meet compliance
- • Results in just a few minutes!

**Take your first step towards understanding your organization's readiness for a SOC 2 compliance audit now.**

<https://info.knowbe4.com/soc2-compliance-audit-readiness-assessment-chn>

## [New APWG Report] Phishing Attacks Reach an All-Time High, More Than Tripling Attacks in Early 2022

Reaching more than 1 million attacks in a single quarter for the first time, new data on phishing attacks of 2022 show an emphasis on impersonation and credential theft.

The Anti-Phishing Working Group (APWG) collects data from a range of security vendors to provide the industry with insight into the current state of phishing attacks. Its latest quarterly report for Q1 2022 shows some "firsts" we've not experienced before in the explosive growth in phishing attacks. According to the report, in Q1 of this year:

- • The number of phishing attacks rose by 15% to over 1 million (1,025,968 total phishing attacks) for the first time
- • The number of unique phishing email subjects increased 25% to just over 53K, possibly indicating a greater focus on spear phishing attacks, tailoring email subjects to get the attention of their victim recipients

- The number of brands attacked has dipped below the previous record set in September of last year. Brand impersonation has been growing since a massive dip occurred in December, putting brand impersonation on track to surpass last year's number early.
- Impersonation attacks on social media were up 74% from the prior quarter to represent nearly half (47%) of such attacks.

**CONTINUED at the KnowBe4 blog:**

<https://blog.knowbe4.com/phishing-attacks-reach-an-all-time-high>

## AI Trained on 4Chan Becomes 'Hate Speech Machine'

This week, VICE reported something pretty horrible. A guy trained GPT using millions of 4chan posts, then turned the resulting monstrosity loose and let it post directly to the highly controversial message board.

Yannic Kilcher, an AI researcher and YouTuber, used more than three million recent 4chan threads from the /pol/ board, one of the most horrific portions of the already-notorious site. Kilcher wasn't exactly surprised by the results.

"The model was good in a terrible sense," Kilcher said in a video he uploaded last week. "It perfectly encapsulated the mix of offensiveness, nihilism, trolling, and deep distrust of any information whatsoever that permeates most posts on /pol."

AI researchers said it was an unethical experiment using AI. "This experiment would never pass a human research ethics board."

**Here is the VICE article for a good shiver:**

<https://www.vice.com/en/article/7k8zwx/ai-trained-on-4chan-becomes-hate-speech-machine>

Let's stay safe out there.

Warm Regards,

Stu Sjouerman, SACP  
Founder and CEO

KnowBe4, Inc.

**PS: THIS IS SCARY GOOD. Check out this incredibly realistic, real-time deepfake technology Simon Cowell!**

[https://www.flixxy.com/amazing-deep-fake-technology-americas-got-talent.htm?utm\\_source=4](https://www.flixxy.com/amazing-deep-fake-technology-americas-got-talent.htm?utm_source=4)

**PPS: Excellent review of the *must read* Security Culture Playbook on Goodreads:**

<https://www.goodreads.com/review/show/4747487754>

## Quotes of the Week

*"The only real failure in life is not to be true to the best one knows."*  
- Buddha - Philosopher (563 - 483 BC)

*"The important thing is not to stop questioning. Curiosity has its own reason for existing."*  
- Albert Einstein - Physicist (1879 - 1955)

**Thanks for reading CyberheistNews**

**You can read CyberheistNews online at our Blog**

<https://blog.knowbe4.com/cyberheistnews-vol-12-24-heads-up-what-about-the-risks-of-your-passwords>

## Security News

### Old Dog, New Trick: Hackers Use Logons in URLs to Bypass Email Scanners

A new phishing method uses a decades-old special URL format to take advantage of how security scanners and email clients interpret URLs, tricking victims into clicking.

It's called the HTTP Authorization header and it's been around since 1999 as part of RFC 2616 which defined the HTTP version 1.1. It specifies that an HTTP web request can contain a username and password in

just before the fully-qualified domain name. For example:

```
https://username:password@notarealdomainname.ext
```

Everything after the double forward slash and before the "@" is interpreted as authentication credentials. A new phishing method spotted by security researchers at Perception Point found that scammers were taking advantage of the "@," placing it in what would be perceived as the "middle" of a valid URL, only to trick email clients and scanning solutions into interpreting the URL as being benign, when it was anything but.

Take the idea of tricking a user into thinking they were going to be taken to the following URL:

```
http://www[.]office[.]com[/]login
```

But the URL actually reads:

```
http://www[.]office[.]com[/]login@maliciousdomain[.]com
```

**More details and links at the KnowBe4 blog:**

<https://blog.knowbe4.com/hackers-use-logons-in-urls-to-bypass-email-scanners>

## FTC Warns that Scammers are Turning to Cryptocurrencies

The U.S. Federal Trade Commission (FTC) has warned that people have reported losing over \$1 billion in crypto to scams since the beginning of 2021. The vast majority of these losses were due to investment scams, in which people are tricked into buying cryptocurrency with the promise of a large return.

Notably, younger people (aged 20 to 49) are more than three times as likely to fall for cryptocurrency scams than older people. When older people do fall for these scams, however, they tend to lose more money.

"Of the reported crypto fraud losses that began on social media, most are investment scams," the FTC said. "Indeed, since 2021, \$575 million of all crypto fraud losses reported to the FTC were about bogus investment opportunities, far more than any other fraud type. The stories people share about these scams describe a perfect storm: false promises of easy money paired with people's limited crypto understanding and lack of experience."

"Investment scammers claim they can quickly and easily get huge returns for investors. But those crypto 'investments' go straight to a scammer's wallet. People report that investment websites and apps lead to these losses."

track the growth of their crypto, but it's all fake.

"Some people report making a small 'test' withdrawal – just enough to convince them it's safe to go. When they really try to cash out, they're told to send more crypto for (fake) fees, and they don't get their money back."

The FTC offers the following tips to help people recognize cryptocurrency scams:

- Only scammers will guarantee profits or big returns. No cryptocurrency investment is ever guaranteed to make money, let alone big money.
- Nobody legit will require you to buy cryptocurrency. Not to sort out a problem, not to protect your money. That's a scam.
- Never mix online dating and investment advice. If a new love interest wants to show you how much they know in crypto, or asks you to send them crypto, that's a scam.

**New-school security awareness training can enable your employees to avoid falling for scam and other social engineering attacks. The FTC has the story:**

<https://www.ftc.gov/news-events/data-visualizations/data-spotlight/2022/06/reports-show-scammers-crypto-craze>

## What KnowBe4 Customers Say

"Good morning, we are now a week into our company-wide use of the PAB, (Phishing Alert Button) and we have since run several phishing campaigns. It has turned out to be a game changer, and our boss is being stopped in the hall by employees providing positive feedback.

"Major move forward in our efforts here, and so far it has been implemented without any major issues. Friday!"

- W.J., Analyst, Information Protection

## The 10 Interesting News Items This Week

1. • **From RSA: Phishing attacks will use powerful text generation, say machine-learning engineers**  
<https://www.scmagazine.com/analysis/rsac/phishing-attacks-will-use-powerful-text-generation-say>

[learning-engineers](#)

2. • **From RSA - Bruce Schneier: "Why AIs Will Become Hackers":**

<https://www.darkreading.com/dr-tech/why-ais-will-become-hackers>

3. • **The U.S.-Russia conflict is heating up — in cyberspace:**

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/2022/06/07/us-russia-conflict-is-heating-up-cyberspace/>

4. • **NSA, CISA, and FBI Expose China State-Sponsored Exploitation of Network Providers, De**

<https://www.nsa.gov/Press-Room/News-Highlights/Article/Article/3055748/nsa-cisa-and-fbi-expose-state-sponsored-exploitation-of-network-providers-d/>

5. • **How the Russia-Ukraine war makes ransomware payments harder:**

<https://www.csoonline.com/article/3663032/how-the-russia-ukraine-war-makes-ransomware-payments-harder.html>

6. • **[VIDEO] Create your hyperreal avatar using advanced AI and use it anywhere:**

<https://everyany.one/>

7. • **DOJ, FBI shut down marketplace for stolen Social Security numbers:**

<https://therecord.media/doj-fbi-shut-down-marketplace-for-stolen-social-security-numbers/>

8. • **Exclusive: Pro-Russia group 'Cyber Spetsnaz' is attacking NATO government agencies:**

<https://securityaffairs.co/wordpress/131967/hacking/exclusive-pro-russia-cyber-spetsnaz-is-attacking-nato-government-agencies.html>

9. • **Massive Facebook Messenger phishing operation generates millions:**

<https://www.bleepingcomputer.com/news/security/massive-facebook-messenger-phishing-operation-generates-millions/>

10. • **CISA exec: Lack of ransomware incident reporting is crippling defense efforts:**

<https://therecord.media/cisa-exec-lack-of-ransomware-incident-reporting-is-crippling-defense-efforts/>

Cyberheist 'Fave' Links

## This Week's Links We Like, Tips, Hints and Fun Stuff

- **SUPER Virtual Vaca: Top 10 Global Places To Visit In 2022 (If We Can Travel):**  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Hmu4bQxfpDA>
- **People Are Awesome Best of The Week: Delivering A Pizza While Skydiving:**  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7bnyNNy7nPc&t=1s>
- **Remarkable look at how this boy delivers bread by navigating his bicycle through busy traffic in Cairo, Egypt:**  
[https://www.flixxy.com/bread-delivery-in-cairo.htm?utm\\_source=4](https://www.flixxy.com/bread-delivery-in-cairo.htm?utm_source=4)
- **The Insane Plan to Lift a New York Theatre 30 feet:**  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MnlcCQR551o>
- **Amazing Athletics Coordination And Cooperation:**  
[https://www.flixxy.com/amazing-coordination.htm?utm\\_source=4](https://www.flixxy.com/amazing-coordination.htm?utm_source=4)
- **Tesla Cybertruck 'Space Camper' is out of this world. I want one:**  
<https://flipboard.com/video/newyorkpost/747e31b7b7>
- **Watch a catastrophically failing aluminum extruder open a gateway to hell:**  
<https://boingboing.net/2022/06/07/watch-a-catastrophically-failing-aluminum-extruder-open-a-gateway-to-hell.html>
- **Never Before Seen Footage of FPV racing drone inside tornado!:**  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MUzTxPDMcp4>
- **135 Interesting Historic Black and White Pictures Restored in Color, Shared By This Instagrammer:**  
<https://www.boredpanda.com/history-in-color-pics/>
- **A compilation of Red Bulls F1 crazy stunts. And they ask: "what should we do next?":**  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Tk61PsD\\_kAA](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Tk61PsD_kAA)
- **Formula Kite Racing Is Breathtaking. Check this out if you have a need for speed!:**  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YsfMblIjCOw>

- • **Falling Away - Epic Wingsuit Compilation in HD. This is a great one!:**  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ajnRLMNEp3I>
- • **For Da Kids #1 - Rescue Mink Loves Diving In His Swimming Pool:**  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yTOHV09Mfgs>
- • **For Da Kids #2 - This emu was facing homelessness. Then she met the man of her dreams:**  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4RS5QUK-Hto>
- • **For Da Kids #3 - Amazing Veranica and her talented dogs steal the show on America's Got Talent 2022!:**  
[https://www.flixyy.com/amazing-veranica-and-her-talented-dogs-agt-2022.htm?utm\\_source=4](https://www.flixyy.com/amazing-veranica-and-her-talented-dogs-agt-2022.htm?utm_source=4)
- • **For Da Kids #4 - 33-Year-Old Blind Pony Gets A Seeing-Eye Donkey:**  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uWSlqGpXvol>
- • **For Da Kids #5 - German Shepherd Puppy Meets Mom Cat with Newborn Kittens for the First Time:**  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Mx\\_7uZhKL84](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Mx_7uZhKL84)

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**Subject:** Register by this Friday 2/10 for the Virtual 4th National Medicare Advantage Summit Early Bird Registration Rates

**Date:** 2023/02/09 12:28:40

**Priority:** Normal

**Type:** Note

Hello Dr. Levine,

From time to time HCBizEd sends announcements which may be of particular interest to you—

**Virtual Fourth National Medicare Advantage Summit**  
**Register by this Friday 2/10 for the Summit Early Bird Registration Rates**  
**[Agenda Available](#) :: [Registration Now](#)**

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- Media Partners: Harvard Health Policy Review, Health Affairs and Inside Health Policy
- April 11-14, 2023
- [www.MedicareAdvantageSummit.com](http://www.MedicareAdvantageSummit.com)

**REGISTER BY 2/10/23 FOR EARLY BIRD RATES**

**[Click Here](#)** to Register by February 10, 2023 for Early Bird Registration Discount.

**AGENDA AVAILABLE**

**[Click Here](#)** to view draft agenda.

**CONTACT**

Phone: (800) 503-0078

Email: [registration@hcconferences.com](mailto:registration@hcconferences.com)  
Website: [www.medicareadvantagesummit.com](http://www.medicareadvantagesummit.com)

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The Virtual Fourth National Medicare Advantage Summit will take place on April 11-14, 2023 as a purely virtual event. After consultation with the Summit planning committee, the decision was made to offer the Summit as a virtual event again because the majority of health care providers are in significant financial distress as they emerge from the pandemic, facing staffing shortages and expense increases and supply chain challenges.

### KEYNOTE SPEAKERS



**Donald M. Berwick, MD**  
Lecturer of Health Care Policy, Department of Health Care Policy, Harvard Medical School; President Emeritus, Institute for Healthcare Improvement; Former CMS Administrator, Newton Centre, MA



**Michael Chernew, PhD**  
Chair, MedPAC; Leonard D. Schaeffer Professor of Health Care Policy, & Director, Healthcare Markets and Regulation Lab, Harvard Medical School, Cambridge, MA



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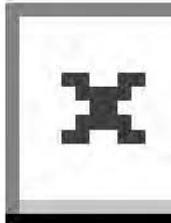
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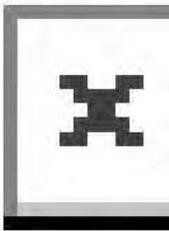
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- Increase COVID-19 Vaccine Booster Uptake Among Vulnerable Populations.
- Contagious Illnesses.
- Record High, Says HHS Secretary Becerra.
- Focus on Financing In Minimizing Risks Associated With Long COVID.
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... COVID-19 Testing Requirements For Residents.

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Medicaid Expansion.

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Study Shows Keytruda Met Main Goal For Treating Type Of Gastric Cancer.  
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### **Updated COVID-19 Vaccines During Final White House Briefing.**

2M) reports NIAID Director Dr. Anthony Fauci, the US' "leading infectious-disease expert who has served under several presidents, urged Americans to get updated coronavirus booster shots." He "announced he will leave government service next month, after 12 years at the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, which he has led for 38 years." Fauci said, "My message and my final advice is, for your own safety, for that of your family, get your updated covid-19 shot as soon as you're eligible to protect yourself and others."

12.7M) reports Fauci's "departure will conclude 54 years at the institute and 38 years as director." He said, "I gave my final advice to the president and the vice president, and I will continue to be available to the public. I will continue to be in the control of the chamber in the next Congress, have vowed to investigate Fauci as part of a slew of investigations in the next Congress. I will fully and testily will cooperate fully and testify before Congress."

12.7M) reports "Fauci urged Americans to keep up with their Covid-19 vaccinations in his final briefing from the White House. He said he will continue to be available to the public, but he will not be in the White House. He said he will continue to be in the control of the chamber in the next Congress, have vowed to investigate Fauci as part of a slew of investigations in the next Congress. I will fully and testily will cooperate fully and testify before Congress."

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reports Fauci "used his final White House briefing on Tuesday to denounce division and promote vaccines." He said "...not getting vaccinated for reasons that have nothing to do with public health, but have to do because of divisiveness. I don't want to see anybody hospitalized, and I don't want to see anybody die from COVID. Whether you're a far-right Republican or a far-left Democrat, we all want to see the country get back to normal."

reports during his final White House briefing, "Fauci suggested Tuesday that immunity from vaccination and prior infection will be important for the country's ability to weather the winter season of COVID-19 this winter, despite a growing array of new variants." He said, "We're hoping that a combination of people who have been vaccinated and boosted and uninfected, that there's enough community protection that we're not going to see a massive surge."

reports, "White House officials lavished praise onto Dr. Anthony Fauci during his final appearance at the podium. Health Secretary Xavier Becerra and Surgeon General Jerome Adams, along with White House press secretary Karine Jean-Pierre lauded Fauci's work to provide 'information and facts' to the American people throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, including his leadership on the effectiveness of vaccines, masks, and social distancing."

the story are [NBC News](#) (11/22, Egan, 4.91M), [CNBC](#) (11/22, Kimball, 7.34M), [CNBC](#) (11/22, Kimball, 7.34M), [CNN](#) (11/22, Mahr, Cancryn, 6.73M), [The Hill](#) (11/22, Mueller, 5.69M), [HuffPost](#) (11/22, Date, 363K), the [New York Daily News](#) (11/22, Smith-Schoenwalder, 1.91M), [Axios](#) (11/22, Saric, 1.26M), the [Washington Times](#) (11/22, Saric, 1.26M), and [The Washington Post](#) (11/22, Saric, 1.26M) article.

### **How to Increase COVID-19 Vaccine Booster Uptake Among Vulnerable Populations.**

reports on Tuesday, the White House "announced a six-week push ahead of the winter travel season to increase COVID-19 vaccine booster uptake among vulnerable populations, including seniors, young children, and people with underlying health conditions, all of which have disproportionately suffered severe disease and death during the coronavirus pandemic." NIAID Director Anthony Fauci said that the coronavirus is an unusual foe because of the emergence of new variants every few months. "Fauci pointed to the importance of showing that the recently authorized omicron-specific boosters protect against new variants." He said, "It is clear that the boosters are working, and we're seeing that in the data. We've seen substantial increases late December into January, and so going out and getting vaccinated right now is a good idea."

reports, "The White House is launching a six-week campaign to encourage Americans to get vaccinated against COVID-19. The campaign will focus on reaching seniors and the communities that were hardest hit by COVID-19. Owners of social media platforms should consider their personal responsibility regarding health disinformation, and the White House is asking them to do so, said White House COVID-19 response coordinator Ashish Jha said on Tuesday." He stated, "You can decide to trust America's physicians, or you can choose to believe what you see on social media."

reports as the US "faces its third Thanksgiving with COVID-19, Fauci said the country was inching closer to an 'equilibrium' with the virus. "The key to getting to you today is we can make that happen much sooner by vaccinating and by keeping updated on your booster. We're going to be focusing on multiple actions people can take to protect themselves – including masking and testing beforehand."

an Administration fact sheet states, "With winter and holiday gatherings right around the corner, more Americans are expected to get sick with COVID-19. The six-week campaign will focus on reaching seniors and the communities that were hardest hit by COVID-19. The campaign will be supported through paid media."

and [The Hill](#) (11/22, Weixel, 5.69M) also cover the story.

### **Respiratory Illnesses.**

reports, "As the nation grapples with a surge in respiratory illnesses making very young children and babies sick, the CDC is urging parents to get their children vaccinated against influenza and COVID-19."

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children are spending days and weeks in emergency rooms designed for short-term evaluation and treatment.” The Maryland and Virginia reporting the highest incidence of influenza-like illness...according to Centers for Disease Control Secretary Xavier Becerra to “declare an emergency to give providers and hospitals more flexibility to care for sick children.” (11/22, 6:41 p.m. EST, story 5, 2:30, Muir, 6.41M) reported CDC Director Dr. Rochelle Walensky said, “We are concerned to see increases in the number of COVID-19 cases.” NIAID Director Dr. Anthony Fauci, who is retiring from the NIH, also said, “For your own safety, for that of your family, get your updated COVID-19 shot as soon as you’re eligible.” Other sources in the story are The [CBS Evening News](#) [Video](#) (11/22, 6:41 p.m. EST, story 6, 2:20, O'Donnell, 3.8M), [NBC Nightly News](#) (11/22, Kekatos, 2.44M), [CBS News](#) (11/22, O'Donnell, 5.39M), [CNN Newsroom](#) [Video](#) (11/22, 868K), [CNN](#) (11/22, 1.16M), [ABC News](#) (11/22, 262K), and the [Detroit News](#) (11/22, Rahal, Thompson, 1.16M).

### **Record High, Says HHS Secretary Becerra.**

The administration “announced Tuesday that it’s seeing a big uptick in the number of new customers buying private health insurance...nearly “3.4 million people...signed up for coverage.” HHS Secretary Xavier Becerra told The Associated Press, “When we look at the demographic details about the new enrollees, but Becerra said he hopes the agency is reaching people in marginalized communities, including a number of Black, Latino and Native Americans who sought coverage.” The Washington Post reports HHS Secretary Xavier Becerra on Tuesday told Axios that enrollment through Affordable Care Act marketplaces is up “to ACA plans as employers and insurers grapple with higher premiums and higher out-of-pocket costs.” Almost 17 million people signed up to 19 – a 17% increase from last year, according to HHS data.” Becerra said, “I think we’re going to continue to see

growth.” (11/22, 93K) reports that in 2021, “a record-breaking 14.5 million people signed up for 2022 healthcare coverage through the ACA.” For 2023, “92% of enrollees will have access to options from three or more insurance companies when they sign up.”

### **Guidance on Minimizing Risks Associated With Long COVID.**

The CDC reports new guidance from HHS suggests masking and social distancing as measures to protect against people developing long COVID. The guidance “calls for a broad range of government policies to help people who continue to deal with the lingering effects of COVID-19.” The CDC notes that “learning from the experiences of long COVID patients is essential to accelerating understanding and breakthroughs.” HHS Secretary Xavier Becerra said, “Public spaces would help people avoid long COVID.”

The Washington Post (11/22, 45M) reports the analysis “was based in part on interviews with more than 60 people” and that included “patients with long COVID and health care providers.” Levine added, “many people with long COVID avoid public spaces and events due to a fear of getting sick and health impacts. Some may experience PTSD symptoms as a result of trauma they incurred during their acute illness.” The Washington Post (11/22, 626K) reports the CDC “defines Long COVID as experiencing symptoms for three months after” patients’ initial COVID-19 symptoms.” Becerra “extended the [COVID-19 pandemic] public health emergency until Jan. 11, 2023.”

### **Federal Agencies To Permanently Extend Telehealth Flexibility To Prescribe Medication For Opioid Use Disorder.**

The Washington Post reports that on Tuesday, DC Attorney General Karl A. Racine (D) “joined a bipartisan coalition of 45 attorneys general

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s beyond the expiration of the coronavirus public health emergency for prescribing buprenorphine, an FDA-sanctioned  
letter "to U.S. Attorney General Merrick Garland, Health and Human Services Secretary Xavier Becerra, DEA Administrator  
"explained in the letter that since the start of the pandemic...the DEA allowed audio-visual telemedicine services for  
once the public health emergency is lifted."

### **Promote Telehealth Amid Concerns Of Potential Abuse.**

tion Publication, 4K) reports, "States around the country are racing to find the best way to promote continued use of  
" More than "two dozen states have introduced some form of 'payment parity'...in order to create incentives for pro  
conducted through telehealth in 2020 increased 63-fold, from about 840,000 in 2019 to 52.7 million, according to t  
y for Planning and Evaluation." Former HHS Secretary Alex Azar is mentioned.

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### **and Baby Formula.**

, 125K) reports, "During the spring and summer, many families were impacted by the nationwide baby formula shortage  
the formula their babies need." The Arkansas Department of Health recommends that those struggling should reach

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### **"MPOX" In Effort To Destigmatize The Virus.**

"The World Health Organization is planning to rename monkeypox, designating it as 'MPOX' in an effort to destigmatize  
initial agreement the WHO made over the summer to consider suggestions for monkeypox's new name." It is also 'n  
I WHO leaders to change the name and suggested the U.S. would act unilaterally if the international body did not m  
ne story.

### **Provides 78% Protection Against Virus, UK Data Show.**

single dose of the monkeypox vaccine provides 78% protection against the virus, according to data from England relat  
effectiveness." This "new analysis reviewed data for the Bavarian Nordic vaccine in England between July 4-Nov. 3,  
tion 14 days after being vaccinated, while a second dose is expected to offer even greater and longer lasting protec  
s the UK findings "echo a report from September from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, which al  
fection." The CDC found "that people who were eligible for the vaccine but had not gotten the shot were 14 times m

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### **Optimistic US Is Better Prepared To Tackle Winter COVID-19 Surge.**

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ere, Mueller, 20.6M) reports on its front page, "Federal health officials expressed optimism on Tuesday that the nation compared with a year earlier, and they renewed their pleas for Americans to get an updated booster shot ahead of the doctor Dr. Anthony Fauci "said the administration was hopeful that the combination of infections and vaccinations had "what we saw last year at this time" when a brand-new variant, Omicron, emerged seemingly out of the blue." For his part, he said he was confident about the holiday season as long as Americans continued to get vaccinated and boosted." The

### **For COVID-19 Vaccination Drives.**

ication, 4K) reports HHS announced a new program aimed at supporting healthcare centers that provide COVID-19 vaccination. The \$350 million to such clinics across the United States, supports "mobile, drive-up, walk-up, and other community-based vaccination centers normally funded by the Health Resources and Services Administration.

in, Subscription Publication, 215K) reports Tuesday's "announcement comes one week after President Joe Biden asked for more data show that as of Nov. 15, "more than 228 million people had gotten their first two shots, and 35.3 million people

### **COVID-19 Booster Shots Offer More Protection Against Symptomatic Infection.**

Americans who got the updated COVID-19 booster shots are better protected against symptomatic infection than those who didn't. An early look at the new shots' real-world effectiveness shows they work, said Dr. Anthony Fauci, the nation's top infectious disease doctor before he retires from the government at the end of year...said what 'may be the final message I give you from the White House: Get your updated COVID-19 shot as soon as you're eligible.'" CDC study lead Dr. Ruth Link-Gelles said that "people getting the updated booster shot received their original COVID-19 vaccine at least eight months earlier."

The study found that "bivalent boosters were just 43% effective at preventing mild illness compared to receiving no vaccine in adults aged 65 and older." The study published Tuesday." According to the study, "in those aged 50 to 64 years, comparative protection against symptomatic infection was 65% for those aged 65 and older."

The study reports the study found that "when given eight months or more after a prior COVID shot, relative vaccine effectiveness against symptomatic disease was 56% among people aged 18-49 years, 48% among those 50-64 years, and 43% among persons aged 65 and older." The study "data are available in the *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report*."

The study includes [NBC News](#) (11/22, Lovelace, 4.91M), [CNN](#) (11/22, Goodman, 89.21M), [The Hill](#) (11/22, Choi, 5.69M), [Roll Call](#) (11/22, 1.1M)

### **Paxlovid.**

The report says, "The game-changing antiviral" Paxlovid "swooped in during the pandemic's worst winter with the promise of reducing hospitalizations and death rates have hardly budged." And according to the White House, "the problem is not the drug but the fact that only about one-third of America's 80-plus-year-olds with COVID ended up taking Paxlovid." Although one issue may be a lack of awareness about antiviral drugs." Gutman-Wei writes about discussions with physicians on who is not taking Paxlovid, and why, which is a reflection of political polarization. CDC Director Rochelle Walensky and White House Chief Medical Adviser Anthony Fauci are men

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## **Breach Of Advance Purchase Agreement For COVID-19 Vaccines.**

Global vaccine alliance Gavi on Tuesday rejected Novavax's claim that the group had breached an advance purchase agreement. Novavax "said on Monday that it had issued a notice to Gavi for terminating the agreement with immediate effect, citing the company's role in the COVAX facility, a global vaccine distribution program." However, a Gavi spokesperson told Reuters, "It is not a breach of the agreement...before the end of 2022," and also "said that it reserved all rights, including recovery of advance payments." [The Washington Post](#) (11/22, Gilgore, Subscription Publication, 897K) also covers the story behind a paywall.

## **Boosters Are Not Perfect, But Still Give Protection Against COVID.**

[The Washington Post](#) editorializes, "Thanksgiving and winter holidays in crowded indoor rooms, filled with family and friends" are "conditions that make it difficult to avoid infection." The efficacy of the new bivalent boosters have carried a hint of disappointment." But the bivalent COVID-19 booster shot is "not perfect, but it is better than the current shot." If the bivalent boosters are as effective as the current shot, the bivalent boosters might provide protection against hospitalization and death, and thus are especially important because they are better at evading the body's immune system." FDA top vaccine regulator Dr. Peter Marks "told reporters that the bivalent boosters are 'not perfect, but they are better than the current shot.' 'The bivalent boosters are 'not perfect, but they are better than the current shot.' 'The bivalent boosters are 'not perfect, but they are better than the current shot.' The Post concludes that while improvements are possible, "it is worth grabbing the booster that exists today, the jab that is available today."

## **People Get Their Booster Shot As Holidays Start.**

[The Washington Post](#) (11/22, 10.52M), "A few days ago, I went to Accokeek Drug & Health Care, a wonderful independently owned pharmacy in Accokeek, Md., to get that third coronavirus booster shot." Milloy describes efforts in Maryland to get people vaccinated, but, "All of the people I talked to - have received the third shot booster, according to federal data." Comparatively, "more than 70 percent of eligible people in Maryland have received their booster shot." After getting my booster, I began to feel a soreness in the arm, muscular aches and fatigue. Discomforting, yes. But worth it.

## **COVID-19 Treatment Emergency Approval.**

[The Washington Post](#) reports, "Shionogi & Co.'s experimental Covid-19 treatment Xocova won emergency approval in Japan, becoming the first new Covid-19 treatment to be approved in the country." In a Tuesday briefing, Japan's Health Minister Katsunobu Kato told reporters that the "health ministry authorized the use of Xocova for emergency use after a panel of experts recommended the treatment." And in "September, Shionogi said patients given a low dose of Xocova showed a faster recovery in the late-stage study."

Also see [The Wall Street Journal](#) (11/22, Fujikawa, Subscription Publication, 8.41M), [Endpoints News](#) (11/22, Brennan), and [STAT](#) (11/22, 10.52M).

## **U.S. Plans For Additional COVID-19 Pandemic Funding.**

[The Washington Post](#) (11/22, Rouben, 10.52M), Rachel Rouben writes about how the Biden Administration's request for funding to address the long-term health care needs of people suffering from long COVID symptoms. The CDC says "roughly 7 percent of U.S. adults said they were currently experiencing long COVID symptoms." The CDC is "helping vulnerable patients get the care they need by investing in places like health centers." Additionally, "the dollars are being used to fund research and development of treatments and a new initiative to understand long covid."

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### **Negative COVID-19 Tests For Return After Thanksgiving.**

(D.52M) reports public schools in Washington, DC are requiring personnel and students to produce a negative COVID-19 test. The schools started distributing coronavirus test kits on Thursday" and "families can also pick up test kits at any of the schools. The schools are not testing in schools but said campuses could consider testing." The schools also reports "the tests need to be taken on Sunday, Nov. 27, and results must be uploaded the same day to the D.C. Public Health Department. Regardless of vaccination status, won't be allowed to return to in-person school activities until completing an isolation period," the schools also reports.

### **COVID-19 Pandemic Restrictions For Visitors.**

The Chinese city of Shanghai has imposed new restrictions for people coming into the city over the next week. Visitors will be required to "stay" and those venues include "restaurants, pubs, shopping malls, supermarkets and wet markets." The restrictions are in effect until the end of the month.

### **Update On COVID-19 Pandemic.**

The World Health Organization (WHO) announced new COVID-19 pandemic statistics on Tuesday. The agency stated that "the number of new cases in the past three weeks and the daily average is rising." The increase in infections adds "to pressure on officials to get people back to their homes." A WHO spokesperson said, "some provinces are facing the most severe and complex situations."

### **Additional Vetting For COVID-19 Test Manufacturer IPO Applications.**

The Chinese government announced stringent requirements for proposed public listings for companies that manufacture COVID-19 tests. The requirements for listing applications comes "in response to media reports voicing concerns over fundraising plans by beneficiaries of the tests." The companies, like Gene Biotech Co Ltd, have obtained the regulatory green light recently to sell shares publicly" but the stock exchange is now requiring more vetting.

### **Workers Carrying Concerns About Contracting COVID-19.**

A new Gallup poll reveals worker sentiment toward COVID-19 risks. Gallup's new survey that the company published on Tuesday shows that "70% of workers are 'very' or 'moderately' concerned about COVID-19 exposure at their workplace." That represents "a decrease of 7 percentage points from a survey conducted in July" but also "a higher proportion of white-collar workers than blue-collar workers said they were worried about contracting the virus."

### **Millionaires Excluded From Expanded Unemployment Benefit Programs.**

New data from the Internal Revenue Service show that thousands of millionaires have received unemployment benefits. The IRS reported that "1.1 million in 2020 also collected jobless assistance that year" and "that included 4,500 people who earned between \$1 million and \$5 million in 2019" but "were not eligible for unemployment benefits" due to the expanded benefits approved by Congress to fend off an economic downturn.

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### **COVID-19 Pandemic Statistics.**

5M) reports new statistics regarding the COVID-19 pandemic in Michigan. As of Tuesday, "the Michigan health department reported 10 new fatalities. On Monday, "Michigan had a positivity rate of 11.2%."

6M) reports the seven-day average for new COVID-19 infections amounts to "a 30% decline from a daily average of 1,500 reported this last week." All public health departments in the greater Detroit area are adhering to CDC "guidelines that were updated by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and the Food and Drug Administration "signed off on updated versions of the mRNA vaccines developed by Pfizer and Moderna." The daily average for new cases in Michigan "dipped below 1,000 for the first time in seven months." However, "the rise in at-home testing."

### **Involving COVID-19 Pandemic Unemployment Benefits.**

Court has granted a motion to dismiss a lawsuit that sought to limit the power of the state's governor in terms of terminating unemployment benefits. The benefits, which came to \$300 per beneficiary and were initiated early on in the COVID-19 pandemic, were set to expire in September. The attorney for the plaintiffs stated "he will continue to fight in the state's lower courts for the benefits to be paid."

### **Diverge From Statewide Norms In Nebraska.**

According to (245K) reports the state capital of Lincoln represents somewhat of an outlier regarding the COVID-19 pandemic. In Lincoln, Nebraska, Lincoln's count was "down slightly from 273 the previous week" to 259. CDC data indicate "cases in Nebraska were down 10% from the previous week." Additionally, according to HHS, "there were 718 flu-related emergency room visits a week in Nebraska."

### **Associated With Deadly COVID-19 Outbreak.**

Princess Cruise Lines has restored one of its ships to service that was associated with an outbreak of COVID-19 in March 2020 after COVID-19 infections "resulted in more than a dozen deaths and over 700 cases." On Tuesday, though, the ship was still in port.

### **Approved for Premier Medical Laboratory COVID-19 Test.**

The Food and Drug Administration has issued an emergency use authorization for a COVID-19 test manufactured by Premier Medical. The test's evaluation of the results "may only be performed by CLIA-certified laboratories designated by Premier Medical."

### **Discussed COVID-19 Pandemic In Private Meeting With Chinese President.**

(245K) reports the White House says President Joe Biden discussed fentanyl exports and the origin of the COVID-19 pandemic in a private meeting with Chinese President Xi Jinping. A spokesperson for the Biden Administration said "the President raised both" issues after "Republican members of Congress raised the issues to address the problems. CDC data indicate "the COVID-19 virus has killed 1,073,115 Americans."

### **COVID-19 Among Emergency Room Patients In 2020.**

(245K) reports new CDC data indicate a lower occurrence of COVID-19 infections among emergency room patients in 2020 compared to 2019.

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7% of hospital emergency room visits in 2020 involved any mention of COVID-19" and "among 131 million ER visits, 0.3% mentioned a suspected COVID-19 case." The National Center for Health Statistics further revealed "another 0.3% mentioned suspected COVID-19 cases of the virus." However, "the numbers cover 'the very early stages of the pandemic' before medical professionals were fully aware of the virus."

### **Testing Sites In DC Area.**

Healthcare Dive (626K) reports Curative is shuttering its COVID-19 testing sites in the Washington, DC area. Curative cites a pending regulatory review by health insurance plans. Starting Nov. 30, "all but one of the sites operated alongside Arlington County will be closed by Dec. 15."

### **Against Medical Disinformation.**

Healthcare Dive (626K) reports on disinformation and misinformation propagated on far-right websites regarding healthcare. The article discusses the effectiveness of ivermectin against COVID-19, which the Food and Drug Administration has warned against. "Fauci stated, 'the people who have correct information, who take science seriously, who speak up about what they say on evidence and data, need to speak up more.'" Fauci and Surgeon General Dr. Vivek H. Murthy are addressing the alleged censorship of viewpoints on the pandemic on social media.

### **New Jersey.**

Healthcare Dive (626K) reports on an increase in COVID-19 cases in New Jersey. According to public health officials in the state, "New Jersey reported a 15% increase in cases from a week ago." CDC standards for COVID-19 risks indicate "six New Jersey counties...have 'low' community transmission." Additionally, "the statewide positivity rate for tests conducted Thursday...was 8.03%," below the CDC's threshold of 10%.

### **Vaccines In Nursing Homes.**

Healthcare Dive (626K) reports the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services and HHS are urging operators to update their COVID-19 treatments and vaccines. New CMS guidance stated, "nursing homes, in particular, should review and re-evaluate their protocols as respiratory infections are more commonly transmitted." CMS data show "as of Nov. 6, only 24.4%" of nursing home staff are fully vaccinated.

### **South Carolina On The Decline.**

Healthcare Dive (626K) reports on updated COVID-19 pandemic statistics for South Carolina over the past week. As the state reported 2,800 new COVID-19 cases [for] the week of Nov. 19," it "also said there were 16 new deaths related to the virus and hospitalizations decreased 14 percent. "The number of COVID-19 cases in South Carolina declined 5 percent in South Carolina compared with the previous week, and hospitalizations decreased 14 percent. "Further mutations of the BA.5 strain of Omicron, now dominate among the COVID-19 viruses sequenced" in the United States.

### **New COVID-19 Testing Requirements For Residents.**

Healthcare Dive (626K) reports that Shanghai in China has revamped mandatory testing protocols for its residents. According to city officials Tuesday, they "will require all residents to undergo a COVID-19 test every 7 days. The aim of the new testing is "to detect infected people as soon as possible, cut off the transmission chain, and curb the spread of the virus."

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### **What United States Citizens Use Masks To Limit Risk Of Long COVID.**

(7.45M) says HHS' recommendation that Americans use masks to control their risks of suffering from long COVID is "not a 'one-size-fits-all' solution." "Winter" and government studies indicate the chance of developing long COVID is 7% plus "lower if you're vaccinated." "We want to let people decide for themselves."

### **At-Home COVID-19 Test Results.**

The National Institutes of Health at the Department of Health and Human Services has launched a website intended to improve the accuracy of at-home COVID-19 test results. MyTestCount.org, is intended to encourage the anonymous reporting of test results by providing users with a streamlined reporting process. The program is part of a new Rapid Access Diagnostic (RADx) technology program and was supported by the National Institute of Biomedical Imaging and Bioinformatics.

### **Efforts To Repeal Vaccine Mandate For Healthcare Workers.**

Reports, "A coalition of attorneys general from 22 states have filed a petition under the Administrative Procedures Act to challenge the CDC's guidance that requires healthcare workers to receive full COVID-19 vaccination and any related guidance." CMS in November 2021 announced "Healthcare facilities must ensure staff are fully vaccinated or risk losing Medicare and Medicaid funding." The petition "challenges the CDC's guidance and asks the court to allow states to enact and enforce their own laws, as well as exercise their policing power, including compulsory vaccination."

### **Weighing Risks Of Attending Holiday Gatherings.**

Reports (7.45M) reports physicians "and public health experts who are caring for immunocompromised family members or who are advising patients to avoid crowded trains and planes, indoor dinners and big get-togethers for the third year in a row." Five health experts who are advising patients to avoid crowded trains and planes, indoor dinners and big get-togethers for the third year in a row.

### **Precautions During Holiday Season Amid Rise In COVID, Flu, RSV Cases.**

Reports (7.45M) that the holiday season will make it "feel like a return to normalcy for many families," experts "say they don't want to see a resurgence of diseases like RSV and flu are making a big comeback." UC Davis Health's Dr. Dean Blumberg said, "We are seeing a rapid rise in RSV cases. It's good news that COVID isn't spiking right now." Before gathering with others, "Blumberg said one of the most important things is to wear a mask, ignoring it is not worth the risk."

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### **Hemophilia B Gene Therapy.**

Reports (7.45M) that the Food and Drug Administration cleared "the first gene therapy Hemgenix, a "\$3.5 million one-time" IV treatment "for a rare form of hemophilia B." The price tag shortly after the FDA approval, saying its drug would ultimately reduce health care costs because patients would not need regular infusions. However, "the price appeared to exceed that of several other gene therapies priced upwards of \$2 million." The FDA's decision "marks a significant milestone for patients with hemophilia B and represents important progress in the development of innovative therapies." Australian drugmaker CSL Ltd said, "We are confident this price point will generate significant cost savings for the overall healthcare system."

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agency credits to the automated process it utilizes to determine eligibility for the program.” The improper payment rate was 21.69%.” CMS Administrator Chiquita Brooks-LaSure said the “low rate of improper payments in the Federally-facilitated program integrity, furthering the Biden-Harris Administration’s goal of maintaining the long-term sustainability of CMS’ programs and reducing fraud.”

### **Reduce Emissions.**

A recent (11/22, 215K) reports, “The Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality has tips for how healthcare organizations can reduce their carbon footprint. The AHRQ and the Institute for Healthcare Improvement suggest hospitals do these five things to meet that goal: “transition to climate-friendly solutions for pharmaceuticals and medical devices,” minimize excess use and leaks of anesthetic gases and

### **Indian Health Council Receives \$400K IHS Grant To Address Alzheimer’s Disease, Dementia.**

A recent (11/22, 587K) reports, “A Native American health clinic in North County [California] has received a \$400,000 grant” from the Indian Health Council to address patients living with Alzheimer’s disease and dementia.” The grant “will be used by Indian Health Council to hire a nurse practitioner to address cognitive decline.”

### **Republican Lawsuit Alleging Government Collusion With Social Media Companies To Sensor COVID-19-Related Speech.**

A recent (11/22, 519K) reports, “Dr. Anthony Fauci will sit for a deposition on Wednesday as part of a Republican lawsuit against the Biden administration to force the government to censor free speech related to COVID.” Last month, a federal judge decided “that Fauci’s high-profile public comments about the virus were ‘in the public interest’ in Missouri and Louisiana.” They “first filed the lawsuit in May, and accused top-ranking government officials of working to ‘suppress the free use of combating misinformation’ in order to achieve greater censorship.”

The [Washington Post](#) (11/22, Desrochers, 519K) and the [St. Louis Post-Dispatch](#) (11/22, Erickson, 694K) also cover the story.

The [Washington Post](#) (11/22, 519K) reports that on Tuesday, Fauci “defended and promoted his ‘communications strategy.’ The [Center Square \(IL\)](#) (11/22, Mueller) reports that on Tuesday, Fauci “defended and promoted his ‘communications strategy.’ You counter misinformation and disinformation is to do whatever you can, as often as you can, to provide correct information. The fight against misinformation and disinformation seems to be tireless in that effort and it’s going to be very difficult.”

### **Fauci’s Final White House Briefing.**

The [New York Times](#) (11/23, Bendix, 20.6M) reports on NIAID Director Anthony Fauci giving his final White House Briefing. “Fauci said he would not wear a mask, use hand sanitizer, or take bleach baths. “Don’t use bleach, go nuts.” Fallon added, “Dr. Fauci is 81 years old. Today, Biden was like, ‘Congrats on your early retirement.’” Fauci gave his final coronavirus briefing before retiring at the end of the year. And you can tell he’s kinda given up, because he gave the final briefing.”

### **Alcohol Consumption Common During Holiday Season, Experts Say.**

A recent (11/22, 1.2M) reports that according to American Addiction Centers CEO Thomas Britton, the holidays can “lead to increases in stress, isolation, and accidents, and other adverse effects of large amounts of drinking.” Britton “and other experts say there are healthy ways to celebrate with you and having an exit strategy in case things get too tempting.” National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA) “encourage people to moderate themselves with standard drinks.” Koob “said the USDA recommends no more than two alcoholic drinks per day for men and one for women.”

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### **House Pause Federally Funded Gain-Of-Function Research.**

“Senate Republicans are demanding that the White House pause all federally funded gain-of-function research, which is a major priority for the administration.” On Tuesday, five senators sent a letter to White House Office of Science and Technology Policy Director Dr. Arati Prabhakar demanding that the White House pause all federally funded gain-of-function research.” They wrote, “We are extremely troubled about the enduring culture of noncompliance at NIH and the alarming number of [gain-of-function] research projects, enforce grant requirements, or conduct appropriate research risk assessments.”

### **NIDA Director Says.**

“Safe consumption sites have proven useful in saving patients from overdosing, a top federal drug official said. “We need to look at it as a solution in context.” She also “stressed that clinics providing the service have reported success.”

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### **Settlements.**

“Pfizer Inc. and Amgen Inc. have finalized the terms of settlements worth more than \$6.6 billion to resolve litigation over the marketing of opioid painkillers, the companies and lawyers for the governments said Tuesday.” Under the settlements, “Pfizer will pay up to \$2.37 billion, while Amgen will pay up to \$2.37 billion.”

### **Crisis Litigation Funds.**

“The Justice Department states are beginning the high-stakes task of deciding how to spend billions of dollars” worth of opioid crisis litigation funds “to help states and communities across the country that have borne the brunt of the opioid crisis.”

### **Prosecutors By Distributing Fentanyl Test Strips Despite It Being Illegal.**

“A prosecutor in Fayetteville, Arkansas, says she has given away thousands of [fentanyl] test strips around the Fayetteville, Arkansas, community” even though “it is illegal to distribute them.” Kelly “is aware that what she is doing is technically illegal, but insisted the tests can save lives and change the law during next year’s session.”

### **Opioid Business.**

“The Wall Street Journal reports “a New York judge has confirmed Gil Kerlikowske, a former national drug czar in the Obama administration, will receive \$25,000 a month if the company reorganizes in bankruptcy court, it “will pay him up to \$25,000 a month, according to court documents.”

### **In Opioid Settlement Money.**

“The Wall Street Journal reports, “More than \$30 million in settlement money is coming to Louisville to help fight opioid addiction.” The city’s Wellness Chief of Staff Taylor Ingram, “the money from the settlements will be used to go toward treatment and prevention services, long-term recovery by funding transportation and housing for people working to recover from addiction and to support people in recovery.”

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### **Los Angeles Becomes Fentanyl Distribution Hub.**

(11/14, 45M) reports, "Violent Mexican drug cartels that traffic fentanyl and counterfeit pills have turned Los Angeles into a major distribution hub. The city has become ground zero in the trafficking pipeline as the Sinaloa and Jalisco New Generation cartels have increased their production of counterfeit drugs." Homeland Security Special Agent Eddie Wong "said in the past three years, HSI has seen an 80% increase in fentanyl seizures."

### **More Fentanyl in Fatal Dose, DEA Finds.**

(11/14, 526K) reports, "Fentanyl-laced pills being smuggled into the U.S. are becoming stronger and deadlier, according to a new report from the DEA. The DEA's "lab found that an average of six out of ten of the fake-prescription pills that contained fentanyl have a fatal amount." "For every one out of ten such pills analyzed by the agency had a fatal amount."

### **More Support for Narcan.**

(11/14, 888K) reports, "Some local governments and nonprofit organizations are using vending machines to distribute Narcan to help reduce overdose deaths." Such vending machines have already been installed in cities like "Philadelphia and Winston-Salem, North Carolina, to hand out to community members to use in emergencies." Wittern Group Chief Marketing Officer Ashley H. Wittern "is associated with getting these types of supplies, so they don't want to interact with someone face to face." The improved availability of Narcan, including Narcan, in 2019 to increase its availability."

### **Dallas' Request To Implement Overdose Mapping Is A Top Priority.**

(11/22, 772K), Sharon Grigsby writes, "Washington repeatedly assures us that preventing fentanyl from killing more people is a top priority. It's checked off the calendar since Mayor Eric Johnson asked the head of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services for help with a public safety effort without violating HIPAA privacy rules." She adds, as deaths continue to increase, "Dallas waits for Washington to act. Suburban cities seem to have had no qualms about launching." Grigsby concludes, "Washington, how about if you ban fentanyl in Dallas?"

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### **Experiencing Anxiety, Few Have Tried "Gold-Standard" Exposure Therapy.**

(11/14, 6M) reported that while "one in 11 American children has an anxiety disorder," a figure that has been "growing steadily over the past decade." Exposure therapy, which is "considered a gold-standard approach for tackling anxiety, phobias and obsessive-compulsive disorder," is "effective in 60-90% of cases within 10-15 sessions and has minimal side effects." However, "financial barriers and a lack of providers have kept the treatment out of reach for many."

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### **Million Surprise Bills, Data Indicates.**

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e, 93K) reports that up to “9 million surprise medical bills have been prevented since January due to the impact of the new law,” says the Blue Shield Association (BCBSA).” Such claims “were subject to the protections of the law, which limit out-of-pocket costs to 9 million NSA eligible claims, or about 0.5% of all commercial claims. Of these, 275,000 were submitted to IDI for review.”

### **Discourage Health Benefit Cutoffs During Labor Disputes.**

California assembly member Jim Wood “is hoping a new California law he authored will dissuade employers from cutting health benefits for workers to maximize state subsidies for coverage purchased through Covered California, the state’s health insurance marketplace.” The law, supported by the California Labor Federation, California Teamsters Public Affairs Council, and the Los Angeles County Federation of Labor, would require employers to cover workers as if their incomes were just above the Medicaid eligibility level.” However, “even when workers do qualify for Medicaid, they often lose the health plans they had through their job – sometimes consuming 30% to 40% of their income, proponents said.”

### **Support From Employers Rethinking Their Offerings For Women’s Health Benefits.**

Menopause – a condition that’s little discussed and poorly understood – is gaining more attention from employers rethinking their health benefits. Experiencing telltale symptoms like hot flashes, fatigue and mood swings is becoming more essential after the pandemic disrupted the workforce.” The support “dovetails with a reassessment of reproductive health benefits for younger workers paying for out-of-pocket costs without covering treatments for hormonal changes, bone density, heart health and other symptoms associated with menopause.” Rep. Amodeo and Cindy Axne (D-IA) in September “introduced the ‘Menopause Research Act’ which would put \$100 million into

### **Limiting Abortion Ads.**

Sen. Mark Warner (D-VA) and Rep. Elissa Slotkin (MI-D) “on Tuesday urged Google to do more to ensure that ads only show what is actually offered.” In 2019, Google brought in a policy “that requires those advertising alongside search queries related to abortion to clearly state whether they offer abortion services.” However, the legislators “expressed concern that the search giant does not consistently apply those rules, which can lead to misleading ads that encourage visitors to keep their pregnancies.” A spokesperson for Google said its staff “regularly review our policies and have

### **Regulation Of Abortion Pills Using Wastewater Regulations.**

“Abortion opponents and their allies in elected office are seizing on an unusual strategy after suffering a wave of electoral losses.” The two “pills mifepristone and misoprostol...have become the most common method of abortion in the U.S. for medical abortion. Last week a petition asked the FDA “to require any doctor who prescribes the pills to be responsible for ensuring they are properly stored and treated as medical waste rather than flushed down the toilet and into the wastewater.” And “if the FDA ignores the petition, opponents plan to sue the agency with the conservative legal powerhouse Alliance Defending Freedom.” The Center for Drug Evaluation and Research

### **Lawsuit Bolsters Idea Of Term Limits For Supreme Court Justices.**

the [New York Times](#) (11/22, 20.6M), “The most striking detail in the recent investigation by The New York Times is that Justice Samuel Alito or his wife may have leaked information to conservative friends in 2014 about the outcome of” a lawsuit

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h a number of Republican justices, Alito included, appear to have been the targets of a sophisticated and well-funded effort for moneyed and conservative interests as the justices were willing to give." Bouie says, "Long tenure – and in the process, an air of arrogance and contempt for the public." That is why most Americans currently support term limits for Supreme Court justices.

### **Supreme Court To Focus On Professional Ethics.**

(11/22, 10.52M), Ruth Marcus says the "Supreme Court must get its ethics act together" following "a string of embarrassing incidents that suggest that justices, to step aside from involvement in any case in which their impartiality 'might reasonably be questioned.'" She says, "The Court's behavior...and the signals that," they are sending, "especially when they accept travel and entertainment expenses from private parties."

### **Supreme Court On Alito Over Alleged 2014 Leak.**

(11/22, Subscription Publication, 8.41M) criticizes the political campaign against the US Supreme Court. The Journal says, "Samuel Alito leaked his decision in a lawsuit challenging the ACA's contraception mandate."

### **Another Leak May Cause Americans To Lose Trust In The Supreme Court.**

(11/21M) op-ed, "The Supreme Court's reputation was already in question when The New York Times released an exposé about anti-abortion groups allegedly getting tipped off in 2014 about a yet-to-be-released blockbuster decision." Ziegler says the Supreme Court "seems convinced that it can continue on its current trajectory no matter how unimpressive its performance is," and the court will lose touch with the will of the people." Should that happen, it would prove "dangerous" to the institution.

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### **Employees Allegedly Inappropriately Breached Patient Records.**

(11/22, 10.52M) reports, "Kaiser Foundation Health Plan of the Mid-Atlantic States "has reported that it discovered unauthorized access to its electronic medical records for more than 8,500 individuals." Kaiser Permanente determined "that one of its employees inappropriately accessed patient records on a regular basis," and the employee is "no longer working for the company" following an internal investigation. No "social media posts or other communications," and there is "no evidence that the accessed information" was "shared or used to commit fraud, the company said."

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### **Supreme Court Title 42 Before December Deadline.**

(11/22, 10.52M) reports, "Fifteen states have intervened to try to keep in place a pandemic-related policy that allows the government to push new security measures on the southern border." The motion to intervene aims to "delay a court order issued by the Supreme Court on Dec. 21." In May, a group of 24 Republican states secured an injunction "to maintain the expulsion policy" after the Supreme Court's Department of Health and Human Services and Prevention determined that it was no longer needed to protect public health." A group of 15 conservative states "is making a last-ditch effort to keep in place a Trump-era public health rule that allows the government to keep migrants from seeking asylum at the border, based on the need to help prevent the spread of disease."

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er enforcement as Republicans are about to take control of the House from the Democrats following midterm elections." ACLU lawyer Lee Gelernt said, "Title 42 is not about asylum general border enforcement but public health, and the

ports the states "argued in their Monday motion that they should be allowed to continue defending the Title 42 policy to present the State's interests in the continued validity of Title 42." The filing said, "Federal Defendants have essential further arguments in support of it, let alone make all arguments that the States would press."

ers (11/22, Hesson, Cooke), the [Arizona Republic](#) (11/22, Perez, 1.05M), [The Hill](#), (11/22, Schonfeld, 5.69M) and the

### **Season Amid Higher Food Prices, Declining Donations.**

ports, "Food banks across the country will enter this holiday season with their resources strained as inflation continues. Many food bank warehouses are more thinly stocked than in recent years, said Katie Fitzgerald, chief operating officer for food banks across the country." In Feeding America's network, over 40% of food banks "are running a budget deficit

### **Services Draft Report Highlights Allegations Of Racial Bias Against Agency.**

0.6M) reports on allegations of racial bias against New York City's Administration for Children's Services. Now, it "turns equity audit the agency commissioned but never publicly released." A draft report based on "a 2020 survey of more than Brooklyn and the Bronx, along with many parents and advocates, described a 'predatory system that specifically targeted the report said, "Black and brown parents are treated at every juncture as if they are not competent parents capable

### **ing Bike Lanes Hinder Safe Parking For People With Disabilities, Violating ADA.**

0.52M) reports, "A lawsuit filed by two disabled women this week accuses the District of adopting protected bike lanes in violation of the Americans With Disabilities Act." The plaintiffs are "seeking to have the District Department of Transportation rethink its approach to the city." They allege that the "design makes it difficult for people who use wheelchairs or walkers to get safely from

### **Improving \$50M Paratransit Contract.**

0.6M) reports, "Detroit City Council approved then reversed its vote on a five-year, nearly \$50 million contract to provide paratransit service and responding to community complaints about the contractor." The current provider, "Transdev, would have to take on much of the administrative responsibilities that riders complained about previously." Multiple "paratransit riders and advocates contacted with Transdev or for a shorter contract period after facing multiple issues with the provider's service, such as late

### **Creating Inclusive Environment For People With Disabilities.**

0.6M), Northwest Center Employment Transformation Collective Senior Director Nora Genster writes, "American employment environments are not inclusive, neurotypical and unchanging." However, "the reality is as many as 25% of job seekers and current employees are people with disabilities." Americans cope with long COVID-19." She adds, "For many disabled people, inaccessible environments and workplaces

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cludes, "To create an enabling environment, employers must prioritize a culture of accommodation."

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### **Disproportionate Number Of TV Ads For Sugary Drinks, Snacks, Researchers Say.**

) reports, "Black and Hispanic consumers are targeted with a disproportionate amount of TV advertisements for sugary drinks, which can lead to more diet-related diseases such as diabetes, researchers found." Black "youth and adults see between 9% to 20% more ads for sugary drinks than white consumers. These ads "often feature rap and youth-oriented themes, according to the recent study."

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### **Key Part Of Medicare Advantage Plan For Retired NYC Workers Unlawful.**

erfeldt, 2.51M) reports New York City "Mayor Adams' administration suffered another setback Tuesday in its effort to force retirees to accept a Medicare Advantage plan. An appeals court upheld a ruling that deemed a key part of the plan unlawful." The effort was "contingent on the administration's ability to force retirees to stay on their traditional Medicare coverage instead of accepting the" Medicare Advantage plan. But in March, "Mayor Adams' plan ran afoul of" local law 12-126 "that requires the city to provide retirees with premium-free health coverage for life."

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### **Government Overpayments In Medicare Advantage.**

26K) reports, "Government payments to Medicare Advantage plans are riddled with overcharges and errors, newly released audits show. The government paid \$1.2 billion in net overpayments for about 18,000 patients, according to the audits obtained by Kaiser Health News through a Freedom of Information Act request. The government is trying to recover \$650 million," although "that hasn't happened yet because the calculations haven't been finalized."

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### **Medicaid Expansion.**

40K) reports, "Lawmakers in the 67th Wyoming Legislature will decide whether to expand the state's Medicaid program. The House Health and Human Services Committee voted "to sponsor a bill that would allow the Wyoming Department of Health director, insurance commissioner and attorney general to obtain a state amendment," which "would provide Medicaid coverage for all individuals described under the federal Medicaid law with an income below a certain amount."

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### **Hypocalcemia In Patients With CKD Treated With Prolia.**

ption Publication, 4K) reports the Food and Drug Administration "is investigating the risk of severe hypocalcemia with the use of the osteoporosis medicine Prolia in patients with advanced kidney disease on dialysis treated with the osteoporosis medicine Prolia." The "FDA review of interim results shows a higher risk of hypocalcemia, or low calcium levels in the blood, in patients with advanced kidney disease."

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### **Significant Production Increase Of Biosimilars.**

"Generic drug makers Teva Pharmaceutical Industries and Sandoz say they are planning a significant ramp-up in production of generic versions of drugs such as rheumatoid arthritis and cancer – aiming to increase their share of an expanding market." Teva and Sandoz executives say they are planning to increase production of Teva's top-selling arthritis drug, which came off-patent in Europe and is due to come off-patent in the U.S. next year. However, both Teva and Sandoz "face commercial and regulatory challenges," and the US "FDA typically expects additional data for a generic drug, which would allow it to be automatically replaced with a biosimilar at the pharmacy counter."

### **Lawsuit Against Hikma Pharmaceuticals Over Generic Version Of Heart Disease Drug Vascepa.**

By Yasiejko, Griffis, Subscription Publication, 4K) reports, "Drugmaker Amarin Pharma Inc. asked the Federal Circuit to reverse a 2017 district court order clearing it to market a generic alternative to Amarin's heart disease drug Vascepa." Amarin filed a lawsuit in the 9th circuit court of appeals in January. A 4th district court opinion that found Hikma did not induce infringement of Amarin's patents with a 'skinny' label of its generic version of Vascepa.

### **Increased Investor Interest Ahead Of FDA Decision On Lung Cancer Treatment.**

By Yasiejko, Griffis, Subscription Publication, 4K) reports, "Cancer drugmaker Mirati Therapeutics Inc. is attracting fresh takeover interest from large pharmaceutical companies, according to a source familiar with the matter said." Mirati "has been weighing strategic options including a potential sale for some time, said the people, who asked not to be named."

Mirati has become a more attractive target for companies seeking to expand their cancer treatment offerings since large pharmaceutical companies are expected to announce their decision on the company's lung cancer treatment adagrasib by Dec. 14, and an approval will make the drug a more attractive target on the report."

### **Keytruda Met Main Goal For Treating Type Of Gastric Cancer.**

By Yasiejko, Griffis, Subscription Publication, 4K) reports, "Merck & Co Inc said on Tuesday its therapy involving cancer drug Keytruda in combination with chemotherapy met the main goal of a key study designed to show it was better than an existing treatment on the market, stoking hopes for approval of the combination as a standalone treatment, the drugmaker said." Merck cited the study and said the "treatment also helped improve overall survival compared with chemotherapy as a standalone treatment, the drugmaker said."

Merck also reports the story.

### **Blood Cancer Drug Blenrep In US After Failing Key Study Goal.**

By Yasiejko, Griffis, Subscription Publication, 4K) reports, "GSK will stop selling its blood cancer drug Blenrep in the United States, it said on Tuesday, in another setback for the British drugmaker. GSK said it has begun the process to withdraw Blenrep's marketing authorisation...but would continue trial production in the US to ensure continued access to the treatment." GSK Chief Medical Officer Sabine Luik said in a statement, "We will continue to work with the FDA to ensure continued access to the treatment for this important treatment option for patients with multiple myeloma."

See also [FiercePharma](#) (11/22, Liu, 12K), [STAT](#) (11/22, Feuerstein, 262K), and [BioPharma Dive](#) (11/22, Pagliarulo).

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### **Helps Hospitals Reduce Impact On Climate Crisis.**

As the world stares down the barrel of climate change, the health care system – which is responsible for about 9% of global greenhouse gas emissions – has held up telehealth as a prime strategy to cut down on carbon by eliminating travel. “But while digital health is a promising tool, research into its impacts is still very nascent” and often focuses “on the marginal benefits of trading one form of emissions for another, such as electronic health records and e-prescriptions to online referrals and robotic surgery,” and emphasize the need to take a holistic approach to reducing the health care system’s carbon footprint.

### **Help Slow Memory Decline, Study Says.**

People who eat or drink foods with antioxidant flavonols could experience a slower rate of memory decline, according to a new study. “We studied 1,000 people without dementia with an average age of 81,” found the flavonol kaempferol was “the most effective, according to our analysis.” The study “suggests that increased physical activity, maintaining healthy blood pressure and practicing cognitive stimulation may help slow cognitive decline rates.”

### **Study Links Lead Exposure To Segregation And Lower Test Scores For Black Children.**

A new study (844K) reports lead exposure “has long been linked to poor educational outcomes,” and a “new study suggests that lead exposure is a key factor in educational achievement gaps in cities like Milwaukee.” The study “found an association between high levels of lead exposure and lower test scores, while Black children “who had low lead levels and lived in highly segregated neighborhoods scored relatively similar to white children,” those who had “high lead levels and lived in very segregated neighborhoods had significantly lower reading test scores than those in more integrated neighborhoods.”

### **Healthcare Worker Deaths Cited For Serious Violations.**

A new report (844K) reports, “The nursing home in western Wisconsin where a nurse is facing felony elder abuse charges has failed to state regulators and failed to complete an investigation, according to a state inspection report.” Spring Valley Home Care is one of the facilities that fall into the most serious category, where a patient was in “immediate jeopardy.”

### **Study Shows Growth In Acute Hospital-At-Home Technology.**

A new report (215K) reports, “Health systems are increasingly investing in acute hospital-at-home technology to reduce costs and improve patient outcomes.” By equipping “patients’ homes with biometric devices, along with tablets and other ways to communicate with healthcare providers, hospitals can avoid the need for intensive care.” Some “safety groups and unions argue the tools, data and operational efficiency are insufficient to ensure patient safety.” However, “providers claim the technology, combined with in-person visits, has paved the way for a safe transfer of patients from hospital to home.”

### **Study Shows Disproportionate Risk Of Toxic Exposure Through Salmon.**

A new report (11/22, Schick, Miller, 235K) reports the Columbia River Basin is “contaminated by more than a century of industrial activity,” and “tribes in the region “to weigh unknown health risks against sacred practices.” Tribes have “pushed the government to pay for more testing,” but “done so little testing for toxic chemicals in fish that even public health and environmental agencies admit they don’t know how much is safe to eat.”

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ic about human health risks." So Oregon Public Broadcasting and ProPublica did their own testing, and discovered "w  
face a disproportionate risk of toxic exposure through their most important food." The testing showed concentrations  
and both Oregon and Washington's health agencies deem unsafe at the levels consumed by many of the 68,000-plus  
oday."

### **Retooled eGFR Equation, Researchers Say.**

decades, health care providers have diagnosed kidney disease with blood tests that use an equation for estimating  
ent levels of creatinine...in African Americans" until an expert panel in 2021 "recommended a retooled eGFR equation  
oup of subjects." The College of American Pathologists on Tuesday "published in the Journal of the American Medical  
e country have adopted the new equation." Within six months, a third of the surveyed laboratories "had already ad  
end of the year.

### **Due To "Historical Hangups."**

n so many potential viruses in play, it would be helpful if Americans had a way to distinguish between different ailme  
ctors decide when it makes sense to prescribe treatments like Tamiflu, which need to be started within two days of o  
S.," though "not for lack of technology." The issue instead "comes down to historical hangups – and the need to find  
slow to approve over-the-counter tests like pregnancy tests.

### **Follow-Up Of Millions Who Have Had Preeclampsia.**

wing subset of care providers is advocating for closer follow-up of the millions of people who have had preeclampsia  
or cardiovascular disease." Considering "about one in three women in the U.S. have cardiovascular disease, better s  
fore they develop the disease in the first place."

5M) reports jails "have become more fatal." Deaths have "spiked in cities across the country, including New York, O  
gia have also recorded statewide increases in deaths," with COVID-19 only accounting for "part of the rising toll." Ja  
al health issues exacerbated by the pandemic and the repurposing of beds in solitary confinement, once available to  
, jails "have also in many cases violated minimum safety standards or failed to provide adequate medical and ment  
presumed innocent."

### **Is Complicated.**

care physician, writes in the [New York Times](#) (11/22, 20.6M) that the decision to start extracorporeal membrane ox  
ht with danger." Patients on ECMO "cannot live outside the I.C.U. They need constant monitoring, often daily blood  
s concludes, "The greater ethical challenge comes in cases where ECMO could enable a patient to continue a life tha  
or days or weeks or maybe even longer."

### **Of Animals' Humanity.**

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acca, 20.6M) reports a "growing body of research suggests that farmed species are brainy beings: Chickens can and on one another's emotions." However, scientists "still know far less about the minds of chickens or cows than they r that has spent more than 35 years trying to end animal agriculture," has "always held that farm animals are sentient e group is now "trying to collect enough data to convince the general public of the humanity of animals."

### **bonuses To Executives.**

enedy, 855K) reports, "Bright Health Group is rewarding its executives with more equity awards, even as the compa a filing, the company disclosed that executives "will get 27.4 million restricted stock units (RSUs) as retention bonus

### **o Evaluate Pesticide's Impact On Endangered Butterflies, Bees.**

eral appeals court on Tuesday set a hard deadline for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to evaluate whether nblebees, which it called 'extraordinary' relief after the agency ignored an earlier ruling." According to the US Court 7 to evaluate the dangers of the insecticide cyantraniliprole, which it had registered without reviewing its impact on ensure its compliance with the Endangered Species Act (ESA)." subscription Publication, 4K) also covers the story.

### **sible Federal Sanctions.**

burn, Fallon, 388K) reports, "On the day the state-run Menlo Park veterans home faced possible federal financial sa team' to help fix problems with infection control and management amid an ongoing COVID outbreak." Murphy's act nursing home had placed its residents and staff in 'immediate jeopardy' of both a life-threatening illness and poten nclear whether Murphy's action will satisfy the U.S. Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, which imposed a d ould stop paying for new admissions."

### **Tobacco Companies Over Cigarette-Butt Litter.**

ity of Baltimore has launched what it called a 'first of its kind' lawsuit targeting tobacco companies Philip Morris, Alt discarded filters that cost millions to clean up every year." Baltimore's lawsuit "said the tobacco companies' refusal ut the dangers of discarded filters contributes to an estimated \$5.3 million annual bill for cleanup, paid primarily by ages from lowered property values and environmental harms."

the story are the [Winston-Salem \(NC\) Journal](#) (11/22, Craver, 226K) and [WBAL-AM](#) Baltimore (11/22, Dacey, 6K).

### **n Flavored Tobacco.**

ch (11/22, 526K), guest columnist Molly Preston writes, "My son became addicted to nicotine four years ago, at the ted and scared as I am for my child, I realize that many other parents are in the same boat. Not only our high scho adds, "There's only one real solution for this health crisis, and that's to take this poison off the shelves and out of ou cco profits. I ask that our city's leaders do the right thing, the only thing, and end the sale of flavored tobacco in Co grocery store or a small vape shop, none of our retailers should be profiting from selling flavored tobacco products t

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### **For Daughter's Gender Transition.**

A military veteran and his daughter filed a lawsuit on Monday challenging a federal rule they said prevents the daughter from receiving gender transition treatments. The lawsuit, filed anonymously through GLBTQ Legal Advocates & Defenders, "said the daughter has been denied treatments and the exclusion of surgical treatments for gender transition in the military's medical coverage for the dependents of service members. When diagnosed with gender dysphoria and sought gender transition surgery to address the condition, the lawsuit stated."

### **to Recover Healthcare Costs.**

Healthcare News (1/22, 4K) reports in a paywalled article, "An Arizona Native American tribe got another chance to receive reimbursement for a program from the government, after a federal appeals court held that the relevant law doesn't preclude the payments. The Indian Health Care Act at least arguably requires the Health and Human Services Department to reimburse the San Carlos Apache Tribe for the costs of care for third parties, the US Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit said."

### **Contract With Unionized Workers.**

Healthcare News (1/22, 4K) reports, "Temple University's unionized health care workers secured a new contract this month that made its nursing staff feel more financing security to make them feel safer while working at the Philadelphia hospital." Temple's new contract "showcase[d] a bold and aggressive." Now, other organized healthcare workers in the state are "looking to replicate their playbook." The new contract addresses worker issues in health care, prompting a wave of resignations and retirements that strained an already thin workforce.

### **Hospitals At Risk Of Closure, Warns Health Official.**

Healthcare News (1/22, 352K) reports, "More than half of the rural hospitals in Mississippi "are at risk of closing immediately or in the near future, according to the state health secretary. He "said 54% of the state's rural hospitals – 38 – could close." Edney said, "That is a situation that is intolerable from a public health perspective." Mississippi Hospital Association Board of Governors Chair Scott Christensen said, "The liabilities on the balance sheets of these hospitals are what we face."

Healthcare News (1/22, 352K) reports, "According to a memo written to employees last week, which was obtained by Mississippi Today, the state is in a legislative session, which begins in January and could bring some aid."

### **Parkinson's Disease.**

Healthcare News (1/22, 352K) reports, "Author Andrew Williams reports on the Parky app that "tracks symptoms of Parkinson's Disease, and it has just been approved by Apple. It relies on "Apple's Movement Disorder API and the watch's motion sensors to identify tremors and involuntary movements. The product is safe to use, Park's implementation of Apple's own movement disorder APIs suggests the recorded statistics are accurate. The app displays scores for weekly and monthly 'compliance,' as seen in H2o Therapeutics's pre-release app screenshots."

### **Despite Rise In STD Cases In 2021.**

Healthcare News (1/22, 352K) reports, "Public health authorities are confronting a rise in sexually transmitted infections in a world where COVID-19 is curbing the spread of disease." In 2021, the US saw "nearly 2.5 million cases of chlamydia, gonorrhea and syphilis, with a significant increase in people between the ages of 15 and 24." Data from a NIH-funded study showed that post-exposure prophylaxis "was effective in preventing STDs."

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g clinical guidance to use the antibiotic for STD prevention in gay and bisexual men and transgender women who have sex with men.  
y.”

### **Contact Following Reports Of Unfulfilled Orders.**

athers, 844K) reports the Brookfield-based medical device maker InControl Medical “has cut contact with customers in 2022, “customers began reporting that items they had purchased on the company website never arrived, despite InControl Medical’s products that aid with bladder leakage and incontinence.”

### **Mass Measures To Reduce Smoking.**

al-Gazette (11/23, 166K) says, “As Indiana’s legislators consider raising the tobacco tax – and, ostensibly, taxing vapes, the CDC, “Medicaid annually spends about \$40 billion on health care for smoking-related diseases, more than 15% of the state’s budget, with an additional \$7.5 billion in lost productivity.” Indiana Sen. President Pro Tem Rodric Bray (R) said, “We will be taking steps to address changes to our public health funding and infrastructure.” He added, “With that in mind, cessation efforts to help curb smoking are a priority.”

### **Unlicensed Cannabis Stores In NYC After Legalization.**

6M) reports unlicensed cannabis stores in New York City “have proliferated since the state legalized cannabis last year. Regulators “have called for the shops to be shut down for fear they undermine the legal market. But supporters of the shops say they are filling retail locations that have been slow to launch.” Regulators have “said they were tracking the shops across the state, but have not taken any action.”

### **Air Quality By Measuring CO2 Concentrations.**

6M) reports tech firm OpenSensors builds “small, inexpensive sensors to monitor air quality and other conditions in homes and businesses. The firm uses IoT, technology, in which sensors publish real-time data over a network.” Carbon dioxide concentration is used “as a proxy for air quality, power, wide-area technology that transmits data over an unlicensed spectrum, similar to that used by radio-controlled devices.”

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### **Children’s Health Decades After Collapse Of Apartheid.**

on children’s health in South Africa almost “30 years since the demise of apartheid.” Among the “many devastating health problems that have been passed out,” and it “remains that way today in the nation of more than 60 million, of whom 81% are black and 36% are white.”

### **Iranian Capital Faces Poor Air Quality.**

Iranian capital of Tehran will close for a day because of dangerously poor air quality, the country’s state television reported. “The closure of schools in Tehran, which has over 10 million residents, but now, increasing pollution is forcing the closure of all schools on Wednesday. The closure was announced for Tehran’s neighboring Alborz province.”

### **Patient Who Needs Medicinal Cannabis Treatment For Blood Cancer.**

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nion's top court on Tuesday backed a Russian who is seeking to stay in the Netherlands because he needs a medicine. The Court of Justice "said the man should not be sent back home even though the Netherlands rejected his asylum request. It said 'that it would be contrary to human dignity,' among other things." The response came "to a question from a lawyer."

### **Marijuana Regulations Rally Against Possible Repeal Of Medical Marijuana Legalization.**

Reports that "around 200 backers of Thailand's liberalized marijuana regulations rallied Tuesday at Government House to protest proposed changes to the rules" or "rules that would restore tight restrictions." The legalization of medical marijuana was in June, "but the absence of a recreational market slowed the growth of a recreational marijuana industry." Already "cannabis shops have sprung up in many Bangkok neighborhoods. Last month police warned that consumption would only be allowed in private, and sales would not be allowed to youths or near schools. The psychoactive parts of the plant used to get high - to be put back on the narcotics list."

### **Novo Nordisk Plans To Expand Facilities In Denmark.**

Reports, "Danish drug maker Novo Nordisk said on Tuesday it plans to invest 5.4 billion Danish crowns (\$744 million) to expand its production of diabetes drugs, Novo said the project is expected to be finalised in 2024 and create about 160 new jobs." Novo Nordisk produces active pharmaceutical ingredients (API), the main biologically active components of medicines, to supply its pharmaceutical products. It currently produces API at two facilities in Denmark and one in Clayton, North Carolina, in the United States." Reports the investment "will be used to build a new plant to supply active drug ingredients for the company's clinical trials and commercial medicines, Novo said Tuesday." The "expansion does not appear to be related to ongoing Wegovy supply issues, which have caused shortages of the drug."

### **China's Social Media Debate Over Tampons.**

Chinese social media debate over "whether sanitary pads should be sold on railways," with some feeling "it provided a convenient solution to the matter and felt that women should come to trains prepared." And "for many people in China, a country that ranks 10th in the world in terms of tampon sales, it is still considered embarrassing to openly discuss menstruation or to take out sanitary pads in public." But for a group focusing on menstruation health and hygiene, the driving force behind this debate is gender inequality." And just as tampons were being sold on China Railway."

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### **U.S. Department of Education Seeks To Overturn Legal Blocks To Debt Forgiveness.**

Reports (Bloomberg, 10.52M) reports the Administration "announced Tuesday that it will again extend a pandemic-era pause on payments on federal student loan forgiveness program." The pause "had been set to end on Dec. 31. Officials had hoped to have forgiven some debt by then so that loan payments resumed." However, Education Secretary Cardona "said the department will extend the pause again until the end of the year."

Reports President Biden said in a video, "It isn't fair to ask tens of millions of borrowers eligible for relief to resume their payments until the lawsuit is resolved." "The pause on loan repayments "will extend until 60 days after the lawsuit is resolved." If the legal challenges to the loan forgiveness program are successful, the pause on loan repayments "will extend until 60 days after the lawsuit is resolved."

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s after that." [Reuters](#) (11/22, Singh) reports Biden "said the timeline would give the Supreme Court a chance to hear the case," "I'm completely confident my plan is legal." [Politico](#) (11/22, Stratford, 6.73M) reports that a pair of federal courts "asked Biden to give them at least a week to revive" the plan.

[The Hill](#) (11/22, Kanno-Youngs, 20.6M) reports Education Secretary Cardona said in a statement, "We're extending the payment pause because it would be the best way to help students, were it not for the baseless lawsuits brought by Republican officials and special interests."

[The Hill](#) (11/22, Kanno-Youngs, 20.6M) reports the "decision to extend the payments pause is the latest chapter in what has become a long-running legal battle over the debt relief plan that Mr. Biden has said is necessary to address economic disparities, but which critics have described as an unfair gift to borrowers. The outlet does not dispute that if Mr. Biden had allowed the pause to end before the debt relief plan could take effect, the result would have been a similar extension of the pause."

[The Hill](#) (11/22, Kanno-Youngs, 20.6M) reports the new announcement "marks the eighth time the payment restart date has been rescheduled since March 2020. The pause will extend the government \$155 billion through the end of 2022, according to an estimate from the Committee for a Responsible Budget." [The Hill](#) (11/22, Kanno-Youngs, 20.6M) reports the new announcement "marks the eighth time the payment restart date has been rescheduled since March 2020. The pause will extend the government \$155 billion through the end of 2022, according to an estimate from the Committee for a Responsible Budget."

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actually receive the documents. And [CNBC](#) (11/22, Mangan, 7.34M) reports on its website that the decision “sets the stage for the court’s decision before Republicans take majority control of the House.” Indeed, [Reuters](#) (11/22, Chung) says the panel “will have the authority to

also reports on the court’s decision. [ABC World News Tonight](#) [Video](#) (11/22, 6:46 p.m. EST, story 7, 1:00, Muir, 3.8M), and [NBC Nightly News](#) [Video](#) (11/22, 6:37 p.m. EST, story 3, 0:20, Holt, 5.46M) all covered the story.

in the CA3 race, state Rep. Kevin Riley (R), “who became a conservative favorite for his pointed and relentless criticism of the state’s liberal establishment in northeastern California. With 83% of ballots counted, Kiley received nearly 53% of the votes to defeat Democrat Kerr (D).” [ABC News](#) (11/22, 6:37 p.m. EST, story 3, 0:20, Holt, 5.46M) reports Jones, “who had served as a fellow in former President Barack Obama’s White House, garnered more support than any other liberal ideologue.”

### **Grand Jury.**

Lindsey Graham (R-SC) “testified Tuesday before a special grand jury that’s investigating whether President Donald Trump’s appearance “came after a drawn-out legal fight that went all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court as Graham tried to block the case. In a statement that Graham’s office said in a statement, “Today, Senator Graham appeared before the Fulton County Special Grand Jury. He was treated with respect, professionalism, and courtesy. Out of respect for the grand jury process he will not comment further on the matter.”

[ABC News](#) (11/22, Hakim, 20.6M) says Graham’s appearance “was a victory for Fani T. Willis, the district attorney in Fulton County, who is prosecuting the racketeering or conspiracy case.”

### **Changing Law To Ease A DeSantis Presidential Run.**

That Florida House Speaker Paul Renner (R) and Senate President Kathleen Passidomo (R) “say they are willing to change the law to allow a Republican to run for president in 2024.” Renner and Passidomo “agreed it would be a ‘good idea’ to make it clear that DeSantis would not have to resign if he runs for president. “If an individual who is Florida governor is running for president, I think he should be allowed to do it. ... I really do. That’s the way it should be. Anyone running for a new office to put in an irrevocable letter of resignation ahead of qualifying if the terms of the law require it.” [DeSantis’ Reluctance To “Schmooze.”](#) In an online report, [CNN](#) (11/22, Warren, Contorno, 89.21M) says that since he won’t resign, “DeSantis’ reluctance to schmooze” like last weekend’s Republican Jewish Coalition’s conference in Las Vegas and the Republican National Convention “conference,” said, “he didn’t stick around to schmooze.” CNN says “some were left wondering how DeSantis might do it without fostering friendships among fellow Republicans.” Throughout his political career, DeSantis “has intentionally kept himself separate from the establishment forces. ... Now, as some Republicans search for a new face who can usher them into a post-Trump period, DeSantis has gone it alone.”

### **Indication Of Coming Presidential Bid.**

That in “the latest indication that he’s prepping a White House bid that will pit him against his former boss, ex-President Trump.” [Politico](#) (11/22, Kjerfve, 10.1M) reports that Ali Kjerfve, “a spokesperson for outgoing Nebraska Sen. Ben Sasse, has been tapped to serve as communications director for a new organization that is serving as the former vice president’s campaign-in-waiting.” Politico cites people “familiar with the





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would confirm that Hong Kong courts are subservient to Beijing.

**to Regain Americans' Trust In Its Ethics."** In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (11/22, 10.52M) says it is time for the court to actually work. At stake is no less than its legitimacy, which has been battered by growing public doubts that it truly is impartial. They have given the public reason for its mistrust, and take it upon themselves to restore faith in their impartiality."

**Can Help Against Covid."** In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (11/22, Editorial Board, 10.52M) argues that Thanksgiving is a good time to help against covid and that "everyone should consider common-sense precautions such as wearing masks in packed public indoor areas." Primary scientific reports about the efficacy of the new bivalent boosters have carried a hint of disappointment." The Post says that during the holidays, "the jab being a small price for any measure that can help keep covid at bay."

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[Rising Rates, High Prices Cool Housing Market](#)  
[Questions Over How Long It Can Continue Ukraine War](#)  
[Trump's Brutal Force But Secretly Appeals To Moderates](#)  
[China's Bargain Hunters](#)

[Biden Asks House To Obtain His Tax Returns](#)  
[U.S. Victory Over Argentina](#)  
[China's, And Yet So Far To Go](#)  
[Can We See A Reduced COVID Threat This Winter](#)  
[China's Universities 'Caesarized' Campus Life](#)  
[China's Influence People](#)

[China's Checked](#)  
[China's Brutal Hate](#)  
[China's Russia](#)

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om, Court Hears

Coronavirus Cases Soar

Economies, Warns OECD

Confronts Fresh Migrant Influx

**ork News:**

; US Holiday Travel; US Severe Weather; Investigation Into Colorado Springs Shooting; Rise In Respiratory Illnesses

Of Trump Tax Returns; Biden Extends Pause On Student Loan Payments; News Helicopter Crash In Charlotte, NC; M

Giving.

Shooting; News Helicopter Crash In Charlotte, NC; US Holiday Travel; High Diesel Costs Affecting Trucker Pay; Sup

; Pilot Passes Out In Cockpit During Flight And Later Dies; Debate Over Transgender Rights In Schools; House Expl

de Bag AT JFK Airport; Father And Son Complete Iron Man Race.

Shooting; News Helicopter Crash In Charlotte, NC; Supreme Court Allows Release Of Trump Tax Returns; Rise In F

; Black Friday Deals; Military Plane Strikes Flock Of Birds; Corporations Affecting The US Housing Markets; Thanksg

ting - 11 minutes, 5 seconds

50 seconds

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arkets - 3 minutes, 20 seconds

minutes, 35 seconds

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nd release is Donald Trump's tax returns. We may finally get see what 'Darth Tax Evader' has been hiding from us. T

o Democrats in the House from examining his taxes. The ruling was unanimous. There were no dissents. You know i

in this one.'"

areless with classified material, Trump is so focused on keeping everything related to him secret. We already know h

business deals, he gives almost nothing to charity, and he tried to get an election overturned. Unless he's also secretly

the holidays at the White House. Yesterday, the White House Christmas tree was delivered via horse and carriage. Thi

made the White House look like the hotel from 'The Shining.' The trees were covered in either blood or ketchup, beca

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ar] "The homophobia there is so extreme we've heard reports that rainbow-wearing fans have been refused entry to a 'Care Bears' movie."

the Supreme Court rejected the former President, clearing the way for the House Ways and Means Committee to get the bill passed. Biden wrote off Eric as a loss."

Supreme Court is composed of three of Trump's nominees, and they still rejected him! Normally, to get three people to reject a bill is a loss.

his Thanksgiving vacation started in Nantucket. Biden just landed in Massachusetts for Thanksgiving, and this time he's staying in a hotel.

Florida Governor Ron DeSantis is closing the gap in a hypothetical 2024 matchup with former President Trump. This is a significant development in the race.

final White House briefing before his retirement. He was like, 'This is my last day, so if you want to inject bleach, go ahead.'

Today, Biden was like, 'Congrats on your early retirement.'"

White House turkey pardoning, President Biden joked that the only red wave this season would be if his dog knocked over the microphone."

President Biden said it was important to remember the true meaning of Thanksgiving: getting high with your weird crowd."

isn't planning to use the month between Thanksgiving and Christmas to make a decision about running in 2024. Well, he's planning that far ahead. If I was 80, I don't think I'd even start bingeing a show that had more than one season."

Congressman-elect Maxwell Frost said despite being 80 years old, President Biden can adequately represent Gen Z, because he's got the heart of a 20-year-old."

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# News Briefing

AM EST

GoodRx Over Allegations It Wrongfully Disclosed Patients' Health Data.

Of Public Health Emergency To Boost Access To Abortion.

FDA For "Repeated Failures" To Regulate E-Cigarettes.

icare Advantage Audit Rule To Recoup Overpayments.

n Plan To End COVID-19 Pandemic Public Health Emergency.

owing Infant Formula Shortage, Says No Staff Will Be Fired Or Reassigned.

t Formula To Families In Need.

Infant Formula Shortage "A Major Disappointment."

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Outbreak Of Mpox Is Over.

9 Pandemic Causes.

End COVID-19 National Emergency.

to COVID-19 Pandemic Relief Payments Fraud.

COVID-19 Pandemic Public Health Emergency Ends.

ta Clarifying Who Should Continue To Receive COVID-19 Booster Shots.

n Last As Long As Three Months After Positive COVID-19 Test.

s May Remain In Effect In Massachusetts.

ces Plan To Transition Out Of COVID-19 Emergency Phase.

Nevada, Go Below 100 For First Time Since September.

ions To Cede Viral Treatment Supplies To Less Affluent Countries.

Asian Cultures Despite Lack Of Mandates.

etoric On DeSantis' COVID-19 Pandemic Record.

Government's COVID-19 Pandemic Public Health Emergency.

or Pregnant People In COVID-19 Pandemic's First Year.

Fewer Patients For Respiratory Disease Infections.

y From Scientific Journals To Rebuild Public Trust.

ospitalizations, Infections Continue Downward Trend.

y College Students Received Aid From Biden Administration's COVID-19 Pandemic Relief Package.

rt Updated COVID-19 Pandemic Statistics.

Workers Returned To Offices Last Week.

n Emergency For COVID-19 Pandemic.

Be Fueling COVID-19 Mutations.

ID-19 Vaccine Mandate Ban.

nt For Lagevrio And Paxlovid.

y Over \$5B Due To Falling COVID-19 Therapy, Testing Kit Demand.

% In MA Payments For 2024.

An Estimated \$2B Due To Limited Medicare Audits.

ate Committee.

egations Of Internal Sexual Misconduct.

ke To Administrative Fee For Payment Disputes Which Go To Arbitration.

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Office To Retire.

Congress Should Make The Decisions For Regulations On CBD As A Dietary Supplement.

Expand Access To Health Data For Research.

What Virology Research Requires Heightened Safety Scrutiny.

Personalize Diet Recommendations.

Reforms On Personal Travel Expenses.

What's The Ideal Home For ARPA-H.

Public Schools Will Be Allowed To Carry Naloxone.

Law Enforcement Representatives Spar On Fentanyl Drug Smuggling At US-Mexico Border.

Pressure On Drugmakers To Limit 340B Discounts Through Contract Pharmacies.

California's State Takeover Of ACA Health Insurance Marketplace.

Illinois Governor Pritzker Looks To Shift \$100M Into State Employee Health Plan To Reduce Health Insurance Premiums For School Districts.

Amazon's Quarterly Profit As Investment Income Jumps.

Some States Will Distribute Abortion Pills By Mail In Their States.

Legal Challenge Against State's Ban.

What's Behind The "Heartbeat" Abortion Ban.

Abortion Medication Is Legal Where They Reside, Poll Finds.

Pro-Life Event After Efforts To Pass Abortion Ban Stall.

Pro-Life Activists Say That Compassion For Women Seeking Abortion, Not Prosecution, Should Be Pro-Life Message.

How To Improve Abortion Access In US.

Who Should Take Action To Unveil Supreme Court Leaker.

Report: FBI Has Addressed Significant Number Of Security Weakness, Policy Oversights Against Potential Cybersecurity Attacks.

Some Websites Offline.

Health Data Exchange Last Year.

Healthcare Emergency Could Also Result In End To Title 42.

Immigration, Border Security.

Child Care May Face Price Spike As Federal Funding Expires.

What's Next For Social Security Benefits By March.

What's In The New Bill To Expand Authority Of State Foster Care Advocate.

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Potentially Spoiled Canned Meat, Poultry.

Reduction Of Weight Loss Drug Wegovy To Address Shortages.

Opening Fast Food Chains Spawns Similar Proposals In New York, Virginia.

Medicare Advantage Clawbacks Rule.

Physicians' Fees In Status Change Row.

Medicare Offered Supplemental Benefits In 2022 But CMS Received Limited Encounter Data From Plans, Report Finds.

Medicare's Potential Long-Term Danger To Medicaid, Medicare.

Medicaid Eligibility Now.

North Carolina Keeping Medicaid Expansion, But Expresses Concerns Over Unsustainable Budget.

Medicaid Expansion Bill.

South Carolina Could Lose Coverage This Year.

Medicaid Coverage This Year.

Rate of Uninsurance Following Medicaid Disenrollment, Analysis Shows.

Strategies Can Minimize Impact Of Transition After People Lose Medicaid Coverage.

Iron-Deficiency-Related Anemia In Patients On Dialysis.

Emotional Tears Due To Bacterial Infections Linked To Permanent Vision Loss, One Death.

Supporting Indoor Smoking Ban After Push From Breathe Easy NKY Coalition.

Phase 3 FDA Trial For Gene Therapy May Not Be Worthwhile.

COVID-19 Infection Is Not Associated With Impaired Lung Function In Young Adults.

Regulatory Changes To Drug Companies Conducting Clinical Trials.

Company Expected To Grow Again Ahead Of Sandoz Spin-Off.

Company Helped By Sales Of Shingles Vaccine.

Company's \$1.5 Billion In Latest Funding, Makes Leadership Changes.

Company's Upcoming Launch Of CRISPR-Based Handheld Diagnostic Tests.

Company's New Business Plan, Seeks To Recover After Charges Of Malpractice At Its Homes.

Company's Role In Transgender Discrimination Case Affects All Patients' Access To Care.

Link Between Rising Temperatures, Increased Fungal Infections.

Study Shows How To Remove Fallopian Tubes To Prevent Ovarian Cancer.

Study Shows How To Avoid Menopausal Indignities Without Menopausal Hormone Therapy.

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Of Cancer, Study Finds.  
Concussions Evolving Over Past Decade.  
Can Alter How The Brain Processes Stress, Trauma, Study Finds.  
Data Can Improve Patient Care.  
Medical Care, But Physicians Must Use Caution.  
Could Affect Cognitive Skills Later In Childhood, Study Suggests.  
Rural Nursing Homes Especially Hard.  
Family-Linked Companies Receive Millions.  
Fund Alzheimer's Research, Prevention, Strategic Planning.  
University, Study Finds.  
Gender-Affirming Care Documents.  
Warning Democrats From Questioning New Health Commissioner On HIV Funding Cuts.  
The Budget.  
Drinking, Smoking Are Unlikely To Succeed.  
Young Women, Nonsmokers.  
Hearing On Bill Banning Smoking In Atlantic City Casinos.  
Can Spray Due To Presence Of Cancer-Causing Benzene.  
Support Of Cancer Moonshot.  
Pharmaceutical Industry As Part Of Cancer Moonshot.  
Cases Tripled In New York-New Jersey Area Between 2000 And 2016.  
To Help Detect Common Stroke Symptoms.  
Planned Raise In Drugmaker Revenue Repayment Rates.  
Hospital Visits, Hospitalizations Linked To Severe Alcohol Use During First Year Of Pandemic.  
New Drugs To Combat Drug Overdose Deaths.  
Public Areas.  
Inert Capsule.  
Disease.  
To Legally Change One's Gender.  
Worries Against Bird Flu, Agriculture Minister Says.  
Biden, McCarthy Hold First Debt Ceiling Talks.  
Searching Biden's Rehoboth Residence.  
Biden From Foreign Affairs Panel.  
House Intelligence Committee.  
Nominee To Subcommittee On "Weaponization" Of Federal Government.

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Book Funds From GoFundMe For Dog's Surgery.  
Senate Commerce Committee.  
Deal Bid On February 15.  
Obama's Potential Role In Three-Way Senate Race.  
Pay For State Employees In New Florida Budget.  
House Banning "Latinx" From Official Documents.  
Elected By Success In Foreign Affairs.

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### **GoodRx Over Allegations It Wrongfully Disclosed Patients' Health Data.**

reports, "Millions of Americans have used GoodRx, a drug discount app, to search for lower prices on prescriptions but now "say the app's coupons and convenience came at a high cost for users: wrongful disclosure of their intimate health information. The lawsuit alleges that GoodRx, in partnership with Google and Facebook, shared sensitive personal data about users' prescription medications and illnesses with companies like Facebook and Google. GoodRx "denied the case," but "said it disagreed with the agency's allegations and admitted no wrongdoing."

A lawsuit filed by the FTC, along with the Department of Justice, "seeks to ban GoodRx from sharing health data with Google and Facebook, to delete the data that was previously shared with them." Additionally, "GoodRx agreed to pay

penalties that in 2009, the newly-passed Health Breach Notification Rule "directed the FTC to create a rule in collaboration with HHS that governed by HHS or HIPAA, which sets privacy rules for medical providers." According to that rule, "any entity not covered by HIPAA must tell consumers when there's been a breach of their data or face action from the FTC." Over the last year and a half, the FTC has expanded its interpretation of the rule's scope beyond companies' cybersecurity practices to their marketing and advertising practices, heightening interest in protecting the privacy of health data online."

For more information, see [The Verge](#) (2/1, Mulvaney, Subscription Publication, 8.41M), [Reuters](#) (2/1, Bartz), the [AP](#) (2/1, Bajak), [CNBC](#) (2/1, Feinberg), [The Washington Post](#) (2/1, Gellman, Subscription Publication, 4K), [Axios](#) (2/1, Brodwin, 1.26M), [STAT](#) (2/1, Ravindranath, 262K), [Modern Healthcare](#) (2/1, Gellman, Subscription Publication, 1.2M).

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### **Use of Public Health Emergency To Boost Access To Abortion.**

The Biden administration is weighing a possible public health emergency declaration that would free up resources to help with the abortion ban. The piece adds that "HHS Secretary Xavier Becerra told Axios on Monday that scientific and professional assessments will guide his decision."

### **Senators Push FDA For "Repeated Failures" To Regulate E-Cigarettes.**

A bipartisan group of senators on Wednesday slammed the 'repeated failures' at the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for allowing nicotine products to minors. "The senators 'sent a letter to Health and Human Services Secretary Xavier Becerra urging the agency to fix FDA's persistent leadership failures and prevent youth from a lifetime of nicotine addiction.'" While "the U.S. has approved 1,000 e-cigarette applications by Sept. 9, 2021...the agency has only completed reviews of about half of those e-cigarettes."

### **Proposed Medicare Advantage Audit Rule To Recoup Overpayments.**

Reports, "Payer organizations have expressed their disappointment for the Medicare Advantage Risk Adjustment Data Validation (RADV) rule, which they say will have the 'potential unintended consequence' of harming beneficiaries." The new rule "will allow the federal agency to use a risk score as a service adjuster in RADV audits." In a statement, HHS Secretary Xavier Becerra said, "CMS has a responsibility to recoup overpayments to Medicare Advantage plans are no exception." However, "health insurer groups have bristled at the rule, insisting that the rule will harm beneficiaries."

### **Plan To End COVID-19 Pandemic Public Health Emergency.**

Brozak writes about the pending end of the federal government's public health emergency for the COVID-19 pandemic. "In a warning that HHS Secretary Xavier Becerra gave, the Biden Administration is placing 'the burden on states to coordinate a national response.'" At this time, the Biden Administration is without several key staff that could direct such coordination. "Dr. Anthony Fauci have both retired. Brozak argues that a complete lack of a nationally coordinated transition 'will harm the economy.'"

Chumley (2/1, 626K), Cheryl Chumley comments on the Biden Administration's plan for terminating the public health emergency. "The surge of case counts." Chumley also questions why the Office of Management and Budget announced the termination of the emergency.

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### **Following Infant Formula Shortage, Says No Staff Will Be Fired Or Reassigned.**

The FDA "will undergo an overhaul in the wake of the nation's baby formula shortage, but no one at the agency will be fired." The agency has announced a 'new, transformative vision' for the agency which will consolidate the regulators responsible for food safety under one roof. "The components did not come with a specific plan to address the problems identified by an internal FDA review that highlighted the agency's data systems. At a press conference, the commissioner said there were no plans to fire or reassign anyone involved for the agency's data systems. (888K) reports, "As part of its new structure, the FDA will seek to modernize its data systems, provide increased transparency, and improve the agency's ability to respond to public health emergencies."

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response systems.” Califf stated, “The proposed structures for both groups will have clear priorities that are focused on quickly adapting to an ever-changing and evolving environment.”

### **Infant Formula To Families In Need.**

Wash Post (477K) reports, “Delaware can look out for 44,000 cans of baby formula headed its way.” The announcement, made by the state, is still feeling the strain of baby formula shortage in the United States.” The state “is gearing up to provide thousands of cans to the state of Delaware.”

### **Infant Formula Shortage “A Major Disappointment.”**

Wash Post reports that the FDA “vowed to make big changes to its food safety teams after the 2022 infant formula crisis exposed the agency’s weaknesses. The FDA finally revealed its fix: creating a new deputy commissioner for human foods. This is a major disappointment for many who had hoped for a single leader over all food safety and nutrition. Confusingly, there will still be a separate Office of Regulatory Affairs at the FDA that will handle the agency’s regulatory work. FDA Commissioner Robert Califf and Principal Deputy Commissioner Janet Woodcock spent 45 minutes trying to explain the changes. The Regulatory Affairs’ leader would exercise.”

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### **NYC Outbreak Of Mpox Is Over.**

Wash Post reports, “Citing ‘very low’ spread of Mpox,” formerly monkeypox, “for two consecutive months, New York City’s health department says the large number of cases is now near zero – down from almost 75 during the outbreak’s summer peak, according to figures released by the city. The NYC announcement “dovetails with the Biden administration’s similar decision last month not to renew August’s declaration of a public health emergency. Late in 2022, “Mpox’ became monkeypox’s new name,” and “the change, the CDC said in November, ‘will enhance the agency’s ability to respond to future outbreaks.’”

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### **House Approves Resolution To End COVID-19 Pandemic Causes.**

Wash Post (8.41M) reports Republican leadership in the United States House of Representatives has initiated a resolution to end the federal government’s COVID-19 national emergency. The two participating committees held their first meetings on Wednesday and are expected to call for testimony from the Biden administration later.

### **House Approves Resolution To End COVID-19 National Emergency.**

Wash Post reports, “On Wednesday, the US House approved a resolution to end the federal government’s COVID-19 national emergency. The measure will likely not take up the measure. Regardless, Republicans passed the resolution to stress to the Biden Administration that the emergency is over.”

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### **Into COVID-19 Pandemic Relief Payments Fraud.**

Members of the United States House have initiated an inquiry into fraudulent behavior around COVID-19 pandemic relief payments. Those "convicted on federal charges" connected to such fraud, the US "House Oversight and Accountability Committee held a hearing. The committee's leadership claims "too little attention was paid to the problems when Democrats" were in charge and charges the

Wall Street Journal (12/6/26K) reports the United States Secret Service on Wednesday confirmed that organized crime organizations in China were involved in the fraud of pandemic relief payments. While a spokesperson for the Secret Service "declined to go into details" in testimony to the committee, he stated the agency has "made the links based on financial data." Also, at this time, the agency has "not ruled out the possibility of fraud" as "it will take years before that's known."

626K) reports United States Comptroller Gene Dodaro said "the recovery rate is likely to be about 10%" regarding the fraud. Dodaro also pointed out that "a single Social Security number was used to apply for pandemic relief payments." He also mentioned "a number of ongoing investigations into the fraud. Also, a Justice Dept. representative "pointed out that the fraud in unemployment benefits were blocked because a fraudster had already submitted their identity."

12 p.m. EST, story 6, 2:15, Holt, 5.66M) and [Forbes](#) (2/1, Erb, 10.33M) also report.

### **End of COVID-19 Pandemic Public Health Emergency Ends.**

Wall Street Journal (12/6/26K) reports advocacy groups like the Testing at Home Coalition want "US seniors and disabled people want the public health emergency ends in May" due to concerns about costs rising beyond what such people can afford. A proposal by Rep. (D-Calif.) who is "the top Democrat on the House of Energy and Commerce health subcommittee." Currently, Rep. E

Among forthcoming potential changes are payments for COVID-19 test kits, which are currently covered by the federal government but "that will go away." At that time, "private insurance may not cover the full price of over-the-counter tests anymore, and people with Medicaid will have no guaranteed access to tests or treatments" even though the Biden Administration says it "is working on it."

### **Data Clarifying Who Should Continue To Receive COVID-19 Booster Shots.**

Wall Street Journal (12/6/26K) reports, "Last week, an advisory committee to the Food and Drug Administration unanimously agreed that the vaccine booster version of the shot is offered and when and how often people should receive it." But "there was less consensus about how often the vaccine recommendations is a reflection of just how complicated and confusing they have become," especially after the rollout of the .4/BA.5 Omicron subvariants, was rolled out in September 2022." But "the bivalent booster does appear to provide better protection" and "there is consensus that if you are at high risk, getting a vaccine booster at least annually, and possibly more frequently."

### **How Long Lasts As Long As Three Months After Positive COVID-19 Test.**

Wall Street Journal (12/6/26K) reports, "A new study involving Yale New Haven Health and other medical centers has found the symptoms of COVID-19 last for COVID-19." The study "is part of the ongoing project INSPIRE – Innovative Support for Patients with SARS-CoV-2." The study found that "four weeks, half of the study participants who tested positive and a quarter of those who tested negative had symptoms." The study is "open to the public, according to a Yale University statement." Yale School of Medicine associate professor of cardiology and of

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ent for driving research and policy, but also for bringing light to people's experiences."

### **Provisions May Remain In Effect In Massachusetts.**

reports that although "the national COVID-19 public health emergency will end in May...some of its provisions may survive. State officials are still sorting through the effects of ending the emergency, as state laws, state decisions about Medicaid, and other provisions. An assistant professor of health policy and management Jose Francisco Figueroa explained that "when it comes to Medicaid and other provisions, there's still wiggle room on what the state can decide to keep versus not to keep." State officials "said it's not clear yet. There are many variables and the federal government may retain certain aspects."

### **California Counties Plan To Transition Out Of COVID-19 Emergency Phase.**

reports (2.44M) reports, "Nearly three years after it became the first county in the nation to declare COVID-19 a public health emergency, Santa Clara County is set to transition out of the emergency phase of the pandemic by the end of February." This transition "includes the closure of all the emergency clinics that were opened instead to private health care providers, pharmacies or local clinics." Nearly "33% of all vaccinations in Santa Clara County were given since the shots were authorized in December 2020."

### **Clark County, Nevada, Go Below 100 For First Time Since September.**

reports (372K) reports, "Daily new cases of COVID-19 dropped below 100 in Clark County for the first time since September 2020 during the pandemic, according to data released by the state on Wednesday." According to Nevada Department of Health and Human Services, "Clark County dipped to 93 from the prior week's 104." And "statewide, the average declined to 123 from 132." However, "respiratory case numbers are significantly higher."

### **WHO Proposes Nations To Cede Viral Treatment Supplies To Less Affluent Countries.**

reports on the release of a draft accord from the World Health Organization. The proposal calls for global governments to agree to cede viral treatment supplies to less affluent countries to avoid a repeat of the COVID-19 pandemic in the future. Additionally, the document calls "for international law to force pharmaceutical companies "to release details of any public contracts for vaccines and treatments during such emergencies." The accord is expected to be adopted by nations later this month and will continue throughout 2023.

### **Mask Usage Persists In Asian Cultures Despite Lack Of Mandates.**

reports (1.6M) reports on mask usage remaining prevalent in east Asian nations despite governments rescinding mask mandates. The reports cite the force of habit and concern for transmitting illnesses to others among their reasons for their continued practice. "In South Korea, people are taking "advantage of the fact that they don't have to wear makeup or smile when they wear a mask." Further, "Asian countries continue to urge people to wear them" and many citizens are complying with those recommendations.

### **Analysis Of Rhetoric On DeSantis' COVID-19 Pandemic Record.**

reports (1.2M) reports on how Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis' record on COVID-19 is being used in political rhetoric. The reports note that while Donald Trump knows the Florida governor has outflanked him on the populist right, "Trump is "driving right at the governor's record." The reports predict that "Trump will be hard-pressed "to counter the DeSantis brand on Covid" as he had Dr. Anthony Fauci "at his right hand."

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...ll that was wrong with the pandemic response.”

### **al Government’s COVID-19 Pandemic Public Health Emergency.**

...tion Publication, 4K) reports on Dr. Anthony Fauci’s comments regarding the end of the COVID-19 pandemic public health emergency. Dr. Fauci, Director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, said on Wednesday, “if you look at where we are right now, compared to where we are a year ago, the United States is still seeing between 400 and 500 daily COVID-19 deaths and the CDC says less than 70% of the population has been vaccinated. I want people to get the impression that I think there isn’t a lot more we can do. But we don’t need the state of emergency.”

### **For Pregnant People In COVID-19 Pandemic’s First Year.**

...reports a [study](#) suggests the mortality rate for pregnant people rose significantly in 2020. The study, which JAMA Network Open published, analyzed records for 4,528 people who were or had recently been pregnant at the times of their deaths and were “aged 15-49 years old. The study found that pregnancy-associated deaths from drugs and homicide increased from 2019 to 2020 at faster rates than from 2018 to 2019, reflecting the onset of COVID quarantines in March 2020.”

### **g Fewer Patients For Respiratory Disease Infections.**

...ore, 309K) reports on a drop in respiratory disease admissions and infections in Arkansas over the past week. The report notes a decline in patients being admitted for COVID-19 and influenza. However, “health providers continue to recommend vaccination and other preventive measures.” The article also notes that the state’s health department’s claims in the article, “a report released Tuesday by the state Health Department again indicated ‘low’ numbers of COVID-19 cases. However, “17,000 deaths, 280,000 hospitalizations and at least 25 million illnesses from influenza have been reported this season.”

### **cy From Scientific Journals To Rebuild Public Trust.**

...ndall Lutter writes about strategies to restore public trust in public health agencies. As “the COVID-19 pandemic has shaken public confidence in government, we must acknowledge that such doubt comes “from the lack of data transparency in the federal health journals shaping public opinion. “The transparency standards used by top private-sector journals, or continue losing public and scientific credibility.”

### **ospitalizations, Infections Continue Downward Trend.**

...y, 519K) reports on a decline of COVID-19 infections and hospitalizations in Sacramento County, California. In the county’s latest report, “the number of patients hospitalized with confirmed COVID-19 fell by 42%” as of Jan. 31. As a result, “masks are no longer required in public places in several California counties that have been “assigned to the CDC’s low level in the federal agency’s latest update.” However, “the county’s health department is still recommending masks in public places.”

### **ey College Students Received Aid From Biden Administration’s COVID-19 Pandemic Relief Package.**

...7M) reports the Biden Administration says that almost 300,000 New Jerseyans benefitted from over \$500 million in COVID-19 relief. The report from the US Dept. of Education released Wednesday states “12.8 million students nationwide in 2021 received federal aid from the Biden Administration’s COVID-19 pandemic relief package. Specific to New Jersey, “108 institutions...received federal aid.”

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### **Report Updated COVID-19 Pandemic Statistics.**

des, 1.47M) reports on new COVID-19 pandemic statistics from public health officials in New Jersey. On Wednesday, the state reported 1,373 new positive tests and 12 new fatalities. That puts the statewide "seven-day average for confirmed positive tests" at 1,373. That number indicates that the state has "high" community levels of the coronavirus and the latest statewide positivity rate for COVID-19 is 1.47%. That's a high rate for such tests.

### **Workers Returned To Offices Last Week.**

ne, Subscription Publication, 8.41M) reports an analysis by Kastle Systems shows that over 50% of workers in several states returned to their offices last week. It's the first time that office occupancy in this measurement has eclipsed the 50% threshold since before the COVID-19 pandemic.

### **WHO Declares Health Emergency For COVID-19 Pandemic.**

Health Organization will maintain the current global health emergency status for the COVID-19 pandemic. After "a meeting of the organization" "still considers the outbreak what it calls a public health emergency of international concern" but "the time being, the WHO recommends that nations keep their guard up as it lays "the groundwork for administrative measures to prevent further spread of the virus."

### **Study Suggests Molnupiravir May Be Fueling COVID-19 Mutations.**

ts Lagevrio, the brand name of Merck &Co.'s molnupiravir drug, is the subject of a new study that suggests the drug may be fueling COVID-19 mutations. The study, published on Friday by the medRxiv website, is still undergoing peer review. However, it used "viral samples taken from patients who had been treated with the drug "works by creating mutations in the Covid genome that prevent the virus from replicating in the body" but the study also found "some mutations that are not yet" according to the study.

As some epidemiologists had raised concerns about the drug's potential to create problematic mutations even before the drug was approved for use against COVID-19 symptoms. However, a spokesperson for Merck "called the worry 'an interesting hypothetical concern'" and said that the drug's limited benefit suggests it's no longer worth the risk" given that it could be less effective against XBB variants.

### **Georgia Bans COVID-19 Vaccine Mandate Extension.**

permanent extension of a Georgia statute that limits the ability of local governments to institute COVID-19 vaccine mandates. The Georgia State Senate's Health and Human Services Committee advanced a bill that would enshrine the statute permanently. The bill would apply to all local governments within Georgia's borders. As of Wednesday, "the Georgia chapters of both the American Academy of Pediatrics and the American College of Obstetrics and Gynecology support Georgia's ability to fight future pandemics."

### **FDA Ends Testing Requirement For Lagevrio And Paxlovid.**

and Drug Administration has ended a testing requirement attached to prescriptions of two antiviral drugs used to treat COVID-19: Lagevrio and Paxlovid. While the positive test results are no longer mandatory for scripts of the drugs, "the FDA said the requirement was "not necessary" in the opinion of the attending physician.

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### **By Over \$5B Due To Falling COVID-19 Therapy, Testing Kit Demand.**

turned on Thursday profits will decline in 2023 as falling demand for its COVID-19 therapy and diagnostics kits will knock out the multi-year pandemic boost is ebbing." Instead, "sales and core earnings per share were expected to decrease at a 'low to mid-single digit' rate," the company said in a statement. "And "revenue growth from new drugs, including its haemophilia treatment and multiple sclerosis therapies, is expected to be in the high single digits." Everin Schwan said, "the underlying business is growing very strongly in the high single digits."

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### **3.12% In MA Payments For 2024.**

Publication, 4K) reports, "Medicare managed care plans would see a slight average revenue increase of about 1.03% in 2024, compared to 2023, according to the agency's capitation rates for next year." Shares of health insurers which offer Medicare Advantage plans fell following the announcement. "The agency said that for the service they provide, MA plans receive a flat monthly payment for each beneficiary based on their health risk factors. "The article mentions CMS Administrator Chiquita Brooks-LaSure and Meena Seshamani, CMS deputy administrator for Medicare and Medicaid.

The article reports CMS "released the advance notice of methodological changes for MA capitation rates and payment policies for 2024, including a new risk adjustment model." Seshamani stated, "The commonsense proposals in the Advance Notice, coupled with the proposed changes to the risk adjustment model, will ensure that MA plans continue to meet the healthcare needs of all beneficiaries." The agency "is expecting an effective growth rate of 3.12% in 2024, compared to 2023, due to a projected average increase in plan risk scores." But "CMS has estimated a 3.12% decline in payments after taking in changes to the risk adjustment model." The story are [Modern Healthcare](#) (2/1, Berryman, Subscription Publication, 215K), [STAT](#) (2/1, Herman, 262K) and [Healthcare Dive](#) (2/1, Berryman, Subscription Publication, 215K).

### **Medicare Advantage Payments To Drop An Estimated \$2B Due To Limited Medicare Audits.**

The article reports, "Medicare officials made a clear statement four years ago about how best to audit the country's Medicare Advantage contracts: "We will audit a sample of contracts in the public interest." But now, "based on a final regulation published Monday, Medicare is...giving a free pass to Medicare Advantage contracts for 2017," allowing insurers to keep \$2 billion in taxpayer money. Previously, "Medicare auditors intended to take a sample of medical records, and then extrapolate those results to a company's entire Medicare Advantage contract." Now the cost of the audit will be a "huge loss" based on the costs of the audit. Medicare's Center for Program Integrity Director Dara Corrigan is expected to be a "huge loss" based on the costs of the audit. Medicare's Center for Program Integrity Director Dara Corrigan is expected to be a "huge loss" based on the costs of the audit.

### **Senate Committee.**

One of this year's more intriguing political developments is a change at the helm of the Senate health, education, labor and human resources committee, "representing "a milestone of sorts for American politics – and for Sanders himself." Sanders now "leads a committee that has big ideas about" education, healthcare, labor, and pension. For one, "Sanders plans to introduce Medicare for all as a top priority for the committee."

### **Allegations Of Internal Sexual Misconduct.**

World Health Organization Assistant Secretary Loyce Pace "urged the World Health Organization to address allegations...that one of its employees had a sexual relationship with a senior WHO official."

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of us who stand with survivors and stand with those who identify as victims and are truly committed, but also frustrated. Anom Ghebreyesus noted that an investigation into the "incident had been completed." He said, "If the allegations a

### **Hike To Administrative Fee For Payment Disputes Which Go To Arbitration.**

reports, "The independent dispute resolution (IDR) process has gotten more expensive for healthcare organizations. It has announced that the nonrefundable administrative fee due from each party involved in any IDR payment dispute that starts on January 1." That fee was supposed to remain at \$50 for all of 2023, but "agencies revealed a 600% hike in the fee c

### **Genetics Office To Retire.**

The FDA office which "oversees gene and cell therapies is about to lose its leader amid a major organizational transition. Bryan Marks, who has led the Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research since 2016, has decided to retire, an agency spokesperson confirmed to BioPharma Dive. Marks says, "Bryan has been a key deputy to Peter Marks, the head of the Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research, as they have seen the first U.S. approvals of gene therapies for inherited diseases, as well as cell therapies for cancer."

### **Congress Should Make The Decisions For Regulations On CBD As A Dietary Supplement.**

The FDA (2/2, 10.33M), that the FDA "has announced that it will not establish regulations on CBD as a dietary supplement. The FDA says supplements still raises various safety concerns that require regulation." The FDA "suggests that Congress create a regulatory framework with the necessary oversight to manage risks, adding it is prepared to work with Congress on this matter." The announcement comes as businesses and stakeholders in the industry who have been waiting for FDA regulations on CBD for four years." Meanwhile, the FDA "will continue to take action against products containing CBD and hemp-derived intoxicating cannabino

### **Efforts To Expand Access To Health Data For Research.**

The government has issued several initiatives to make government data more widely accessible and helpful – including the Federal Data Strategy and others." According to the National Institute of Health's Office of Data Science Strategy data science technical lead, "We want to make our data repositories where researchers can access valuable datasets for their research." Biven further "explains how we are building an ecosystem – called FAIR, or 'findable, accessible, interoperable and reusable data.'"

### **What Virology Research Requires Heightened Safety Scrutiny.**

The work is "covered by US guidelines that require heightened safety scrutiny for research that could potentially spark a pandemic. The National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) planned such an experiment" to manipulate monkeypox virus. The "isn't a 'potential pandemic pathogen,' one of the exceptionally risky viruses like influenzas and coronaviruses at work." The recommendations released last week by the National Science Advisory Board for Biosecurity (NSABB) would change how we evaluate research. The board says the recommendations are more transparent and more reasonable while keeping the public safer from potential catastrophe."

### **Efforts To Personalize Diet Recommendations.**



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### **Big Drugmakers To Limit 340B Discounts Through Contract Pharmacies.**

Wall Street Journal (2/1, Fama, 7.34M) reports, "Bayer and EMD Serono told customers Wednesday they would limit 340B discounts to contract pharmacies. The companies will no longer offer 340B drug discounts to hospitals and their affiliates registered as 340B-covered entities." Both announcements are seen as a "victory on the issue" against the HHS, and make them part "of around 20 companies that restrict 340B discounts to contract pharmacies." The HHS had previously ordered HHS to create a plan to correct underpayments made to 340B hospitals from 2018 to 2021 under a regulation. The HHS had also cut Medicare and Medicaid Services cut 340B reimbursement by nearly 30% and redistributed the money to all hospitals.

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### **Georgia Pushes For State Takeover Of ACA Health Insurance Marketplace.**

Wall Street Journal (2/1, Bluestein, 1.46M) reports, "Georgia GOP leaders have proposed a bill that they hope will lead to a state takeover of the ACA health insurance marketplace." Georgia state Senate Health and Human Services Committee chair Sen. Ben Watson (R) "said Wednesday evening he would formally introduce the bill on Thursday." The federal government has already rejected a similar proposal from Governor Brian Kemp. Watson says a state-based exchange "gives Georgians higher quality access and greater control in the insurance enrollment process."

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### **Georgia House Looks To Shift \$100M Into State Employee Health Plan To Reduce Health Insurance Premiums For Schools.**

Wall Street Journal (2/1, Fama, 7.34M) reports, "The House Appropriations Committee "want to shift \$100 million into the state employee health plan to reduce the stingy state health insurance premiums for schools." The committee "included that change as it voted to approve House Bill 18," which "amends the state's budget" and "reduces the state's contribution to homebuyers would cost \$100 million less than Kemp previously estimated, said House Appropriations Committee Chairman Fina. The bill would stretch out to three years a 67% increase in health insurance premiums that districts would have to pay for one year."

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### **Humana Reports Strong Quarterly Profit As Investment Income Jumps.**

Wall Street Journal (2/1, Fama, 7.34M) reports, "Humana...on Wednesday beat Wall Street estimates for quarterly profit as the health insurer's investment income jumped. The company's "fourth-quarter benefit expense ratio, or the percentage of payout on claims compared to its premiums, fell to 87.20%." The company's "costs were expected to decline on lower COVID-19-related hospitalizations, though there was a slight increase in the last quarter of 2022."

Other sources for the story are [CNBC](#) (2/1, Fima, 7.34M), [Forbes](#) (2/1, Japsen, 10.33M), and [Modern Healthcare](#) (2/1, Berryman, Substack).

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### **Attorneys General Push To Distribute Abortion Pills By Mail In Their States.**

Wall Street Journal (2/1, Fama, 7.34M) reports, "Attorneys general from 20 states wrote letters to executives at CVS and Walgreens warning the pharmacy chains against enforcing a new Biden administration policy." These "letters rebuke recent guidance from the Justice Department - issued in an opinion that said the DOJ did not prohibit the mailing of abortion pills." The DOJ's "opinion came ahead of the rollout of new rules from the Food and Drug Administration on abortion with a prescription, including by mail order."

Other sources for the story are [CNBC](#) (2/1, Fima, 7.34M), [Forbes](#) (2/1, Japsen, 10.33M), and [Modern Healthcare](#) (2/1, Berryman, Substack).  
Arkansas Attorney General Andrew Bailey (R) stated, "I will enforce the laws as written. ... That includes laws protecting the

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n of federal law, and the unelected bureaucrats at the FDA have no authority to change Missouri law, either. The pe  
te, and we will fight to uphold that in court.”

the story are [Reuters](#) (2/1, Pierson), [The Hill](#) (2/1, Oshin, 5.69M), [Fox News](#) (1/31, Herlihy, 23.99M), and [Axios](#) (2/

### **Legal Challenge Against State’s Ban.**

provider filed a lawsuit Wednesday seeking to overturn West Virginia’s near-total ban, saying it is unconstitutional,  
ients.” The suit “asks for a halt to the four-month-old abortion ban while the case is heard in federal court.” The law  
provided and imposes new, irrational requirements on how abortion care can be provided.”

ne story.

### **“Heartbeat” Abortion Ban.**

people crowded the halls of the Nebraska state Capitol on Wednesday for a committee hearing on a so-called heart  
y’re pregnant.” The measure “would ban abortions once cardiac activity can be detected in an embryo, which is gen

[World-Herald](#) (2/1, Bamer, 509K).

### **Medication Abortion Is Legal Where They Reside, Poll Finds.**

most 50% “of all adults in the U.S. are unsure whether medication abortion is legal where they live, according to a ne  
about “four in ten adults – including 41 percent of women of childbearing age – said they are ‘not sure’ whether mife

### **For Life Event After Efforts To Pass Abortion Ban Stall.**

2M) reports Gov. Glenn Youngkin (R) “joined hundreds of antiabortion activists outside the state Capitol on Wednes  
e since the Supreme Court ruled that abortion rights were up to individual states to decide.” Nevertheless, “Youngkin  
nging abortion access in Virginia.” The governor’s “plan to ban abortion after 15 weeks, with exceptions for rape, in  
ate Capitol.”

### **ers That Compassion For Women Seeking Abortion, Not Prosecution, Should Be Pro-Life Message.**

at an annual anti-abortion rally and march in Richmond, Republican Virginia Attorney General Jason Miyares said W  
abortions.” Miyares said, “The pro-life message is one of compassion. And there have been some voices in this cour  
on. That is not right.” Miyares “said the anti-abortion movement should instead focus on backing the work of charitie  
after the speeches,” and “said he was ‘incredibly disappointed’ with Democrats who control the state Senate, who s  
c would restriction abortion access.”

### **r Abortion Access In US.**

lawsuit “before a federal judge in Texas could dramatically alter abortion access in the United States – at least as m  
n’s Health Organization decision last year, which overturned decades of abortion-rights precedent.” A ruling “is exp

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more than 20 years ago of the abortion drug mifepristone, which a growing number of patients use to terminate pregnancies.

### **Could Take Action To Unveil Supreme Court Leaker.**

[The New York Times](#) (2/1, Subscription Publication, 8.41M) op-ed that following an investigation lasting several months, the US Supreme Court is considering the draft opinion which overturned *Roe v. Wade*. Dershowitz argues that there is still a chance the leaker could be identified and taken action against the reporters who broke the story.

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### **GAO Report Addressed Significant Number Of Security Weakness, Policy Oversights Against Potential Cybersecurity A**

A recent report (GAO) reports, "The federal government has not addressed a significant number of security weaknesses and policy oversights in its information systems." The report, titled "GAO Report" by the Government Accountability Office (GAO), "despite previous recommendations to help bolster federal information systems, many recommendations issued since 2010 to secure federal systems remained unaddressed," and "identified a series of critical weaknesses in federal information systems."

### **Ukrainian Websites Offline.**

A Russian hacker group Killnet claimed responsibility this week for a string of cyberattacks that took more than a dozen Ukrainian websites offline (including the denial of service) attacks, which occur when hackers block legitimate users from accessing information systems. The group also claimed to have targeted websites that support and/or send resources to Ukraine.

### **Health Data Exchange Last Year.**

HEALTHeLINK, the health information exchange (HIE) for Western New York, worked on a total of 83 different projects in 2022. The organization released its "HEALTHeLINK 2022 Report to the Community." New exchange offerings include emergency department summary reports, which are generated when a patient is registered at Erie County Medical Center's emergency department. The exchange "also launched new services for providers and agencies and provide custom metric reporting and community research support."

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### **Public Health Emergency Could Also Result In End To Title 42.**

The Washington Post (2/1, 91M) reports President Biden's plan "to lift the public health emergency for Covid-19 on May 11, ending free tests and border restrictions." The report also notes that the border policy that has been tied up in the nation's highest court. According to a White House official, should "the Supreme Court rule in favor of Title 42 on May 11. That means the end of the policy could come before the Supreme Court has ruled on a suit by

U.S. House of Representatives Republicans in the House "overwhelmingly voted to pass a bill Tuesday evening to end the COVID-19 public health emergency. The measure would also terminate pandemic-related border restrictions that congressional Republicans support. The bill would also prevent the White House from overreaching from the White House and stunted economic recovery from the pandemic." Yet, "tough-on-immigration policies remain in place in a stated effort to stem COVID-19 spread."

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### **tion, Border Security.**

On Wednesday, Sen. James Lankford (R-OK) unveiled "two major pieces of legislation related to immigration and border security. One of the bills would end the Trump administration's Title 42 expulsions as lawmakers attempt to grapple with the ongoing migrant crisis." The other bill would require the Biden administration to lift the Title 42 public health order before the end of the 2021 D-19 national states of emergency.

### **Child Care May Face Price Spike As Federal Funding Expires.**

Reports, "Families across the country are struggling to afford child care," but "later this year, federal funding for the industry will expire, and force parents, many of them mothers, to make the tough economic decision to cut back work hours or leave jobs." The report notes that "child care prices ranged" between "8% and 19.3% of the median family income per child, and above what the Department of Education's Family Income Survey found for many families." But "the situation is even worse for low-income families as well as divorced and single parents," and as part of its economic agenda, child care was ultimately cut from last year's spending package.

### **ra Benefits By March.**

Recipients nationwide will stop getting pandemic-era boosts after this month's payments, the Food and Nutrition Service says. The maximum amount for their household size – whichever was greater." The emergency allotments are "ending now because the pandemic-era boost is ending. In the Virgin Islands, where the boost is still provided, benefits will return to pre-pandemic levels in March."

### **ses Bill To Expand Authority Of State Foster Care Advocate.**

Virginia's House of Delegates unanimously passed a bill Wednesday to expand the authority of the state foster care ombudsman. The bill would give the Foster Care Ombudsman Pamela Woodman-Kaehler's office "the authority to investigate deaths, abuse and neglect of children in foster care." It would also protect the identities of people providing confidential information during investigations, prohibiting the ombudsman and staff from disclosing such information in judicial or administrative proceedings. The bill "makes all memoranda, work product, notes and communications confidential, and not subject to discovery, subpoena or other means of legal compulsion."

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### **Of Potentially Spoiled Canned Meat, Poultry.**

Conagra Brands is recalling some 2.6 million pounds of canned meat and poultry that were potentially spoiled due to a manufacturing issue. The company's website states that a Conagra establishment notified it "after observing spoiled and/or leaking cans from multiple locations." The article notes that "there have been no confirmed reports of adverse reactions due to the consumption of these products." The recall was reported by [The Washington Post](#) (2.44M), [CBS News](#) (2/1, Singh, 5.39M), [USA Today](#) (2/1, Grantham-Philips, 12.7M), and the [Miami Herald](#) (2/1, Neill).

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### **roduction Of Weight Loss Drug Wegovy To Address Shortages.**

Novo Nordisk, "The maker of the popular weight loss drug Wegovy," Novo Nordisk, "said Wednesday that it is ramping up production to address shortages of the drug."

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s, "As of today, states can start reevaluating whether the millions of Americans who have remained covered by Medicaid, Megan Messerly reports." While "some GOP-led states are more than ready to pare down the program," others –

### **Keeping Medicaid Expansion, But Expresses Concerns Over Unsustainable Budget.**

Guido, 20K) reports, "The House Health and Welfare Committee is recommending Medicaid expansion remain in Idaho." The House committee "finalized its letter addressed to House Speaker Mike Moyle" (R) "Tuesday morning and it will send the letter," which "said members have concerns over the 'unsustainability of the current increased budget reduced in 2018 and provides coverage to adults who made too much to qualify for traditional Medicaid health coverage

### **Medicaid Expansion Bill.**

"More than 15 bills that would have expanded Medicaid to provide health care coverage to primarily the working poor in the House or Senate "held a hearing on those Medicaid expansion bills." Lawmakers "killed the bills as a worsening health care crisis in the healthiest states with the highest percentages of uninsured residents."

### **South Carolina Could Lose Coverage This Year.**

reports, "An estimated 300,000 South Carolina Medicaid recipients could lose their health coverage over the next year due to eligibility." In April, "South Carolina Health and Human Services...will be required to restart annual eligibility reviews to ensure the latest move as the country moves on from COVID-era restrictions and assistance."

### **More Medicaid Coverage This Year.**

1,000 Tennesseans who enrolled in Medicaid during the COVID-19 pandemic are expected to lose their coverage this year as the government-funded health insurance program." A TennCare spokesperson "said this week that no removals will occur until they will begin in March."

### **Period Of Uninsurance Following Medicaid Disenrollment, Analysis Shows.**

reports, "In a year after Medicaid disenrollment, about two-thirds of people had a period of uninsurance, according to a new analysis. It found that 16 percent of people had another source of coverage sometime during that year, and 33 percent eventually regained Medicaid/CHIP enrollment. Only 11 percent of Medicaid/CHIP enrollees maintained coverage during the full year after disenrollment, KFF reported."

### **Strategies Can Minimize Impact Of Transition After People Lose Medicaid Coverage.**

Pennsylvania Health System, and Madeline Bell, president and CEO of Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, write in the new report that "many people will lose Medicaid coverage" on April 1 "despite still being eligible, a fate known as 'administrative churn,' which happens when people are unable to contact enrollees due to change of address, or other administrative hurdles." They say, "We must prevent this churn through targeted strategies, such as "targeted strategies" to "support individuals in transitioning to the Affordable Care Act marketplace." They conclude, "A multifaceted approach and a tool kit of strategies are needed together during this process to do right by Pennsylvanians."

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access to health care for all.”

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### **CKD-Caused Anemia In Patients On Dialysis.**

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) on Wednesday approved GSK Plc’s drug, “Jesduvroq, “as the first oral drug to treat anemia in patients on dialysis who have been on dialysis for at least four months.” Currently, “the wholesale acquisition cost has not yet been set for Jesduvroq, but we are in the process of submitting the required documentation with Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS).

Subscription Publication, 4K) also covers the story.

### **Artificial Tears Due To Bacterial Infections Linked To Permanent Vision Loss, One Death.**

Subscription Publication, 8.41M) reports the CDC and federal health officials have warned against using EzriCare Artificial Tears, a multi-drug resistant bacteria, that have caused permanent vision loss, hospitalization, and one death so far. The artificial tears in question were imported from India by Aru Pharma Inc, and made by Global Pharma Healthcare Ltd. (GPH) (Subscription Publication, 0.52M) reports, “Most patients had used artificial tears before the onset of their condition, said the CDC, which is investigating the outbreak strain in open EzriCare bottles in two states and is testing unopened bottles to see whether they may be contaminated. The artificial tears are “manufactured by India-based Global Pharma Healthcare, which sells the product under other brands.”

### **Bellevue Considering Indoor Smoking Ban After Push From Breathe Easy NKY Coalition.**

Subscription Publication, 1.2M) reports, “A second city in Northern Kentucky,” Bellevue, “is considering telling smokers to step outside to light up.” The city is in the “Breathe Easy” area.” And while “Bellevue may be the latest Northern Kentucky city to consider a smoking ban, but it won’t be the last.” The coalition is behind these smoking bans.” Local 12 “asked Northern Kentucky Chamber President Brent Cooper why the coalition is pushing for a ban. Cooper explained, “We feel like if they can see that momentum that started with Dayton [passing a smoking ban], we want to see other cities do the same.”

### **Failed FDA Trial For Gene Therapy May Not Be Worthwhile.**

Subscription Publication, 1.2M) reports, “Taysha Gene Therapies hoped the trial design for its gene therapy for a rare neuromuscular disease,” giant axonal neuropathy, “would be successful.” But “FDA questions about the study mean that the path forward is almost certainly longer, and might not even be possible.” The company “plans to conduct a randomized and placebo-controlled clinical trial to further evaluate the therapy, TSHA-120.” Taysha CEO says, “If we don’t get the right stats, doing the study really wouldn’t be a worthwhile endeavor.” The National Institutes of Health “is evaluating the trial.” Taysha acquired the rights to the therapy in 2021.”

### **Smoking Cannabis Is Not Associated With Impaired Lung Function In Young Adults.**

Subscription Publication, 1.2M) reports, “Smoking cannabis was not associated with impaired lung functioning for young adults in a new longitudinal study,” but “the study suggesting that smoking cannabis is more likely to cause emphysema than smoking tobacco.” Instead, researchers found that “smoking cannabis was associated with improved lung functioning for young adults in a new longitudinal study.”

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one was not tied to reduced airflow or impaired lung functioning." However, "limitations in both studies suggest that the new study "examined whether chronic cannabis smoking was associated with damaging effects on the lungs of young adults. With the normalization of teen cannabis use, "In this context, understanding more about the harms associated with long-term cannabis use is important."

### **Verily To Drug Companies Conducting Clinical Trials.**

"A small Phase 2 trial of a new antidepressant may hold clues to the direction of Verily, the high-profile Alphabet health care unit, after laying off employees last month." A part of the trial's goal "will be to recruit patients more remotely, and also to reduce the need for an office unnecessarily." The study "is part of a long-standing collaboration between Verily and the drug's maker, Otsuka Pharmaceutical, in the United States." Verily's "business of providing services to drug companies that are conducting clinical trials is increasing."

### **Novartis To Grow Again Ahead Of Sandoz Spin-Off.**

Novartis on Wednesday predicted that core operating income would grow in a 'mid single digit' percentage range in 2023 from its generics business. "Core operating income for the full year "was broadly flat at \$16.7 billion, it said in a statement. Novartis also "said it was on track to spin off its generics unit Sandoz in the second half of the year as part of its effort to focus on its core pharmaceutical business."

### **Novartis Helped By Sales Of Shingles Vaccine.**

Novartis on Wednesday beat fourth-quarter profit and sales forecasts helped by sales of its blockbuster shingles vaccine Shingrix. "The strong Q4 results are the latest endorsement of chief executive Emma Walmsley's spin-off last year of consumer health products. Novartis reported a fourth-quarter profit of 25.8 pence per share on sales of about 7.4 billion pounds (\$9.11 billion)."

### **LeafLink \$100M In Latest Funding, Makes Leadership Changes.**

LeafLink, a cannabis technology platform, said on Wednesday it has raised \$100 million in the latest financing round and added co-founder Matt Minson and serve as executive chairman." With this "\$100 million in funding led by CPMG, L2 Ventures and Nosara, LeafLink has completed a round of financing after six rounds."

### **Sherlock Bio Speeds Up Launch Of CRISPR-Based Handheld Diagnostic Tests.**

Sherlock Biosciences said on Wednesday it has acquired UK-based Sense Biodetection to speed up the launch of handheld diagnostic tests. "Sherlock Bio "raised \$80 million nearly a year ago for development of diagnostics based on the CRISPR tool, and the deal is on financial terms of the deal with Sense."

### **Novartis Financial Restructuring Plan, Seeks To Recover After Charges Of Malpractice At Its Homes.**

Novartis announced a financial restructuring on Wednesday giving bondholders the lion's share of control as the French nursing care giant seeks to recover after charges of malpractice at its French nursing homes. "Novartis "will cut its debt by around 3.8 billion euros (\$4.13 billion) and receive a cash equity injection of 1.55 billion euros from the French government, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and other investors."

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### **Hospital In Transgender Discrimination Case Affects All Patients' Access To Care.**

reports, "A federal judge recently ruled against the University of Maryland Medical System in finding that it discriminated against a patient who underwent a hysterectomy that was recommended by his physician to treat gender dysphoria." The judge's "ruling supports all patients, rather than subject to arbitrary institutional policies."

### **Link Between Rising Temperatures, Increased Fungal Infections.**

(Subscription Publication, 8.41M) reports fungal infections are increasingly spreading across the US, and a growing concern about their spread.

### **Remove Fallopian Tubes To Prevent Ovarian Cancer.**

reports, "There is no reliable screening test for ovarian cancer, so doctors urge women at high genetic risk for the disease to have their fallopian tubes removed, usually around the age of 40." And on Wednesday, the Ovarian Cancer Research Alliance "broadly recommends that women whose ovarian cancers originate in the fallopian tubes, not the ovaries...is urging even women who do not have mutations – that is, those who have not had children and are planning a gynecologic operation anyway."

### **Many Indignities Without Menopausal Hormone Therapy.**

(1, 20.6M), Susan Dominus writes, "Menopausal hormone therapy was once the most commonly prescribed treatment for menopause and elevated health risks for women of all ages." She adds, "Hormone therapy carries risks...as do many other treatments." "Studies since 2002 have provided reassurance that for healthy women under 60 whose hot flashes are troubling them, hormone therapy is safe." "It is painful to contemplate the sheer number of indignities unnecessarily endured over the past 20 years. ... Maybe the good news I can hope is that it confirms the current trend toward research that reassures."

### **Increased Risk Of Cancer, Study Finds.**

(1, 20.6M) reports ultra-processed foods "may increase your risk of cancer – particularly ovarian or brain cancer, research has found." "A study assessed the diets of 197,426 individuals "for a 10-year-period in the United Kingdom and found a 'higher consumption of ultra-processed foods was associated with an increased risk of dying from cancer and specifically ovarian and brain cancer.'" They also found that it "is associated with an increased risk of dying from cancer, with 109 cancer-related deaths occurred." The researchers concluded, "For every 10 percent increase in ultra-processed food consumption, there was a 12 percent increase in overall cancer risk, a 13 percent increase for breast cancer, a 14 percent increase for colorectal cancer, a 15 percent increase for prostate cancer, a 16 percent increase for lung cancer, a 17 percent increase for pancreatic cancer, a 18 percent increase for stomach cancer, a 19 percent increase for ovarian cancer specifically."

### **Concussions Evolving Over Past Decade.**

(1, 20.6M) reports, "For years, the treatment protocol for children with concussions involved keeping them out of school to rest and recover. But in the past decade, physicians "have been moving toward encouraging kids to return to school and light activity as soon as possible." "The new approach," finding "that an early return to school...benefited children age[d] 8 to 18, who had less severe symptoms and spent less time at home longer."

### **Exercise Can Alter How The Brain Processes Stress, Trauma, Study Finds.**

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Successful experiences during early childhood – particularly economic strife – appear to act as a toxic stressor that can lead to a new study.” Investigators “found that Black children were impacted more than white children, largely because of their brain scans” from NIH-funded Adolescent Brain Cognitive Development “to identify small differences in the volume of certain brain areas that may play a role in the later development of mental health problems.” This analysis “found that disparities in eight of 14 brain regions were significant.” Researchers “found lower brain volume in these areas in children with lower household income – both Black and white.”

### **Data Can Improve Patient Care.**

Chief Technology Officer Jay Schnitzer writes about an effort launched by nonprofit organizations in 2019 “to develop a national network of [electronic health records] and used to capture the characteristics, treatments, and outcomes of every person with a chronic condition.” Health organizations and other stakeholders – including EHR vendors – who see the potential of learning from millions of patients’ health data for better patient care and research through [shareable] data are endless. ... Unlocking the potential of these proprietary systems is a challenge.

### **AI in Medical Care, But Physicians Must Use Caution.**

Higher-education students Rushabh H. Doshi and Simar S. Bajaj write on the pros and cons of ChatGPT chatbot and how it can help “medical students and physicians learn more efficiently, from creating unique memory devices...to explaining complex concepts.” They advise to use it “carefully and not use it as a primary source without verification.” The students conclude, “The release of a powerful AI tool like ChatGPT warrants immediate action to evaluate its capabilities, mitigate its harms, and facilitate its optimal use.”

### **Screen Time Could Affect Cognitive Skills Later In Childhood, Study Suggests.**

A new study suggests that “The amount of time babies spend watching computer, TV and phone screens in their first year of life may be indirectly related to their cognitive skills later in life.” Researchers found that “babies who watched on average two hours of screen time per day performed worse later on, at ages 3 and 5.” The study was designed “to test and study brain waves at about 18 months and then connected the dots between how much screen time they had in the first year and their scores around the age of 9.” The results show “that the babies who had the most screen time...did the worst on attention and cognitive tests.”

### **Rural Nursing Homes Especially Hard.**

A new report (Publication, 4K) reports the nursing home “industry’s national labor shortage has hit small rural nursing homes especially hard, forcing them to turn away or limit new admissions, which reduces their revenue.” Meanwhile, “low Medicaid payment rates, rising operating costs, and other challenges are making it difficult for them to stay afloat.”

### **Financially-Linked Companies Receive Millions.**

A new report (Publication, 4K) reports that “Real estate, management, and staffing companies financially linked to nursing home owners throughout New York,” in 2022 received “\$1.2 billion in Medicaid payments, 27%, while the nursing homes that hired them were strained by staff shortages, harrowing injuries, and mounting costs.” The report also notes that “Medicaid which is “due this spring is sure to spark debate about what homes can additionally afford to spend versus what they can receive.” The state inspector general is investigating whether homes properly report related-party costs.”

### **How to Fund Alzheimer’s Research, Prevention, Strategic Planning.**

A new report (Publication, 174K) reports, “U.S. Sen. Susan Collins, R-Maine, is leading a bipartisan group of senators working to pass two bills to increase funding for Alzheimer’s research, prevention, and strategic planning.”

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at Alzheimer's disease." They "would reauthorize laws that are set to expire in 2025, including the National Alzheimer's Act, extending them until 2035."

### **Diversity, Study Finds.**

Researchers at Massachusetts General Hospital (MGH) discovered "the American Association of Cancer Research (AACR) GENIE, a publicly available, international cancer registry, lacks sufficient representation of cancer distribution among racial and ethnic populations" by using the CDC's "Wide-Ranging Online Data for Epidemiologic Research (CDC-WONDER), which provides data for each ethnic group for a given cancer type." Study lead Sophia Kamran, MD, said, "GENIE is not sufficiently powered to detect disparities in cancer outcomes for non-White patients in even the most common cancer types."

### **Block Dismisses Gender-Affirming Care Documents.**

On Tuesday, US District Judge Robert Hinkle ordered Florida's "Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA) to provide documents that show which care cannot be covered under Medicaid because treatments are 'experimental and investigational'" by February 1, 2025.

### **Block Blocks Democrats From Questioning New Health Commissioner On HIV Funding Cuts.**

Lawmakers in Tennessee on Wednesday continued to block Democratic lawmakers from questioning the newly appointed health commissioner designed to prevent and treat HIV." Health Commissioner Ralph Alvarado spoke "in front of the House Health Committee." When Rep. John Ray Clemmons asked about the HIV funding decision, he was gavelled down by Republican Rep. Bryan Terry.

### **Block Approves State Budget.**

Gov. Kathy Hochul reports, "Gov. Kathy Hochul unveiled on Wednesday a \$227 billion state budget aimed at tackling some of the state's most pressing issues, including a major infrastructure program to address the state's aging infrastructure, a multiyear plan to salvage the finances of the city's ailing subway system." Her "budget proposal for the fiscal year 2025-26 includes a focus on increased spending on health care and public education." Hochul "proposed increasing taxes on cigarettes by \$1 per pack, expanding the state's current ban on flavored electronic cigarettes."

[New York Daily News](#) (2/1, Slattery, 2.51M) also report.

### **Block Drinking, Smoking Are Unlikely To Succeed.**

As reported by [The New York Times](#) (2/1, M), contributor Joseph Micallef writes that many countries and governments "have proposed regulatory changes designed to discourage or limit the consumption of alcohol and cigars are coming at a time when states are also considering proposals for cannabis and decriminalizing the recreational use of many narcotic and hallucinogenic drugs." He adds, "Continued efforts to restrict alcohol consumption are simply an alternative way to reinstall a de facto prohibition on alcohol consumption. It didn't work the first time; it's unlikely to work now."

### **Block Young Women, Nonsmokers.**

Researchers report, "The face of lung cancer has changed," and "over the past 15 years, more women, never smokers and younger people are being diagnosed with lung cancer." Researchers have said "that while lung cancer rates have risen by 79% for women over the last 44 years, they decreased by 15% for men." They also found "an increase in lung cancer risk in some patients with a strong history of lung cancer."

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### **Hearing On Bill Banning Smoking In Atlantic City Casinos.**

“Senate Health, Human Services and Senior Citizens Committee will hold a hearing Feb. 13 in Trenton to discuss” a bill, according to Sen. Joseph Vitale, one of the measure’s sponsors.” The ban “would close a loophole in New Jersey’s 2011 law that Gov. Christie had promised to sign the bill if it passes the Legislature.”

### **Sunscreen Spray Due To Presence Of Cancer-Causing Benzene.**

Reuters reports, “Banana Boat is expanding a recall it issued last year over the presence of a cancer-causing chemical in its scalp sunscreen, which was recalled by the Food and Drug Administration in July because several “batches of Banana Boat’s six-ounce ‘Hair & Scalp’ sunscreen spray contained benzene, a known carcinogen. “Benzene is not an ingredient in the sunscreen, the FDA said earlier this week. Rather, the chemical was detected in the propellant used to spray the sunscreen. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the chemical is typically found in gasoline. The recall affects about 1.5 million units of the product, valued at \$10.52 million.”

### **Support Of Cancer Moonshot.**

Reuters (12K) reports First Lady Jill Biden is scheduled to visit a Family Health Centers of San Diego clinic on Friday afternoon. The visit is part of the administration’s focus on cancer screenings and increase early detection in underserved communities.” Additionally, on Saturday, she “will meet with health care service providers and military family members connected to the clinic.” The First Lady’s “visit comes ahead of World Cancer Research Day. (Sullivan Brennan, 587K) reports the Biden Administration’s “moonshot initiative, which Joe Biden spearheaded while vice president, aims to reduce death rates by at least 50 percent within 25 years.” The Moonshot Initiative’s “goals include resuming clinical trials for more patients into clinical cancer trials.”

### **Fossil Fuel Industry As Part Of Cancer Moonshot.**

Reuters (77K), Revolving Door Project researchers Dorothy Slater and Hannah Story Brown write that President Biden’s Cancer Moonshot initiative “aims to reduce cancer deaths by 50 percent by 2025 and end cancer as we know it today.” However, they say, success “will require more than funding research in the coming year. During National Cancer Prevention Month, it’s worth acknowledging that cancer prevention requires different approaches than treatment. It’s about changing the environment.” The authors recommend that Biden “challenge the fossil fuel and petrochemical industries” as part of his cancer moonshot.

### **Autism Rates Tripled In New York-New Jersey Area Between 2000 And 2016.**

Reuters reports, “Researchers at Rutgers University recently published a study in the journal Pediatrics finding that autism diagnosis rates in the New York-New Jersey area between 2000 and 2016.” Data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention indicate “roughly 1 in 44 children are diagnosed with autism. The explanation for the increase in ASD diagnosis rates “is greater awareness of its existence and complexities, as well as changes in diagnostic criteria.”

### **App To Help Detect Common Stroke Symptoms.**

Reuters (1) reports, “Researchers have developed an app called FAST AI to detect the most common stroke symptoms – facial drooping, arm weakness, and speech difficulty – using artificial intelligence algorithms,” and will present “preliminary findings...next week at the American Heart Association’s International Stroke Conference. The app’s creator and study lead author Radoslav I. Raychev said, “Our goal is very simple. We want to detect stroke at onset.” Current research shows that early treatment can significantly reduce the risk of long-term disability and death after a stroke.

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able or to whom it will be marketed." Experts "said a smartphone app that can help detect stroke symptoms is a great tool to help identify symptoms and motivate them to call 911, not as a diagnostic tool."

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### **Top Planned Raise In Drugmaker Revenue Repayment Rates.**

Pharmaceutical trade body on Thursday called for the government to scrap its plans to raise the repayment rates for drugmakers as part of UK's voluntary scheme agreement, which makes branded medicines affordable for people, are required to pay back to the NHS and Social Care "plans to raise the revenue clawback rate to 27.5% from 24.5%." Association of the British Pharmaceutical Manufacturers (ABPI) "warns that such a move to such uncompetitive levels risks undermining the UK's offer to global life sciences companies." ABPI "asked for the government to be engaged for now to buy time for negotiations."

### **Hospital Visits, Hospitalizations Linked To Severe Alcohol Use During First Year Of Pandemic.**

Statistics Canada (STAT) reports, "As debate swirls around how much alcohol, if any, Canadians should be drinking, a new study reveals a link between increased hospital visits and hospitalizations and severe alcohol use." And "the increase was the same for people with and without a history of alcohol abuse, CMAA's lead author and family physician Dr. Daniel Myran said, "This is not something that just happened amongst people who were already prone to have impacted people who were not having this harmful pattern of drinking that required health care use because of the pandemic, in part driven by health care being delivered differently during the pandemic."

### **Legalizing Drugs To Combat Drug Overdose Deaths.**

The Canadian province of British Columbia said it's decriminalizing small amounts of some drugs to help combat the rising number of drug overdose deaths. Starting this week, "no one 18 years and older will be charged if caught in possession of 2.5 grams of certain illegal drugs, including marijuana, cocaine, and heroin." For the most vulnerable individuals possessing such drugs, "police will offer information on available health and social supports and will refer them to appropriate services."

### **Smoking Ban In Public Areas.**

STAT (STAT) reports, "As part of a council goal to promote a healthy lifestyle for residents and visitors to Banff, smoking is being banned in public areas, including restaurants, bars, and in outdoor parking lots and alleyways." The Banff "Council debated removing ashtrays from areas where smoking is still permitted." "The council is also looking for feedback about the new bylaw and where smokers are legally able to light up." A review of the smoking bylaw "will likely be released in the next few weeks."

### **Radioactive Capsule.**

STAT (STAT, 10.52M) reports that on Wednesday, Western Australia Emergency Services Minister Stephen Dawson announced that a radioactive capsule that went missing...has been found." Authorities do "not believe anyone had come into contact with the capsule."

STAT (STAT, 20.6M) reports, "The capsule, which is part of a sensor used in mining, was lost sometime between Jan. 12 and Jan. 15."

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Government investigation has been launched into how the capsule fell off the truck and a report will be provided to the  
ers (2/1), [NBC News](#) (2/1, Khan, 4.91M), [CNN](#) (2/1, Whiteman, 89.21M), and [NPR](#) (2/1, Hernandez, 3.69M) also cover

### **Mad Cow Disease.**

Wednesday, the Netherlands reported a case of mad cow disease. According to Agriculture Minister Piet Adema, "the infected  
food safety." Tests "established that the dead animal had a naturally occurring form of the disease called atypical BSE  
(out) also covers the story.

### **Finland To Legally Change One's Gender.**

Parliament in Finland approved amendments Wednesday that will make it substantially easier for people to change their legal  
gender people to provide a medical certificate proving they were infertile or sterilized before the government would re  
who are 18 or older in Finland to legally change their genders by self-declaration without having to supply a psychiatric

### **Prep Work Against Bird Flu, Agriculture Minister Says.**

Wednesday, Ecuador's Minister of Agriculture and Livestock Bernardo Manzano announced that the country "plans to  
he said, "The vaccine together with biosecurity and control measures will help prevent the spread of the disease in the

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### **Biden, McCarthy Hold First Debt Ceiling Talks.**

President Biden on Wednesday met with House Speaker McCarthy "in search of a path to lifting the nation's debt ceiling  
from the hourlong session agreed on at least one thing: It could've gone worse." In a statement, the White House called  
[Reuters](#) (2/1, Hunnicutt) reports that McCarthy told reporters afterwards, "The President and I had a good first meeting."  
.57M) also portrayed McCarthy as "hopeful" that a deal could be struck, while [CNN](#) (2/1, Vazquez, Foran, 89.21M) s  
ey, Edmondson, 20.6M) reports Biden told McCarthy "that there was room for discussion about addressing America's  
increase with no strings attached to avoid a financial cataclysm." The White House afterwards "said Mr. Biden repe  
t did say he welcomes a 'separate discussion with congressional leaders about how to reduce the deficit and contro  
House summary of the meeting." The [Wall Street Journal](#) (2/1, Andrews, Siddiqui, Subscription Publication, 8.41M)  
the shared duty of every leader in Congress not to allow a default. However, I told him that I welcome separate talk

130K) reports McCarthy "said he talked to Biden about 'a lot of different ideas' but he did not reveal details publicly.  
s agreement, a result that's occurred in past debt limit negotiations." [The Hill](#) (2/1, Samuels, 5.69M) reports McCart  
n which Congress would vote to raise the debt limit in exchange for the creation of a commission studying ways to c  
e, fraud and abuse. ... Nobody needs a commission in the American public to tell us that we have spent too much,'  
ted himself to the White House to start the conversation before a summer debt deadline. And he emerged saying th  
peaker said he expected to hear from Biden soon."

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2/1, 6:41 p.m. EST, story 6, 1:50, Muir, 6.95M) said there was a "a somewhat refreshing initial readout from this meeting at the White House calling that hour-long meeting straightforward and frank, but these are tough conversations, and right now we need to hear from the president." Peter Alexander reported for [NBC Nightly News](#) [Video](#) (2/1, 6:36 p.m. EST, story 2, 2:30, Holt, 5.66M) that the White House says Joe Biden and Kamala Harris will continue the conversation. There are still several months until a potential default that economists warn could hurt the economy. [The Washington Post](#) (2/1, 6:30 p.m. EST, story 2, 2:30, Brown, 4.19M) also briefly reported on the talks in its coverage of the FBI search of the President's former office. [The New York Times](#) (2/1, 6:30 p.m. EST, story 2, 2:30, Sotomayor, Romm, 10.52M) says the "encounter likely marks the earliest stage of a messy political back and forth over the meeting "could set the parameters for future talks." The Post adds that expectations for the talks had been "low, but the pair's interactions over the next several months will have a significant impact on the economy."

[The New York Times](#) (2/1, 6:30 p.m. EST, story 2, 2:30, Sotomayor, Romm, 10.52M) column, Marc Thiessen questions why, when most Americans believe the economy is in bad shape and economists warn that a default could hurt the economy – and give [President] Biden the pretext to shift blame for his economic fiascoes to them." Thiessen says the president "ought to fight with the president. If the United States reaches the brink of insolvency, myriad problems could follow" and Republicans "a debt limit fight could cost Republicans "their narrow House majority – and, if history is any guide, the presidency." [The Washington Post](#) (2/1, 6:30 p.m. EST, story 2, 2:30, Cochrane, 20.6M) highlights the women leading the House and Senate panels that will be responsible for negotiating a deal with the president, Reps. Kay Granger (R-TX) and Rosa DeLauro (D-CT). The Times adds, "At the White House, the top budget official is Steve Mnuchin and Budget."

[The Washington Post](#) (2/1, 6:30 p.m. EST, story 2, 2:30, Cochrane, 20.6M) runs a fact check on an array of claims being made during the debt ceiling debate.

### **Searching Biden's Rehoboth Residence.**

[The Washington Post](#) (2/1, 6:30 p.m. EST, story 2, 2:30, Cochrane, 20.6M) reports the Federal Bureau of Investigation "found no classified documents" while carrying out a search of the president's former office at the Rehoboth Beach, Delaware, residence on Wednesday, "but investigators removed some material, including handwritten notes apparently from his time as vice president." [The New York Times](#) (2/1, 6:30 p.m. EST, story 2, 2:30, Sotomayor, Romm, 10.52M) says the search is one of at least three that have taken place in coordination with Biden's legal team and the discovery of classified material in the President's former office at the Penn Biden Center on November 2 and at a different location on November 3.

[The Washington Post](#) (2/1, 6:30 p.m. EST, story 2, 2:30, Cochrane, 20.6M) Wednesday's search "is the first publicly known time the FBI searched the Rehoboth residence." And [Bloomberg](#) (2/1, 6:30 p.m. EST, story 2, 2:30, Holt, 5.66M) says "classified materials were discovered" at the site during prior searches. [Reuters](#) (2/1, Mason, Lynch) reports that according to a source "Biden did not have representatives present" during Wednesday's search. However, the [Washington Post](#) (2/1, Wagner, Paquin) says the search "clear the 3-and-a-half hour search "took place...in coordination and cooperation with the President's attorneys." The source says the search was "a further step in a thorough and timely [Justice Department] process."

[The Washington Post](#) (2/1, 6:30 p.m. EST, story 2, 2:30, Cochrane, 20.6M) says that while Bauer did not mention former President Donald Trump by name, his statement "seemed aimed at juxtaposing the Justice Department efforts to recover all the classified records taken to the former president's Florida estate culminated in the discovery of documents and other items. Searches of Biden's former office and Delaware homes, by contrast, have all been done in coordination with the president's legal team." [The New York Times](#) (2/1, 6:30 p.m. EST, story 2, 2:30, Sotomayor, Romm, 10.52M) reports, "Biden and his team have consistently said there has been no wrongdoing when it comes to his handling of classified information there there." Still, [The Hill](#) (2/1, Samuels, 5.69M) says, the Administration "has faced criticism" for not sooner revealing the search.

[The Hill](#) (2/1, Gangitano, 5.69M) reports that after the conclusion of the search at Biden's Rehoboth property, the White House says the search was "a further step in a thorough and timely [Justice Department] process."

at Biden's private properties. [Politico](#) (2/1, Cadelago, 6.73M) reports that Sams said the President "believes in giving...  
ntly. That's why he's moving quickly to give them the access to his home in Wilmington, to give them access to his  
the information to move ahead in their review."

L, 6:36 p.m. EST, story 2, 2:30, Holt, 5.66M) reported that the White House is "under the microscope over its level  
[Evening News](#)  [Video](#) (2/1, 6:35 p.m. EST, story 2, 2:30, Brown, 4.19M) that Biden "ignored questions about the s  
ry 4, 2:00, Muir, 6.95M), showed that when pressed on "why the American people were informed about" Wednesday  
've been pretty transparent from the very beginning with providing information as it occurs throughout this process  
2.7M) provides similar coverage.

**Be Into Biden's Handling Of Classified Records.** [Bloomberg](#) (2/1, Strohm, 3.57M) reports that on Wednesday, newly ap  
probe into whether President Biden "broke any laws related to the mishandling of classified documents." Hur had "wa  
Gibson Dunn &Crutcher." Bloomberg adds, "Hur's work will proceed on a separate but parallel path to that of Special  
whether former President Donald Trump broke laws and obstructed justice with regard to his handling of classified ma  
n the 2020 presidential election."

### **Omar From Foreign Affairs Panel.**

ouse Republicans are preparing to remove Rep. Ilhan Omar (D-MN) from the House Foreign Affairs Committee "over  
ar-right GOP lawmakers from committees for their incendiary, violent remarks." On Wednesday, a procedural vote "d  
d for comments that she has said she came to understand were viewed as antisemitic. It was approved on party line

says GOP leaders "have worked for weeks to ensure that there were enough votes to pass a resolution removing O  
o the effort to oust Omar "emerged last month as four lawmakers signaled that they wouldn't support the measure,  
lif.) when she was House speaker." However the Post says "the inclusion within the four-page resolution of a provis  
d at least one crucial voter, as Rep. Victoria Spartz (R-Ind.) announced Tuesday that she would now support the me  
Wednesday morning when Rep. Ken Buck (R-Colo.) told Politico that he would support the resolution, flipping from h  
ort, she told Politico." The [Wall Street Journal](#) (2/1, Andrews, Subscription Publication, 8.41M) provides similar cove  
[Waton Post](#) (2/1, 10.52M) that "it was remarkable" to see Rep. Matt Gaetz (R-FL) "come to the defense" Omar. As Ho  
mmittee, Gaetz "blurted out an uncomfortable truth about the GOP's effort. Republicans want to punish Omar 'beca  
ndecided on whether to remove her, he correctly questioned the validity of doing this because 'I don't like your view  
w, he has gotten this one big thing right."

### **House Intelligence Committee.**

p. Jim Himes (D-CT) "will serve as the top Democrat on the House Intelligence Committee after Speaker Kevin McCa  
onal security concerns, McCarthy last week denied seats on the committee to two California Democrats: Schiff, the

ep. Mike Quigley (D-IL) has lost his seat on the House Intelligence Committee "thanks to his own party." Quigley "sa  
hored to have served on the committee" but is "disappointed to be hit by friendly fire." Politico says members are li  
y Leader Jeffries "noted that Quigley had already served for four full terms." But Quigley "had privately backed [Rep

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at would have pitted him against Jeffries, prompting some Democrats to theorize that the Illinoisan's removal from

### **Manager To Subcommittee On "Weaponization" Of Federal Government.**

se Democrats "have tapped a former Donald Trump impeachment manager" to "sit on the select subcommittee on t  
several high-profile, controversial Republican probes – including a broad dive into the FBI and Justice Department." I  
ey Plaskett, a Democrat who represents the Virgin Islands, as the party's top member on the panel, putting her at t  
was part of House Democrats' impeachment team during the 2021 Senate trial in the wake of the Jan. 6 attack."

### **Book Funds From GoFundMe For Dog's Surgery.**

al law enforcement officials are investigating Navy veteran Rich Osthoff's allegations that Rep. George Santos (R-NY  
money." Osthoff "told CNN he spoke to a pair of FBI agents on Wednesday about the incident on behalf of the US A  
finances." Last month, Osthoff "told CNN...that in 2016 Santos promised to raise funds for his pit bull, Sapphire. ...  
hoff "said Santos became uncooperative when he tried to access the GoFundMe money." [Politico](#) (2/1, Sweet, 6.73M)  
o says, "The alleged fundraising scheme is one of many scandals plaguing the freshman Republican, who has refuse  
me to light in December shortly after he won a swing seat on Long Island." The [CBS Evening News](#)  [Video](#) (2/1, 6:  
ef report Wednesday evening, as did [ABC World News Tonight](#)  [Video](#) (2/1, 6:41 p.m. EST, story 5, 0:35, Muir, 6.9  
*To Pressure Santos Out Of Office.* The [Washington Post](#) (2/1, 10.52M) reports Robert P. Zimmerman, "the man who  
ents greet him with a sympathetic tilt of the head, as if to say: I'm sorry for our loss." The Post says residents of Ne  
powerless from the lack of speedy redress." Zimmer said, "Trust me: No one's more frustrated than me. ... There a  
Santos choose to resign or is forced out of office, "Gov. Kathy Hochul (D) would call a special election. ... Zimmerman i  
ys he's focused squarely on what he calls 'a mission for justice': helping his fellow citizens pressure Santos out of o

### **Senate Commerce Committee.**

ate Minority Leader McConnell has removed Sen. Rick Scott (R-FL), "who tried to oust him as the Senate's top Repu  
ell also pulled Sen. Mike Lee (R-UT), "who supported Scott's bid to replace McConnell as leader," from the panel. WH  
hip reign personally," Politico says "the latest move sends a clear message to conservatives that challenging McCon  
nnell was the likely reason he was booted from the panel despite his relative seniority on the committee and exper  
who described Scott as "furious."

### **ential Bid On February 15.**

ports that former South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley (R) is expected to announce that she is running for president "on F  
ans." [USA Today](#) (2/1, Jackson, Chambers, 12.7M) reports that "teasing her announcement on Twitter, Haley said: 'F  
bruary 15th! And yes, it's definitely going to be a Great Day in South Carolina!'" [Politico](#) (1/31, Isenstadt, 6.73M) rep  
n 2021 that she wouldn't run for president if Trump did. But Haley telegraphed her change of plans in an interview  
ou're looking at the future of America, I think it's time for new generational change. I don't think you need to be 80  
reports the "daughter of two Indian immigrants who ran a successful clothing store in a rural part of the state, Haley

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s issues of gender and race in a more credible fashion than many of her peers." She has also "pitched herself as a s  
or to the United Nations under Trump from 2017 to 2018."

arly polls show her well behind the former president and Florida Governor Ron DeSantis, who's widely expected to e  
ve to Trump. Haley polled at 4% in a survey released on Tuesday by Republican pollster Whit Ayres – equal with fo  
President Mike Pence."

ormick, Subscription Publication, 8.41M) reports that a wide array of other Republicans also are considering joining t  
(5M) reports that "increased uncertainty is rippling through the Republican Party over how to beat Donald J. Trump fo  
slowly toward challenging the politically wounded yet resilient former president." With Haley getting in, "other poten  
leash attacks on Mr. Trump's candidacy, and to begin their own."

**Will Need To Keep Field Small.** Jim Geraghty writes in the [Washington Post](#) (2/1, 10.52M) that New Hampshire Gov.  
ential candidate someday. But it's hard to be fully enthusiastic considering the circumstances of this cycle." His inte  
ow how Trump won the 2016 nomination. Sixteen other Republicans, most of whom (Rand Paul? Carly Fiorina?) had  
anti-Trump vote." Geraghty argues, "To stop Trump in 2024, some Republicans with presidential ambitions will hav  
udes Nikki Haley (who apparently will soon no longer be merely a potential candidate), Mike Pence, Mike Pompeo, C

### **Sinema's Potential Role In Three-Way Senate Race.**

) reports "progressives are betting that Arizona, a longtime Republican stronghold, has moved far enough to the left  
[I-AZ] to win." Rep. Ruben Gallego (D-AZ) "launched his campaign for her seat last week, painting the race as a ch  
nger who would be a lobbyist for working families." But, there are "several questions to be answered heading into n  
es says there is concern among some Democrats "about splitting the vote in a three-way race," but "Gallego's allies  
Republicans have tried to frame Gallego's entry into the race as chaotic for Democrats."

says Gallego "is looking to build on the strong Latino support he has received in his Phoenix-area district – and he  
o typically don't participate and are disillusioned and distrustful of politicians."

### **For State Employees In New Florida Budget.**

ida Governor Ron DeSantis (R) "is pushing for permanent tax cuts and pay increases for state employees in the com  
widely considered a potential contender for the 2024 presidential nomination, unveiled his \$114.8 billion spending  
ly 1."

### **Propose Banning "Latinx" From Official Documents.**

A group of Hispanic lawmakers in Connecticut has proposed that the state follow Arkansas' lead and ban the term 'La  
speakers." The word "is used as a gender-neutral alternative to 'Latino' and 'Latina' and is helpful in supporting pe  
s." But "state Rep. Geraldo Reyes Jr. of Waterbury, the bill's chief sponsor and one of five Hispanic Democrats who  
a 'woke' term that is offensive to Connecticut's large Puerto Rican population."

### **ined By Success In Foreign Affairs.**

[es](#) (1/31, 20.6M) that when President Biden's presidency is remembered 50 years from now, "what will matter...is

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his presidency but reached new lows with the Taliban's victory in Afghanistan and Russia's invasion of Ukraine." Still, many see any gains from its aggression. ... For Iran, the objective is to stop the regime from reaching a nuclear breakthrough against Chinese invasion while preserving a viable American option to intervene. On all this, the administration is a product of a man who "defeated Trump, and then he defeated Putin, Khamenei and Xi." Or it will be, "He defeated Trump, but then he ca

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In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (2/1, Subscription Publication, 8.41M) says that with Russia apparently preparing for a new round of operations, more rapidly. The Journal particularly argues for equipping the Ukrainian air force with F-16s, and providing its support. **Board.**" In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (2/1, Subscription Publication, 8.41M) characterizes the College Board's decision to cancel Gov. Ron DeSantis (R).

**Inflation.**" In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (2/1, Subscription Publication, 8.41M) questions markets' enthusiasm for the Fed and that the Fed is not finished with rate increases.

[Wall Street Journal](#) (2/1, Subscription Publication, 8.41M) editorial argues Czech President-elect Petr Pavel's intention to demand a more substantive response from Beijing, which could further challenge Western governments' ability to hold China to account.

**FDA's Proposed Reforms Are Inadequate.**" The [Washington Post](#) (2/1, 10.52M) reports that the FDA "vowed to more deeply address deep flaws in the agency's culture, technology and structure. On Tuesday, the FDA finally revealed its fix: creating a new agency." FDA Commissioner Califf "told us that splitting up the FDA 'deserves some due consideration.'" This sweeping reorganization the agency announced this week." How "many more crises – and infant deaths – will it take for lawmakers

**With Bipartisan Police Reform.**" A [Washington Post](#) (2/1, 10.52M) editorial says while President Biden "signed a modest law mandating mental health training to guide officers when they encounter people experiencing mental health crises" and issued an executive order to ban federal – though not state and local – officers who have disciplinary records ... there's only so much he can achieve without bipartisan support. In pessimism, the ground for some compromise nevertheless feels fertile. Improvement by increments is still improvement.

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[Tight Interest Rate Rise](#)

[Upbeat Outlook For Coming Year](#)

[Cryptocurrency 'Swarm' After Shares Decline](#)

[Elon Musk's New Fortune](#)

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[Hours Back? Canceling Meetings](#)

[Tyre Nichols](#)

[Kinshasa](#)

[te](#)

[otball](#)

[Sale](#)

[o Ministers](#)

[Warns Of More To Come](#)

[With Ambitious Foreign Visitor Push](#)

**ork News:**

ecast; Tyre Nichols Funeral; Investigation Into President Biden's Handling Of Classified Documents; FBI Investigation  
g At DC Metro; Alex Murdaugh Murder Trial; Murder And Kidnapping Investigation In Oregon; CDC Warning Against

Into President Biden's Handling Of Classified Documents; US Winter Storms; US Weather Forecast; Shooting In DC  
Raises Interest Rates; Tom Brady Announces Retirement; FBI Investigation Into George Santos; Monkeys Missing I  
n Ballet At The Kennedy Center.

Into President Biden's Handling Of Classified Documents; US Winter Storms; Alex Murdaugh Murder Trial; Federal P  
m Brady Announces Retirement; Aftermath Of Attempt In Florida To Ban History Course; Staten Island Restaurant

conds

ling Of Classified Documents – 7 minutes

minutes, 35 seconds

ds

conds

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History Month. President Biden made an official proclamation declaring it Black History Month. Republicans in the H

BI searched the vacation home of President Biden, looking for any remaining classified documents. Biden's attorney  
in regular house and a vacation house, both in Delaware. How is that a vacation? Can you vacation from Delaware to  
with TV and three boxes of Parcheesi."

Republicans wanted to use the threat of a debt crisis to attract major spending cuts on social programs, including S  
taken courage to propose, courage that immediately evaporated when the former President Trump said, 'Under no c  
al Security.' That headlined again: Florida Retiree Says, 'Hands Off My Government Check.'"

do everything Trumps tells them to do, now they're still threatening to destroy the global economy, but Republican  
they won't tell us what the ransom is. It's like a super villain saying, 'I will destroy Gotham with my heat ray unless

ducted another search of a Biden property, looking for more classified documents. This time, it was his vacation be  
and one of Biden's flip-flops, so he finally has a full set again."

and House Speaker Kevin McCarthy met face-to-face for the first time to discuss the looming debt ceiling crisis. Biden  
good first meeting. Let's circle back in a week.'"

resident Biden's beach house in Delaware for classified documents. First, they searched near Biden's Corvette, and m  
hole scandal as a humble brag."

announced that Biden will get his annual physical on February 16. It's going to be crazy after Biden's colonoscopy wh  
ied documents.'"

ve his annual physical later this month. Well, at least that's one probe that won't turn up any documents."

and President Biden's Delaware beach house today as part of the ongoing investigation into his handling of classified d  
now what you should be searching? Hunter's laptop.'"

amie Raskin asked the Secret Service yesterday to turn over visitor logs from Mar-a-Lago and former Vice President  
one."

proposed new rules today that would limit credit card company fees for missed payments. 'Oh, I never charge anything

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County Plans To Bring Back Mask Mandates.  
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HHS \$240K To Settle Possible HIPAA Violation.

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Declared A WMD.

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988 Suicide Hotline.

Examined.

Legislation Facing Partisan Battle.

Takes Tough Stand Against Minor Patent Changes In Drugs.

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Abortion Rights.

Deaths Increased Since Roe Overturned.

Abortion Ban.

Abortion Ban.

Florida To Try To Implement Law Restricting Abortion Access For Minors.

Offer Abortion Training To More Medical Students.

Opposition To Criminalization Of Abortion In All Cases.

Efforts To Reduce Abortion Access.

Efforts To Florida For Abortions.

Complying With Both Federal, State Abortion Laws, Some Experts Say.

Reduce State Budget Funding For Adoptions.

Supreme Court Decision Overturning Roe Closes.

Complicated, Legal Experts Say.

Collects Reproductive Research Data After Overturn Of Roe V. Wade.

Number Of Mothers Choosing Adoption.

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uster" Block Efforts To Provide Legal Abortion Access.  
n Access Reportedly Among Biggest Users Of Phone Location Data.  
Ability To Take Exams Virtually.  
g Girls Highlighted.  
at Healthcare Consolidation Attempts.  
8% Increase In 2023 Small Group Rates, 20.4% For Individual Market.  
ot Greatly Impacted Clinician Time On EHR Documentation, Study Finds.  
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s AG's Lawsuit Against Administration.  
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osing The Abortion War."  
tability For Increased Risk To Pregnant Women.  
on Restrictions Threaten Lives Of "Both Parent And Child."  
l Be On The Midterm Election Ballot.

erries With Lead Contamination.

dvantage Plans Can Disguise Profits As Costs.

re Nonprofit My Choice Wisconsin For \$150M.

sccovering Tools To Help Manage Endometriosis.  
Will Only Cover Fertility Treatment For Employees In Opposite-Sex Marriages.  
ultiple States That Can Cause Serious Illness, Death For Infants.  
perience Higher Death Rates Than Democratic Ones.  
lectively Earned More Than \$4.5B In 2021.  
ildren Allegedly Getting Lead Poisoning On Rental Properties.  
Saves Government Money Despite Contradicting Data.  
art, Walgreens, 25 Other Store Brands Recalled For Bacterial Contamination.  
Narcolepsy Drug Patent Infringement.  
e Changed Approval Recommendation For Heart Drug Vascepa.  
Of Climate Emergency Following Stalled Environmental Legislation Talks.  
xamined.  
th Infrastructure, Dating Apps Could Help Stop The Spread Of STIs.

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Infections Global Killer, Action Is Needed.

Of Deaths, Risk Of Drought.

g Under Taliban Rule.

ng At 62%.

ays Rights Under Assault From "Extremist So-Called Leaders."

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d To Blue" Program.

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Candidate In Arizona.

pping Elections May Not Apply To Current Cycle.

gerous Strategy In GOP Primaries.

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Disinformation On The Rise Ahead Of Midterms.

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**Healthcare-Only Reconciliation Package.**

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that the White House called Monday "for senators to move forward with a slimmed-down, health care-only reconciliation bill on the cusp of beating the pharmaceutical industry." On Friday, President Biden "told senators to move forward with a health care bill" but "struck a blow to his agenda over its tax and climate provisions, which Biden said he will address through executive action." Biden's statement just recently, if the Senate doesn't act on that, and doesn't take action on climate, he has a contingency plan to address climate, climate change in a way that's going to be effective." However, [NBC Nightly News](#) [Video](#) (7/18, 6:35 p.m.) says "executive action...climate activists believe without Congress acting to speed up wind and solar installations and electric

Manchin says "most but not all Senate Democrats" are "no longer betting on a climate and tax deal" with Manchin and "are ready to move on and accept what they know is feasible: party-line legislation lowering prescription drug costs and health care costs." "Senate Democrats" who "said it's time for the caucus to cut its losses after months of negotiation with their elusive center-right Democrats" criticized and blamed Manchin for abandoning talks with Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer that could have been done. Sen. Martin Heinrich (D-NM) "is openly calling for the revocation of his energy committee chairmanship. Most other Democrats can get."

Manchin says Manchin's decision to oppose the tax and climate provisions "presents a dramatic but not necessarily fatal setback to a global climate catastrophe." Manchin "appeared to leave a sliver of hope for passing climate legislation this year, but the provisions he said he'll support are, according to nonpartisan climate scientists and policy analysts, inadequate to avert

Manchin says even if Democrats could win Manchin's support, the Senate's "arcane budget rules threaten" their "plans to introduce legislation before November's midterm elections." Manchin "said he could support a broader tax and spending bill in September, but the late-night votes and other procedures required to push the legislation through." Schumer "is moving forward on the Medicare bill, but in the health-care bill, options – especially for tax legislation – get more limited."

**Further Limit Democrats' Bill.** Meanwhile, a separate report from [Politico](#) (7/18, Emma, Scholtes, 6.73M) says Senate Republicans are "trying to write in a bid to eject more items from the ever-slimmer package Democrats once called Build Back Better." While the report says "it's a lot quicker and less painful for the majority party now that Manchin has sworn off tax hikes," even "the central piece of the bill – drug prices – is at risk of dwindling further under the Republican onslaught."

## Of Biden's Term.

[Politico](#) (7.52M) reports, "Anthony S. Fauci, the nation's preeminent infectious-diseases expert who has served as the face of the White House for most of President Biden's term after more than 50 years in government, he confirmed Monday." He said, "By the time I'm 80, it's time for me to step down from this position."

[Politico](#) (20.6M) reports, "Even with the added clarity about the possible timing of his retirement, January 2025 is a long way off, well before January 2023, when Republicans may well control one or both houses of Congress." Several "of Dr. Fauci's friends" said he is not worried about any investigation, noting that Republicans, who have accused him of misleading the public about whether he is still working."

[Politico](#) (7.7M) reports that when Fauci was asked on CNN's "At This Hour" if COVID-19 "impacted his thoughts to retire he said, "I'm at a rather advanced age. ... I have the energy and passion to continue to want to pursue other aspects of my

Fauci, 81, was appointed director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases in 1984, and has led research later, Fauci "was thrust even more into the spotlight at the height of the coronavirus pandemic under then-President Trump. Reports, "Fauci played a key role in Trump's news briefings and on political TV shows during the early part of the pandemic, characterized as 'moving the goalposts' in terms of ending pandemic restrictions like lockdowns, mandatory masking and school closures." However, "after Biden was elected president in 2020, he appointed Fauci as his chief medical advisor." (7/18, O'Connell, 21M) reports, "Fauci said that he feels like he's established a good system at NIAID to facilitate a smooth transition to Biden's administration." (7/18, O'Connell, 21M, O'Connell, 6.73M), Fauci "spoke of his legacy, the hard truths about the country's pandemic response and his

include the [Wall Street Journal](#) (7/18, Armour, McKay, Subscription Publication, 8.41M), [Bloomberg](#) (7/18, Baumann, 3.1M), [CBS](#) (7/18, Bendix, O'Donnell, 4.91M), [Fox News](#) (7/18, Wallace, 23.99M), [The Hill](#) (7/18, Choi, 5.69M), [HuffPost](#) (7/18, 1.26M), [New York Post](#) (7/18, Moore, 7.45M), the [Pittsburgh Tribune-Review](#) (7/18, Guza, 245K), [US News & World Report](#) (7/18, 1.26M), and the [Financial Times](#) (7/18, Stacey, Subscription Publication, 1.48M).

### **Extending South Carolina Children Health Insurance.**

(7/18, Corwin, 299K) reports, "A federal moratorium on booting people off Medicaid has extended health insurance for millions of South Carolinians. US Secretary Xavier Becerra extended the Public Health Emergency declaration for another 90 days." The article adds that in 2020, states were essentially offered a deal: They could receive a 6.2 percent increase in Medicaid funding from the federal government in exchange for maintaining Medicaid coverage while the Public Health Emergency was in effect."

### **Ensuring Methotrexate Access Concerns Following Overturning Of Roe.**

That so far, methotrexate "prescribing issues affecting patients with arthritis do not appear to be affecting patients with other rheumatoid conditions have reported that they can no longer get their prescriptions" for methotrexate filled following the Supreme Court's decision. Health Services Secretary Xavier Becerra said, "We are committed to ensuring that everyone can access health care, free of charge, including mental health and other types of care."

### **Abortion Advocates Peddling "Misinformation."**

Senior counsel and vice president of legal strategy Ryan Bangert writes for [The Hill](#) (7/18, 5.69M), "Abortion advocates have long claimed that the Supreme Court's decision is a basic and essential part of health care." Such "statements, which ignore the fact that the procedure is a uniquely deadly procedure, doubly qualify as 'misinformation' under the abortion advocates' capacious standard."

### **Formula Shortage, Market Research Firm Finds.**

(7/18, 1.26M) reports, "The ongoing shortage of baby formula across the United States has become more acute in recent weeks, according to a new report from market research firm IRI. The firm found that 28.3% of powdered baby formula production is now coming from outside the United States across the world over the past two months."

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percentage than the 23.7% reported out of stock for the week ending May 22, when the shortage dominated headlines." Reasons for the persistent shortage – including hoarding by consumers, manufacturers prioritizing certain formula packaged containers when they do go to the store."

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### **Shortage Of Monkeypox Vaccine In US.**

Shortage of the monkeypox vaccine nationwide has been hamstrung by logistical, bureaucratic and technical errors, leaving health officials and activists warn the government's sluggish response may no longer be enough to contain the growing outbreak." After months and present stock is not remotely close to meeting demand." Health officials, "The shortage may be surprising, since officials previously said the country has enough vaccines in the Strategic National Stockpile for ACAM2000 vaccine, which is approved for use against smallpox and can also be used for monkeypox." On July 15, a CDC spokesman said the administration is actively working to increase supply." The article continues with more details on the story.

### **Challenges Facing Barriers Treating Monkeypox.**

A report from Reuters (7/18, Rouben, 10.52M) says physicians "treating monkeypox say they've faced 'daunting' paperwork and obstacles that may continue to encounter barriers with tests, vaccines and treatments." Among the challenges, the FDA-approved antiviral tecovirimat (TPOXX) is facing delays in its testing and "vaccine-sharing formula," although CDC Director Rochelle Walensky said more progress is being made. The article notes that the CDC "failed to contain" the spread of monkeypox, adding that the window for controlling and containing the virus "probably has closed."

### **Sexual Health Clinics Unprepared For Monkeypox Cases.**

Health officials report, "Sexual health clinics on the frontline of the monkeypox response are already financially stretched, leaving the public health system vulnerable since the COVID-19 pandemic." According to infectious disease experts, "sexual health clinics...are best placed to identify and treat monkeypox in men who have sex with men." However, "such programs are doing so largely without additional funding despite years of financial neglect and the resources needed to curb rising rates of other sexually transmitted diseases (STD)." Experts in both the US and UK are calling for increased funding.

### **Criticism of CDC's Monkeypox Response.**

Former US Food and Drug Administration Commissioner Dr. Scott Gottlieb's interview in which he criticized the federal government's response "according to CDC Director Dr. Rochelle Walensky. On Sunday, Gottlieb stated "that it may be too late to control an outbreak of monkeypox in the US during this pandemic, saying the US is making 'a lot of the same mistakes,' such as a lack of testing early on and not enough vaccine production." He also said the CDC has expanded the monkeypox case definition to encourage health care providers to test for the virus.

### **High Case Rates Per Capita Across US.**

A report from Reuters (7/18, Rouben, 10.52M) reports, "D.C. has more cases of monkeypox per capita than any state, prompting public health officials to launch a campaign to encourage testing."

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munities." On Friday, the DC area public health departments reported "122 positive cases in D.C., 44 in Virginia and  
rts, "The city has approximately 8,300 applicable vaccine doses on hand, with about 2,600 of those already adminis  
er (D) said the District would need 100,000 total doses to meet the demands of the current 'target population.'"

### **Government For More Monkeypox Vaccine Supply.**

) analysis says, "New York is the epicenter of the country's monkeypox outbreak, and its leaders are calling on the  
ay, Gov. Kathy Hochul "said that the state and city had received more than 28,000 doses, and that another 32,785  
and Mental Hygiene "has decided to switch to a single-dose strategy to account for the rapid increase in cases."

### **Monkeypox Messages Addressing Gay Men.**

.6M) reports, "The spread of monkeypox has ignited a debate within the New York City Health Department over who  
rtners during this summer's outbreak." Some "epidemiologists say the city should be encouraging gay men to tempo  
argue that approach would stigmatize gay men and would backfire." New York City Health Commissioner Dr. Ashwin  
nt to be very clear there are certain activities and one of them is intimate sexual contact that places you at higher ri

### **Monkeypox in Massachusetts.**

vaccine is now available at 11 sites around Massachusetts, state public health officials said Monday." According to th

### **San Francisco Office Over Government's "Anemic" Response To Monkeypox Outbreak.**

omb, 2.44M) reports, "Several San Francisco LGBTQ advocacy organizations descended on the U.S. Department of H  
was the federal government's anemic response to the growing monkeypox outbreak and the lack of available vaccine  
San Francisco Department of Health requested 35,000.

### **Monkeypox Vaccine From Bavarian Nordic.**

Monday, the European Commission announced "it has secured about 54,000 additional doses of the monkeypox va  
the disease amid a spike in cases." This "deal follows an initial contract signed in June, when the European Union or  
mission, "under the initial order, the EU has so far delivered around 25,000 doses to six member states."

### **Truth About Monkeypox.**

ost (7/18, 10.52M), contributor Benjamin Ryan writes numerous public health experts have stated that "anyone can  
ox risk to a simplistic binary equation, public health leaders are prioritizing fighting stigma over their duty to directly  
ak." Ryan says, "In particular, they are failing to properly convey the seriousness of this burgeoning crisis to gay an  
ch about monkeypox so we can take action accordingly. ... Please be honest with us."

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## ...s For US Cruise Ships.

...att, 10.52M) reports, a noticed posted on the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website on Monday announced the end of a program for cruise ships, ending a pandemic-era program that allowed the public to monitor the spread of the virus at sea." A statement from the CDC noted that it "depended upon each cruise line having the same COVID-19 screening testing standards, which may now vary among cruise lines." The report that the agency's website also states, "CDC has worked closely with the cruise industry, state, territorial, and local health departments to create a safer, healthier environment for cruise passengers and crew. ... Cruise ships have access to guidance and tools to manage

...9K) and [Forbes](#) (7/18, Kelleher, 10.33M) also report.

## ...nst BA.5.

... interview, White House COVID-19 response coordinator Dr. Ashish Jha discusses the new BA.5 fueled COVID-19 wave. The bottom line that people need to know, which is: the things that we know that have been working for us as a country – they all work for BA.5. Like, our tools continue to work, and if we use them effectively, we can continue to manage the wave. The CDC are mentioned.

...o reports.

## ...mid BA.5 Fueled Wave.

...526K) reports, "Nearly half of all new reported COVID-19 cases in Ohio in recent weeks came from the BA.5 variant, which has jumped past 24,000 newly reported cases during the seven days ending on Thursday." Comparatively, "the state was reporting about 12,000 cases in May." However, due to at-home tests, reporting is unreliable. Currently, "COVID-19 hospitalizations, a more reliable measure, are rising in Ohio. Last Thursday saw the state break past 1,000 current hospitalizations, the first time since March 1."

## ...a Counties Mask Up Amid COVID-19 Wave.

...80K) reports, "Residents living in 45 of South Carolina's 46 counties should mask up to reduce the spread of COVID-19." According to the CDC's community levels map, there are now "32 counties with high levels of COVID-19" and "another 13 counties with high levels of COVID-19 use masks while indoors, including in schools and workplaces."

## ...g In Los Angeles County, Less Falling "Seriously Ill."

...7M) reports the "super-contagious Omicron subvariants that can reinfect people within weeks are fueling a new wave of COVID-19 cases in Los Angeles County is moving toward an indoor mask mandate." Though, "this wave is different from previous ones because hospitalizations are rising, patients are generally less sick, and intensive care units are less crowded than in previous waves. This is a change with the virus itself, for the improvements." However, it "doesn't mean COVID-19 has become a toothless tiger." ...h."

## ...ty's Mask Mandates For Schools.

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eta, 587K) reports, "Parents who have fought throughout the pandemic to reopen schools early, end school mask mandates, and sue school boards across San Diego County." The article says "on Monday, a number of those parents – including parents of children with special needs – denounced the return of San Diego Unified's indoor mandate." While "the school district brought back its mask mandate, as defined by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention," several "parents argue that government and schools are overreacting by forcing students to wear masks."

### **Academic Gains Last Year, Reducing COVID-19 Learning Gap.**

Despite a year of disruptions, students largely made academic gains this past year that paralleled their growth pre-pandemic and are on track to close the learning gap, according to a report from NWEA, a nonprofit research group that administers standardized tests. "Researchers found 'gains across in math and reading' in 2022." However, "students in high-poverty schools had fallen further behind, making it likely they will need more time than others to catch up." The report is a "positive sign of hope for academic recovery from COVID-19. But sustained effort and investment in education remain crucial."

### **Vaccine Development, Variant Vaccines.**

Moderna Senior Vice President of Infectious Diseases Jacqueline Miller "says the company recognized early on that the original vaccines – Alpha and Beta – were identified in late 2020" and the original vaccines did not work as well against Beta. Miller "says the company is working on 'variant-specific' boosters." But "while the process of updating an mRNA booster" can take only four to six weeks, testing, manufacturing, and distribution "can take much longer." Miller says she hopes the timeline will get shorter once the first variant-specific booster is out of the gate. "As omicron 'has become the dominant variant,' Moderna had 'more time to develop boosters against BA.4 and BA.5, after originally generating candidate boosters against BA.1 and BA.2.'"

### **Novavax Vaccine Reviewed By CDC Advisory Committee.**

Novavax (Subscription Publication, 897K) reports, "Gaithersburg's Novavax Inc. is on the cusp of rolling out its Covid-19 vaccine." The FDA's "Advisory Committee on Vaccines' panel must first 'review the biotech's protein-based vaccine' on Tuesday. The review is 'less than a week away' from the agency's decision on whether to approve the vaccine in the U.S." and the panel's recommendations will shape the CDC's "guidance around the vaccine's use in adults for whom the vaccine is currently approved." The agency use authorization does not equate to a full commercial approval – which Novavax...said it intends to seek," but "the vaccine is 'not yet approved for younger populations,' and is 'also developing a flu-Covid combination vaccine and an Omicron-specific vaccine.'"

### **Importance Of Developing Drugs To Treat Mild COVID-19 Symptoms.**

A shift is afoot in the search for COVID-19 therapies: some researchers are turning their attention towards drugs that treat mild symptoms rather than severe disease. "Treating mild symptoms 'might sound indulgent, but drugs for mild disease could mark a turning point in the search for a cure,' says a researcher. 'It could also limit disease spread' and 'stem the rise of new variants.' But 'there are barriers to finding drugs for mild disease, including a lack of incentive to research mild disease. But US National Institutes of Health committee on COVID-19 treatment is 'working to find drugs to treat mild COVID-19, both because of broad public-health benefits and because long quarantines are a burden.'"

### **Pediatric COVID-19 Vaccine In Europe.**

The European Medicines Agency on Monday started reviewing a low-dose version of BioNTech (22UAy. DE) and Pfizer's (PFE) COVID-19 vaccine for children under 12 years. "In June, the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention 'cleared the way for use of the shot in children 6 to 11 years old.'"

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for approval in Europe in the age group on July 8, proposing a three-shot course with a 3 microgram dosage, which

### **Oray, Tablet COVID-19 Vaccines.**

that according to a recent study, "Injected vaccines against the coronavirus that causes Covid-19 have been hugely successful in reducing the pandemic's death toll by an estimated 63%." But "even as vaccine manufacturers race to update the first-generation vaccines delivered via nasal sprays or tablets that would deploy more immune defenders to the body's front lines: the lining of the nose and throat for COVID-19, but "many scientists say the approach needs an injection of funding to accelerate the pace of development."

### **Curb Pandemic-Era Public Health Authority Through Litigation.**

(Jester) reports, "Through a wave of pandemic-related litigation, a trio of small but mighty conservative legal blocs has been curbing America's future battles against infectious diseases." Motivated "by what they've characterized as an overreach by the federal government in three overlapping spheres – conservative and libertarian think tanks, Republican state attorneys general, and religious freedom government agencies charged with protecting community health."

### **Surge Higher Than Winter's Omicron Wave.**

(7M) reports, "New coronavirus infections in parts of California may be surging even higher than winter's Omicron wave." The article says "the concentration of coronavirus levels in San Francisco's wastewater is at even higher levels than last winter." Professor in environmental health at Emory University." Indeed, "the wastewater data suggest many infections aren't being detected because so many people are using at-home over-the-counter tests, which can be more convenient than getting tested at a clinic."

### **More COVID-19 Antivirals Are Prescribed In Richer Zip Codes.**

(3, Munro, 227K) reports, "Over four times as many prescriptions for COVID-19 treatment pills were filled in richer zip codes." Department of Health (VDH) COVID-19 task force leader of health care therapeutics coordination Alexis Page said that it is difficult to tell if the disparity exists because of actual need for the treatments or issues with access." The trend for fewer prescriptions by zip code ranks for income, health, language and transportation....mirrors the situation nationally – where the rate of oral treatment is highest in zip codes that had the largest number of sites to receive the medication, according to a June Centers for Disease Control and Prevention report."

### **"Ever-Changing" Guidance Hindering State Pandemic Response.**

(7) reports that on Monday, Connecticut Gov. Ned Lamont (D) "admitted that the ever-changing guidance from the federal government and now with President Joe Biden – has made it difficult for Connecticut health officials to adjust and respond during the pandemic." In a meeting in this city's central library, Lamont joined local leaders and state Commissioner of Public Health Dr. Manisha Juthi. "I think the CDC has been a little slow and reactive and unclear going back during both administrations, from my point of view. We've worked closely with the medical community, trying to give people a clear sense of where we're going and what we're doing."

### **Accelerating COVID-19 Vaccinations For Children 4 And Under.**

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) reports Maine's "Cumberland County is among the leading counties nationally in COVID-19 vaccinations for children. More than 1,700 children in the southern Maine county aged six months up through four years have received their first shot in that age group, according to Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention data."

### **Quebec Tightens Mask Mandates Ahead Of Fall Elections.**

Reuters reports, "A new wave of COVID-19 cases and rising hospitalizations ahead of an October election are creating fresh calls for tighter mask mandates in the Canadian province despite calls by some doctors to do so." The "global surge in cases, mostly in Quebec, is pushing the province to consider more strict measures while trying to avoid extending or reintroducing unpopular restrictions." And "in Quebec, some now say the government's measures are not going far enough."

### **China Intensifies COVID-19 Testing.**

Reuters (Subscription Publication, 8.41M) reports that this week, two of China's largest cities ordered residents to undergo mass COVID-19 testing, leading to new and economically crippling lockdowns.

### **China Tightens Lockdowns As Other Regions Extend Lockdowns.**

Reuters reports that Chinese cities including Shanghai are rolling out new mass testing or extending lockdowns on millions of residents. Shanghai reported "an average of around 390 local daily infections in the seven days ending on Sunday, higher than about 340 in other parts of Asia, China is adamant about implementing its dynamic zero COVID policy of eliminating outbreaks as soon as possible in many of its 16 districts and in some smaller areas where new infections had been reported recently, after similar tests elsewhere."

### **U.S. Approves Moderna Pediatric COVID-19 Vaccine.**

Reuters (Subscription Publication, 8.41M) said late on Monday Australia's drug regulator Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) has provisionally approved the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine for children aged six months to five years. "Spikevax" was provisionally approved in the country for individuals aged six years and older and for emergency use in children aged six months to five years, the statement said. "The approval comes as Australia battles a major virus outbreak fueled by the highly transmissible new variant, with high case and death levels in several states."

### **South Korea 'Finally Defuses' COVID-19 Crisis.**

Reuters reports that South Korea is on the path to 'finally defuse' a crisis stemming from its first acknowledged outbreak of COVID-19, the state news agency said. "The country is on the path to 'finally defuse' a crisis stemming from its first acknowledged outbreak of COVID-19, the state news agency said. "The crisis was driven by Omicron subvariants." It "says 99.98% of its 4.77 million fever patients since late April have fully recovered, and 99.98% of those that proved positive." Reuters says "the World Health Organization has cast doubts on North Korea's claims, amid an absence of independent data."

### **Novartis Advances Pediatric Clinical Trial For COVID-19 Vaccine Candidate.**

Novartis (NYSE: NVO) & Co Ltd (4507.T) said on Tuesday it started a clinical trial of its COVID-19 vaccine candidate among children aged six months to five years. "The recombinant protein-based vaccine known as S-268019 will be carried out among 48 children in Japan." The vaccine "has been shown to be safe and effective in a phase 1 trial."

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### **Power Imbalance In Global Health.**

reports, "A few months into the coronavirus pandemic, India and South Africa jointly petitioned the World Trade Organization for the right to export COVID-19 vaccines, treatments, and medicines, without fear of legal action, until herd immunity was achieved worldwide." The article says "this is not a success story, however. If anything, it illustrates the injustice baked into the current system." The article also says "the current system is based on a number of counts, and will have a limited impact on bringing about an end to the world's coronavirus nightmare."

### **Los Angeles County Plans To Bring Back Mask Mandates.**

(20.6M) op-ed, California Today author Soumya Karlamangla writes that according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, "only one of them is planning to reinstate an indoor mask mandate." Nationally, "as the COVID-19 wave continues, Los Angeles County health officials hope that asking people to mask up will curb the virus's spread as well as protect the public." The author says "this approach and believe that mandates should be reserved for crises, which the BA.5 wave has not yet proved itself to be. Masking and social distancing just helps us reduce stress elsewhere. ... So anything you can do to sort of mitigate the steepness of the curve is good."

### **Past COVID-19 Emergency Declarations.**

In a recent piece, Carrie Sheffield, a senior policy analyst at Independent Women's Voice, writes "Dr. Anthony Fauci may be reappointed as the director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, but the Biden's Department of Health and Human Services quietly re-upped the public-health emergency determination for COVID-19." She says "Kavir Dasgupta is merely a top power-broker in a power-hungry, nanny-state administration." She says "Biden wants to keep the emergency declaration in place, of course, as his White House continues down the path of toxic policymaking that will harm more than it helps the American people."

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### **Controversy Over Endorsement Of Gender Transitioning For Children.**

The Biden Administration's Assistant Health Secretary Rachel Levine is being criticized "for endorsing gender-transition treatments as a way to address mental health issues." She says "as Florida for enacting limits on transgender treatments for youth," said policies must "support and empower the ability to get gender affirmation treatment in their state." Journalists and lawmakers took to social media, calling the "endorsement of gender-affirming treatments for children." Among them, Sen. Roger Marshall (R-KS) warned that "under the Biden Admin's 'gender care' policies, the health system is endorsing the use of hormone therapy and surgery on children." The article also mentions "the controversy surrounding Levine's appearance."

### **HHS Settles \$240K To Settle Possible HIPAA Violation.**

The Houston-based Memorial Hermann Health System paid the Health and Human Services Department \$240,000 to settle a possible HIPAA violation. The settlement is the result of a lawsuit filed by the Department of Health and Human Services. The health system "failed to respond to a patient's request for medical records." This "disclosure from HHS came Friday as the office announced 11 resolved investigations from its recent HIPAA audits." The article also mentions "the health system's reports."

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## **S, Biden Administration To Penalize Drugmakers Ending, Reducing Discounts For 340B Program.**

(372K) reports that in a July 15 letter, 181 House representatives "are demanding the Biden administration penalize drugmakers for the latest fallout from an intensifying battle between the U.S. government and the pharmaceutical industry." The representatives say that the 340B Drug Discount program are increasing costs for hospitals and clinics and hurting patients." Although "months ago, the Office of Inspector General of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services has not taken action."

## **Probe Into Federal Government's "Lethargic" Response To Monkeypox.**

(372K) reports that on Monday, Rep. Ritchie Torres (D-NY) called "for a Washington inspector general to probe the federal government's response to the New Yorkers clamor for vanishingly rare vaccine doses." The representative, "who is gay, penned a letter to the inspector general stating that the 'failed federal response' to monkeypox has landed a 'disproportionately destructive impact on the LGBTQ+ community." Torres and his colleagues are closely monitoring this issue and will review the letter to determine the appropriate course of action once we have more information.

## **A-H.**

(372K) reports North Carolina is one of multiple states trying to land the headquarters for a new federal agency focused on research and innovation for Health – or ARPA-H. Members of the state's Congressional Delegation sent a letter to HHS stating, "With an unmet need for research, STEM, biotech, and business training programs to prepare for a workforce skilled in cutting-edge research, academic research, and innovation, a group formed under the North Carolina Biotechnology Center, ARPA-H in NC Coalition, is also advocating for the location of the agency. Supporting Duke Health, Duke Margolis Center for Health Policy, RTI International, SAS Institute, UNC Chapel Hill and the state of North Carolina.

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## **Declared A WMD.**

(372K) reports exclusively, "Florida Attorney General Ashley Moody is calling for illicit fentanyl to be declared a weapon of mass destruction. Moody "is urging President Biden to either use executive authority or urge Congress to do so. "If thousands of Americans are being murdered, the whole federal government and every tactic and capability that we have should be used to stop this." Moody has also "urged President Biden to raise the issue with Mexican President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador." Biden "has said the US is "accelerating our efforts to disrupt the trafficking of fentanyl and other drugs, that are literally killing.."

## **Settlement, Federal Funds For Programs To Fight Opioid Addiction.**

(372K) reports, "Nevada governments are planning to expand opioid treatment and addiction prevention services. The funding "is slowly being distributed to cities and counties in "settlements the state made with drug manufacturers." The funding "is slowly being distributed to cities and counties for treatment and support services." Funding from the settlements "as well as some federal grant money are distributed to counties and some cities based on need." State Department of Health and Human Services clinical program planner "will use the evidence to guide spending, invest in youth prevention, focus on racial equity, and develop a fair and transparent process."

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### **Of 988 Suicide Hotline.**

ts the new 988 suicide hotline launched nationally on Saturday as part of the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline Ne  
y risen – from 3.3 million in 2020 to 3.6 million in 2021. Experts say the new number, which is easier to remember,

ntal health advocates “expressed hope Monday that the launch of a three-digit mental health crisis hotline will help  
) to promote the service.

) reports advocates have questioned “whether the call centers could withstand the demand for mental health assista  
h (7/18, Cohn, 629K), the [Hampton Roads \(VA\) Virginian-Pilot](#) (7/18, Stone, 227K), and the [Portland \(ME\) Press He](#)

### **Examined.**

hile more than 1 million died from COVID in the U.S., many more survived ICU stays that have left them with anxie  
y starting in the ICU can help, but it was often hard to provide as hospitals teemed with patients.” In this article, th  
COVID-19.

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### **Price Legislation Facing Partisan Battle.**

y Leader Mitch McConnell is warning that Democrats’ plans to curb drug prices would insert ‘socialist price controls’  
er a shrunken economic package that President Joe Biden wants Congress to complete within weeks.” Last week, P  
an he’d sought at the beginning of his presidency,” and “said he wanted Democrats to quickly write and pass a mea  
yuing health insurance and modestly reducing federal deficits.” Manchin “announced last week that those were the o  
t inflation.” Manchin’s “performance is clearly wearing on many,” and his “objections spiked most of Biden’s multitr  
raise taxes on the rich.”

### **es Tough Stand Against Minor Patent Changes In Drugs.**

, 262K) reports, “For the second time this month, the U.S. Patent & Trademark Office has taken a tougher stand to  
end monopolies, which can result in medicines costing more.” The issue “has percolated for years amid complaints  
t protections and that the PTO has failed to act on those concerns.” But in 2021, “the matter gained traction...when  
were used ‘misused to inhibit or delay’ competition from lower-cost generic drugs.”

### **Improve Long-Term Care System.**

d Gleckman reports, “One would have thought that after more than 750,000 Covid-19 related deaths among older a  
g-term care facilities that Congress would act to improve the nation’s long-term care system.” He adds, “In an extra  
andoned any effort to improve a long-term care system.” Gleckman says, “Senate Democrats now appear to be look  
edicare to gradually negotiate drug prices and a separate bill to extend certain subsidies for buyers of health insuran

es are important, and reducing Medicare drug prices certainly would help many older adults, but they would do nothing

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### **Loss Abortion Rights.**

(47M) reports Vice President Harris traveled to New Jersey on Monday "to address the NAACP's 113th national convention and access," and had meetings scheduled "with more than 20 New Jersey state legislators and local leaders to discuss the 1973 9-year-old Roe v. Wade decision." Other speakers at the event include CMS Administrator Chiquita Brooks-LaSure and Governor Phil Murphy of New Jersey.

### **Abortion Access Have Increased Since Roe Overturned.**

(8.41M) reports that since the Supreme Court overturned Roe v. Wade, both orders and laws have been passed quickly to restrict abortion access. Foreign providers of abortion pills have also recorded greater interest. (8.41M) reports, "Some clinics have stopped offering the pills to out-of-state patients fearing that state lawmakers could pass laws banning "an FDA-approved drug, conservative lawmakers could still attempt to make abortion pills illegal, or make generic versions illegal." (8.41M) reports that some states provide similar coverage.

### **Louisiana Abortion Ban.**

(10.52M) reports, "A Louisiana judge on Monday temporarily extended an order blocking the state trigger law but did not rule on whether a district court determines whether the near-total state abortion ban, with no exceptions for rape or incest, violates the Constitution. In the weeks since the Supreme Court struck down Roe v. Wade and gave states the power to enact restrictions, many courts have blocked, unblocked and then reblocked the ban."

(7/18, Hilburn, 137K) says a Baton Rouge district judge may rule "as soon as Tuesday on whether he will extend a temporary order blocking all abortions following Monday's hearing."

reports that whatever the district judge decides, "Louisiana Attorney General Jeff Landry said he anticipates that the court will rule in favor of the ban."

### **West Virginia Abortion Ban.**

(10.52M) reports that Kanawha County, West Virginia Circuit Court Judge Tera Salango on Monday blocked the state's "pre-Roe v. Wade abortion ban at the Kanawha Health Center of West Virginia - to restart services." The abortion ban "made performing or obtaining an abortion illegal." The ban has been superseded by a slew of modern, conflicting laws." West Virginia Attorney General Patrick Morrisey criticized "the decision and will appeal the decision to the state Supreme Court."

the judge argued that West Virginia's law "dating back to the 1800s making performing or obtaining an abortion a felony." The judge argued that the law "is unconstitutional and should be struck down."

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### **Indiana To Try To Implement Law Restricting Abortion Access For Minors.**

Supreme Court Chief Justice John Roberts "cleared the way for Indiana to attempt to implement a law that restricts a minor's access to abortion services." The court granted a request from Indiana to bypass normal procedures and quickly transmit the court's opinion from June over the summer. The court's decision will allow Indiana to place its strict parental notification law that had been blocked."

### **Offer Abortion Training To More Medical Students.**

Current medical students and residents are "part of a generation of emerging doctors that have fought an uphill battle to maintain their access to abortion services. This generation may be even more rare and in demand after the Supreme Court's decision to reverse federal-level abortion rights. They are currently seeking to expand the number of doctors that can" carry out abortions, and "California, which is positioning itself as a leader in providing access to training may expand."

(AP, 3.37M) says, "California lawmakers have laid the legal groundwork for a range of health providers to provide abortion services. The limited training and scarce opportunities for training have made it harder for them to do so."

### **Idaho's New Language On Criminalization Of Abortion In All Cases.**

Idaho's Republican Party "adopted language to their platform" on Saturday "that supports the criminalization of abortion in all cases except in the case of a woman seeking an abortion to save their life." State GOP delegates "approved changes to the party's platform that went beyond the previous language that allowed for an exception at the point of conception. The new language backs criminalization of all abortions in Idaho."

coverage.

### **Anti-Abortion Groups In Texas Intensify Efforts To Reduce Abortion Access.**

AP reports some anti-abortion groups in Texas "are intensifying their efforts to shut down access for residents seeking abortion services. They are targeting employers and others trying to" ensure abortion access. One recent court filing shows that beyond providers, anti-abortion groups are targeting people who support them; people who volunteer time or give money to abortion providers; employers who support pregnant workers.

### **Florida's Abortion Rate Rises As People Travel To Florida For Abortions.**

AP reports, "As states pass and revive legislation restricting abortion following the Supreme Court ruling that overturned Roe v. Wade, Florida could "surpass last year's total of out-of-state abortions, which was nearly 4,900, according to Florida Agency for Health Care Regulation and Licensure. The state "has the third highest abortion rate among states in the country, according to the CDC."

(AP, 6:44 p.m. EST, story 7, 2:20, O'Donnell, 3.48M) provided additional coverage.

### **Colleges Face Legal Risk Complying With Both Federal, State Abortion Laws, Some Experts Say.**

AP reports, "Georgia's fetal 'heartbeat' law could cause trouble for colleges that must follow federal law. The law bans most abortions once embryonic or fetal cardiac activity can be detected," and "experts say colleges could face legal risk if they comply with both laws."

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### **Michigan State Budget Funding For Adoptions.**

ner, 2.16M) reports Michigan Gov. Gretchen Whitmer's (D) "office on Monday detailed more than \$20 million in line-items that she plans to sign into law Wednesday." The majority "of the vetoed budget items in House Bill 5783...involve restrictions on the state's health care centers that promote alternatives to abortion." Whitmer "vetoed a \$2 million tax credit for adoptive parents" as well as "a \$1 million for abortion."

### **End Of Supreme Court Decision Overturning Roe Closes.**

Mississippi abortion clinic at the center of a U.S. Supreme Court case that overturned Roe v. Wade has been sold and will be moved to Mexico, the Associated Press on Monday." The owner "said the furniture and equipment from Jackson Women's Health Organization has been sold to Mexico."

### **Abortion Access On Federal Lands Complicated, Legal Experts Say.**

In theory, clinics within federal enclaves could provide a loophole for abortion access in states with restrictive abortion laws, but providing abortion services on federal lands is complicated."

### **NIH Protects Reproductive Research Data After Overturn Of Roe V. Wade.**

NIH (Subscription Publication, 4K) reports, "Reproductive health researchers shouldn't have to turn over their data to Congress under a new federal statute – although legal experts caution it's an added layer of protection and not a guarantee." The NIH program will protect research data from the legal process, making the data inadmissible as evidence unless the participant agrees to its disclosure, a policy that has been in place around since the 1970s, allowing researchers to study illicit drug use to guide evidence-based policies."

### **Number Of Mothers Choosing Adoption.**

NIH (Subscription Publication, 4K) reports that the overturning of Roe v. Wade is unlikely to lead to a spike in the number of mothers opting to give up their babies. Instead, it says, "The number of infants available to adopt annually will make an additional 10,000 infants available to adopt annually. That figure represents 9 percent of the estimated number of children on adoption waiting lists. Although there is no national source of reliable data, experts estimate the number of children on adoption waiting lists is around 100,000, according to the CDC and HHS."

### **Senate Filibuster" Block Efforts To Provide Legal Abortion Access.**

Senate Vice President Harris "on Monday said she and President Biden 'will not let the filibuster stand in our way' on pro-abortion legislation ahead of November's midterm elections to protect 'our most essential rights and freedoms.'" Speaking at a NAACP convention, Harris said, "We will not let the filibuster stand in our way of our most essential rights and freedoms."

NIH (Subscription Publication, 4K) reports Harris "put the issue [of abortion] in terms of religion, saying that supporting a women's right to choose is a religious belief. It just requires us to agree the government shouldn't be making that decision for her.'" According to the Times, Harris' "stance tends to obscure more nuanced positions held by critical components of the party's electoral coalition, including Catholics, who have long been a swing state, where the issue has helped push some Catholic voters toward Republicans." The article mentions the CDC and HHS.

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### **Abortion Access Reportedly Among Biggest Users Of Phone Location Data.**

Many of the states rushing to ban abortion are also the biggest users of a surveillance tool that authorities could use to track people's phones." Supporters of abortion access "are expressing growing alarm about the potential uses that police or prosecutors could make, including to target abortion providers or the people seeking the procedure."

### **Physicians' Ability To Take Exams Virtually.**

Many OB-GYNs, including some who perform abortions, are celebrating a decision that allows them to avoid traveling to other states for gynecology. The Dallas-based medical group "had held virtual exams during the pandemic but planned to have the exams in person, saying the exams would be virtual," citing the Supreme Court decision to overturn Roe v. Wade.

### **Young Girls Highlighted.**

USA Today reports that following "the account a 10-year-old Ohio girl crossing state lines to get an abortion drew national attention, a new survey says pregnancy is common in young adolescent girls say those pushing for very young girls to carry pregnancies to term are ignoring the child."

### **Efforts To Combat Healthcare Consolidation Attempts.**

USA Today reports, "Fresh off the Federal Trade Commission's successful challenges to four hospital mergers, the Biden administration is pushing for more consolidation in the health care industry than it has in past years." Last year, President Biden "ordered the FTC and other agencies to focus on health care industries." According to the trade commissioners, "this is a key way to slow health care price increases; protect patients from unfair labor practices."

USA Today reports the FTC is also "interested in some legal theories of antitrust enforcement," which include "questioning whether vertical mergers, in which hospitals, insurers, or other types of health care companies seek to merge with companies that supply them with services."

### **4.8% Increase In 2023 Small Group Rates, 20.4% For Individual Market.**

USA Today reports, (Bordonaro, 22K) reports, "Health insurers planning to offer group and individual health plans in Connecticut in 2023. The state's rate filings for traditional fully-insured plans, which cover 206,186 people in the state, contained an average requested rate increase of 4.8% for the small group market (workers) and 20.4% for the individual market."

### **Study Finds 21st Century Cures Act Not Greatly Impacted Clinician Time On EHR Documentation.**

USA Today reports, (The 21st Century Cures Act final rule mandating patient access to clinical notes has not meaningfully impacted clinician time on EHR documentation, study finds. The study "analyzed a national longitudinal dataset of all ambulatory care physicians and advance practice providers using a national EHR system. The final rule went into effect, though the effect sizes are minuscule."

### **Study Finds Limits On Healthcare Costs.**

USA Today reports, (Ibarra, 2.44M) reports, "California and the country are in the midst of a health care affordability crisis." However, the study found that "limits on healthcare costs are helping to reduce the burden of health care costs on patients."

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rocketing costs – its latest effort being a new Office of Health Care Affordability whose job will be to investigate the state budget was recently approved and “includes \$30 million to create the office, whose key responsibility will be to work with insurers and physician groups.” This office “is attempting to tackle the root of the issue: Providers can charge patients

### **Cost Among Americans, Survey Finds.**

that “a new survey of more than 1,000 U.S. workers with employer-sponsored health insurance shows that consumers are increasingly frustrated with their health insurance bills. According to a survey from employee benefits company Optavise (formerly DirectPath), approximately one-third (35%) of respondents said they have received a bill that was incorrect and pushed back, asking for a new, corrected bill.” Meanwhile, “some respondents paid the incorrect bill even though they knew it was wrong. In fact, 43% of respondents said they would not pay the incorrect amount of the error wasn’t worth the effort to fix it, a substantial jump from 43% in a 2021 version of the survey.”

### **Texas AG’s Lawsuit Against Administration.**

reports the Texas abortion ban “contains exceptions to save the life of the mother or to prevent ‘substantial impairment of the mother’s physical health.’” The Post says that “some doctors are woefully ignorant of this lifesaving provision or thinks he can willfully defy it in pursuit of his extremist political goals.” The Post also notes that “the ban on that underscores the obligations of physicians to their patients.” According to the Post, “Paxton professes to be pro-life, but he says that to save a woman’s life, the doctor does not have a duty to save the woman’s life.” The Post calls on the courts to dis-

### **Abortion Restrictions.**

news (7/18, 20.6M) that a proposed amendment to the Kansas state constitution that would “pave the way for tighter abortion restrictions” is on the ballot and “it is hard not to feel that the reproductive-rights side is a little overwhelmed.” Cottle describes “some of the challenges” and says they “are likely to pop up other places too, as the crucial battles on abortion shift to the state level.” Cottle says “we need to keep close tabs on the action. One day soon, a similarly intense, complicated fight may be headed their way.”

### **Losing The Abortion War.”**

g The Abortion) War,” Karen Attiah writes in the [Washington Post](#) (7/18, 10.52M) that “securing defeat is...an art, and it is one that we must learn to do. We must not arrogantly lose to their opponents and confidently expose our nation to danger.” Among them, Attiah writes, “Remain vigilant. Do not let a Supreme Court order signed 49 years ago, do not strengthen these rights in law, even though you hold the political high ground. Do not let a victory over your opponent or safety for your people.” She says to “drain the motivation of your supporters and give

### **Unaffordability For Increased Risk To Pregnant Women.**

(7/18, 10.52M), Jennifer Rubin says, “The Supreme Court’s overturning of *Roe v. Wade* is resulting in increased pain, suffering, and the media should “demand that Republicans face up to the consequences of their handiwork – and to der-

### **Abortion Restrictions Threaten Lives Of “Both Parent And Child.”**

(7/18, 645K), 11 Tennessee pediatricians, internists, and OBGYNs argue that proposed tighter abortion restrictions in Ten-

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condemn this decision to strip patients of their previously protected constitutional right to make their own reproductive

### **Should Be On the Midterm Election Ballot.**

(7/18, 10.33M), in late June, the Food and Drug Administration “advised COVID-19 vaccine manufacturers to develop the shots will be ready by the fall.” But “that will probably be too late to stop BA.5,” and this late response is “part of the COVID-19 crisis – and is threatening to repeat its mistakes with the ongoing outbreak of monkeypox. It’s longed down by concerns about equity, armchair psychology, and an insatiable request for more data,” but instead of cutting in even more red tape.” Pipes writes, “As midterm elections approach, FDA reform should be on the ballot.” The CD

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### **Blueberries With Lead Contamination.**

BrandStorm has recalled “two lots of its organic freeze-dried blueberry pouches due to ‘the presence or potential’ of lead. The products “were distributed in the U.S. through retail and online stores services,” but the company has “not received any feedback” on this proactive recall.”

(Gibson, 5.39M), the [Miami Herald](#) (7/18, Neal, 647K), and [Food Safety News](#) (7/18).

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### **Advantage Plans Can Disguise Profits As Costs.**

As a new [report](#) from the USC-Brookings Schaeffer Initiative for Health Policy shows “parent companies that offer Medicare Advantage plans to their employees through self-insured health plans are not subject to medical loss ratio limitations.” The report explained that “MLR rules do not apply to the profits to appear as costs in MLR reports for the Medicare Advantage plan.” For example, “there are substantial opportunities for net revenues to the parent company to be treated as costs to the health plans through

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### **Medicaid Managed Care Nonprofit My Choice Wisconsin For \$150M.**

(Gardner, Subscription Publication, 885K) reports Molina Healthcare will acquire Medicaid managed care organization My Choice Wisconsin’s existing Wisconsin core Medicaid and managed long-term services and supports business.” However, the nonprofit will remain in Wisconsin.”

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### **Discovering Tools To Help Manage Endometriosis.**

The [report](#) on “endometriosis, a chronic condition that affects 10 percent of women and girls, according to the World Health Organization, says that “awareness about how to recognize and treat the disease can prevent patients from getting help.” The Times adds, “T

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ing tools to manage the often debilitating pain that comes with the disease.”

### **That Will Only Cover Fertility Treatment For Employees In Opposite-Sex Marriages.**

Illinois-based Catholic hospital system” OSF HealthCare “that employs more than 24,000 people will only cover fertility treatment for employees in opposite-sex marriages. The policy could run afoul of federal discrimination laws.” Under this new “policy it transferred this year to a new third-party administrator the responsibility for a married couple of opposite sex spouses to conceive’ and said its coverage aimed to assist ‘married opposite-sex couples’ in line with the state’s anti-discrimination law by Bloomberg Law.”

### **Multiple States That Can Cause Serious Illness, Death For Infants.**

is, “The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention is warning” that the parechovirus (PeV) “that can cause serious illness in infants” was found in a baby boy in Connecticut.” PeV “is common in children – most kids will get it by the time they’re in kindergarten, and it’s usually gone by the time they’re 3 months old.” The virus spreads in two main ways: “the respiratory route (like coughing or sneezing) and the fecal-oral route.” Parents should be aware of the signs and symptoms of PeV and consider to test for parechovirus if an infant has an unexplained fever, sepsis-like syndrome, or neurological problems.

### **Experience Higher Death Rates Than Democratic Ones.**

(with a population of 3.1M) analysis, Lydia Denworth, a Brooklyn, NY-based science writer and a contributing editor for Scientific American, found that the health became glaringly obvious. Democrat-leaning ‘blue’ states were more likely to enact mask requirements and vaccination mandates, while Republican-leaning ‘red’ states were more resistant to health measures.” The outcomes “of those differences emerged by the end of 2020, when rates of COVID-19 deaths were significantly higher in red states than in liberal ones.” However, Denworth says “COVID is only the latest chapter in the story of politics and health. ... In the years prior to the pandemic, there was a growing gap in mortality rates for residents of Republican and Democratic controlled states.” She cites studies and concludes that “a key takeaway from these studies is that the partisan mortality gap doesn’t have to keep widening.”

### **Collectively Earned More Than \$4.5B In 2021.**

The CEOs of approximately 300 health care companies collectively took home more than \$4.5 billion in 2021, according to a new study. While only 0.1% of the \$4.3 trillion U.S. health care economy, it still represents a vast amount of wealth for a small class of executives. “Indeed, “the lavish pay packages – which have swollen over time, as profits and stock prices have soared – tower over the relatively high salaries of health care’s rank and file.” As “more than 100 CEOs collected eight-figure paydays last year, while millions of patients had to ration medications, and devoured more of everyone’s paychecks.”

### **Children Allegedly Getting Lead Poisoning On Rental Properties.**

has sued five more landlords who rent properties in which children with lead poisoning live, the state attorney general said. “In cases where landlords’ and the landlords have failed to comply with state lead poisoning prevention laws, Attorney General Peter Neroni said, “landlords must identify and abate lead hazards, provide tenants adequate alternative housing during remediation, and penalties of up to \$5,000 per violation.”

### **A Saves Government Money Despite Contradicting Data.**

262K) reports that in June, “UnitedHealth Group’s top two executives, Andrew Witty and John Rex, told a crowd at a

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rogram that outsources Medicare coverage to health insurance companies – saves the federal government money.”

### **CVS, Walgreens, 25 Other Store Brands Recalled For Bacterial Contamination.**

“The recall of a laxative sold as CVS’ store brand has been expanded to 30 brands of laxatives, including the store brand. CVS’ Navarro Vi-Jon “pulled one lot of CVS Magnesium Citrate Laxative Oral Solution Lemon Flavor from CVS and Navarro Walgreens.” According to the recall notice’s risk statement, written by Vi-Jon and posted by the FDA, “Immunocompromised individuals are at greatest risk of serious infections caused by *Gluconacetobacter liquefaciens* that could lead to serious, life-threatening adverse health consequences.”

### **CVS Narcolepsy Drug Patent Infringement.**

Yasiejko, Subscription Publication, 4K) reports, “Jazz Pharmaceuticals Inc. filed a lawsuit alleging that a narcolepsy drug sold by CVS related to Jazz’s Xyrem that Avadel, in a related case, has asked a Delaware federal judge to remove from Xyrem’s exclusivity. CVS’ lawsuit on June 7 of the allegation that the patent’s claims are invalid, unenforceable, or wouldn’t be infringed by the brand. The lawsuit was filed July 15 in the US District Court for the District of Delaware.”

### **FDA Changed Approval Recommendation For Heart Drug Vascepa.**

“Members of an expert panel that recommended the Food and Drug Administration approve a fish-oil-based heart drug. The FDA’s decision “protes.” Their “concern stems from the suggestion that a substantial benefit the drug showed in a large clinical trial may not be replicated in the study.” Data from “a new analysis published in the medical journal *Circulation* on June 28 indicated that in the study, there were signs that might indicate heightened risk of heart attacks and strokes.”

### **Decline Of Climate Emergency Following Stalled Environmental Legislation Talks.**

“The Washington Post (52M) reports, “President Biden is considering declaring a national climate emergency as soon as this week as he seeks to address the issue, according to three people familiar with the matter who spoke on the condition of anonymity.” The potential “move” is seen as a key move that does not support his party’s efforts to advance a sprawling economic package this month that includes billions of dollars in infrastructure funding. It could empower the Biden administration in its efforts to reduce carbon emissions and foster cleaner energy,” and two other people familiar with the matter said Biden would announce a slew of additional actions aimed at curbing planet-warming emissions.” However, “any new executive action on the issue would be a departure from the current structure of environmental regulations.”

### **CVS Examined.**

“A paywall that “a few days after undergoing cosmetic surgery, Chelsea was in a Philadelphia emergency room with her face severely sunburned, hardened and blistered. The burning sensation was so intense she was struggling to breathe.” The article reportedly described the procedure.

### **Health Infrastructure, Dating Apps Could Help Stop The Spread Of STIs.**

“A disease specialist, and epidemiologist, and a senior fellow and editor-at-large for public health at the Kaiser Family Foundation.”

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## g Four Seats To Supreme Court.

ght House Democrats "called for legislation on Monday that would add four seats to the Supreme Court, lamenting a  
abortion rights." The Hill adds that while the 2021 Judiciary Act "has little chance of becoming law" because of "Rep  
among progressive Democrats about the court's direction under three conservative justices nominated by former P

## ons To Unionize.

ports the staffers for "eight of the most progressive members of the House filed petitions on Monday to form union  
collectively to bargain for better work conditions." The Times says their move "paves the way for House aides to beg  
e without the threat of retaliation – a right that other federal workers already enjoy."

the petitions were filed as rules "that clear the way for many legislative branch staffers to collectively bargain" too  
most significant expansion of workers rights for Capitol Hill employees in almost thirty years, with House staffers no

arts staff in the offices of Reps. Jesús "Chuy" García (D-IL), Andy Levin (D-MI), Ro Khanna (D-CA), Alexandria Ocasio  
, and Cori Bush (D-MO) have begun the unionization process. [The Hill](#) (7/18, Schnell, 5.69M) reports the Congress  
ssional staff and our democracy." In a statement, the union said, "For far too long, congressional staff have dealt w  
es that prevent Congress from properly representing the communities and needs of the American people." The Cong  
union will ensure we have a voice in decisions that impact our workplace."

## ty Sparks Warning From Burns.

man, 20.6M) reports CIA Director William Burns issued a "warning to the agency's work force last week after what a  
cy in Virginia, according to people familiar with the matter." In the message, Burns "said that racism and racist sym  
ct was "found near a small agency facility located in a building that houses businesses and other organizations," but  
as even meant to be a noose, or if whoever placed it there knew that the C.I.A. secretly operated in the building." T  
oyee left the item, or that a foreign intelligence service was involved, according to some of those people briefed on  
l reported it, prompting the investigation and Mr. Burns's note."

## tions To Trump, Others.

ew York state residents "were charged with illegally using funds from Chinese and Singaporean investors to donate  
S. prosecutors said on Monday." The move "was part of an effort by Sherry Li and Lianbo Wang to showcase political  
w York, prosecutors said, adding that they raised \$27 million in investment, but never completed the project." The [V](#)  
he two were charged with making donations in their own names with money from foreign nationals. The Journal say

## Weapon Successfully Tested.

s successfully tested a Raytheon Technologies Corp air-breathing hypersonic weapon capable of speeds faster than

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publicly rung the alarm about the issue. Democrats desperate to retain control of Congress are now pleading with the combat rising prices – and, in the process, hang on to their seats.”

### **Red To Blue” Program.**

7M) reports that while Democrats “are on defense across the country in this year’s midterm elections,” they “appeal in California.” According to announcement by the DCCC, “five of six candidates added to their ‘Red to Blue’ program “are two competing for open seats: Dr. Kermit Jones is running against GOP Assemblyman Kevin Kiley in a spay is vying with Republican nursery owner John Duarte in the Central Valley.” Also added to the program “are former northern Los Angeles County; Dr. Asif Mahmood, who is vying with Republican Rep. Young Kim in an Orange County-seat Rep. Ken Calvert.”

### **ocrats.**

at as Sen. Lisa Murkowski (R-AK) “tries to fend off a challenge from Donald Trump-backed candidate Kelly Tshibaka left-leaning Democrats and independents. Murkowski’s Senate Democratic fan club reflects the same crossover cloud conservatives will support Tshibaka anyway.” Alaska’s new “open, top-four primary and a ranked-choice general electorace her elevated status among Democrats for her bipartisan positions. And rather than rebuff support across the aats, “I hope they’re going to have my back. Just as I hope the Republicans would have my back.”

### **ed Candidate In Arizona.**

ner Vice President Mike Pence on Monday “publicly backed Karrin Taylor Robson in Arizona’s Republican gubernatorial Axios adds that Pence is “expected to campaign with Robson, a housing developer, on Friday – the same day that T Pence also “backed Georgia Gov. Brian Kemp (R), who became a top Trump target after he refused to help him over 18) says, “As an incumbent seeking reelection, Kemp had an advantage over his primary rival, David Perdue, and u on the ballot...the GOP contest in Arizona will likely be much closer.” Nevertheless, the AP adds that “what once loo sh.”

t Sanchez, Knowles, 10.52M) reports Lake “said she viewed Pence’s endorsement as laying the groundwork for a 20 ment, Lake said, “At this point, it’s clear that Mike Pence has an electoral interest in taking down Donald Trump and onona, and this is just one more example of the RINO establishment doing absolutely everything they can to stop our an, 20.6M) says Pence’s endorsement “came amid pushback from some Republicans against Mr. Trump and the can in 2020 – as Ms. Lake has done,” while [Politico](#) (7/18, Isenstadt, 6.73M) says Pence is “joining term-limited Republi Ducey “maintain a close relationship, and the two have been in touch about the primary.”

Editor-At-Large Chris Cillizza writes that Pence “seems to have decided that the only way past Donald Trump is thro he has a political future in the GOP is to prove – through a series of steps – that Trump is less powerful than he is b

### **apping Elections May Not Apply To Current Cycle.**

or [Roll Call](#) (7/18, 130K) that he has not seen many election cycles “that are more confusing than the one we are no election cycles when nothing out of the ordinary happens,” and “the old rules still apply,” it is “more difficult to sketch

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events seem to have occurred each day since Donald Trump announced he was running for president in 2016." Rotunda says, "I'm not sure if we're going to see a return to the 2022 midterms. And I haven't given up entirely on those old rules. But we live in such a crazy time that I have to be realistic."

### **Dangerous Strategy In GOP Primaries.**

The Washington Post (7/18, 10.52M) reports that the Democratic Governors Association's efforts "to boost a Republican named Daniel L. Cox as a candidate for governor in Maryland, on the theory that Cox will be easier to defeat in a general election" is "part of a broader strategy to lure fringe figures over the GOP's governing wing." Hohmann says while the tactic "may have worked in a few places, it's not working in Maryland." Democrats, Hohmann writes, "barely have a grip on their own party's many factions. Trying to fiddle with the rules is a losing strategy."

### **Supreme Court Act.**

The Washington Post (7/18, Subscription Publication, 8.41M), former President Jimmy Carter (D) and former Secretary of State James Baker are expected to bring chaos in the 2024 presidential election.

### **Spreading Disinformation On The Rise Ahead Of Midterms.**

The Washington Post (7/18, 10.52M) reports that "Spanish-language right-wing disinformation that spiked around the 2020 election on social media is back on the rise ahead of the fall midterms." According to "social media researchers and Democratic political strategists...far-right disinformation is spreading on social media platforms but also on newer platforms, including TikTok, Signal and Telegram." Alvarez says, "The problem is hardly limited to social media. Miami radio, is still an effective megaphone for false narratives, particularly in Miami, where far right-wing hosts have long used the station to spread disinformation. Spanish language Miami radio, conservative voices and disinformation have been almost indistinguishable."

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The Wall Street Journal (7/18, Subscription Publication, 8.41M) editorial argues that the CHIP bill subsidizes protectionism. The Journal says the measure will encourage other industries to cite China competition as a reason to seek government money.

The Wall Street Journal (7/18, Subscription Publication, 8.41M) editorial says Illinois Gov. J.B. Pritzker's recent trips to New York to campaign for a 2024 presidential bid, may be an effort to escape his record in Illinois, which has seen low GDP growth as well as high unemployment. Pritzker may move to other states.

The Wall Street Journal (7/18, Subscription Publication, 8.41M) says the heatwave is bringing the "predictable jargon of climate change." The climate lobbyists and media and politics blame every turn in the weather on climate change. The Journal says Europe's emissions reductions, which have come at the cost of less reliable energy and greater vulnerability to Vladimir Putin. The Journal says that "without larger emissions reductions, further European emissions reductions will do nothing to alter global temperatures without larger emissions reductions elsewhere."

The Wall Street Journal (7/18, Subscription Publication, 8.41M) editorial lauds Kansas lawmakers for eliminating excessive regulations. The Journal says Kansas is the only state that allows people to use a thin string to shape brows and pluck unwanted facial hair, from a state requirement that they be licensed.

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**'s Slide Toward One-man Rule."** In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (7/18, 10.52M) argues that Tunisian President Kais Saïed "is determined to undermine the country's once-promising political institutions, established in the wake of a 2011 uprising against him. Now, as he seeks to ratify in a referendum set for July 25, could deepen this political winter." The Post notes that leverage over Tunisia's economic aid and Tunisia's potential need for an International Monetary Fund bailout." The Post concludes by arguing that the United States should "reconsider its support for Saïed."

**Texas Attorney General's Abortion Lawsuit."** The [Washington Post](#) (7/18, 10.52M) reports the Texas abortion ban "contains a definition of major bodily function," but Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton (R) "is either woefully ignorant of this lifesaving medical procedure's goals," as evidenced by his "legal challenge to a directive from the Biden administration that underscores the obligation of doctors to be pro-life. Yet he is saying that in cases where an emergency abortion is needed to save a woman's life, the doctor is not allowed to dismiss his "harmful" lawsuit.

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[Higher Trading Revenue, But Profit Falls](#)

[Interest Rates Climb](#)

[Afghanistan, Is Faltering Under The Taliban](#)

[Yemen, A Land Not Built For It](#)

[Economic Outlook, Murky Data](#)

[Abortion Among Black Voters](#)

[Renewable Turbines Are Set To Rise](#)

[Ukraine In Limbo](#)

[Ukraine Comes To Terms With War's Traumas](#)

[Armed Civilian](#)

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Ukraine

Europe Wrestles With Heatwave And Forest Fires

ers Help Profits Beat Forecasts

O Following Political Turmoil

**ork News:**

Europe; US Weather; Fallout From Uvalde Shooting Report; Shooting At An Indiana Mall; War In Ukraine; Steve Ba  
Virginia Woman Awakens From Coma; Red Land Cotton Company.

rt; Shooting At An Indiana Mall; Parkland Shooter Trial; Extreme Heat In Europe; US Extreme Heat; Steve Bannon C  
nderneath SUV; North Carolina Gardener Teaches Teens.

backs For President Biden's Climate Agenda; Fallout From Uvalde Shooting Report; Shooting At An Indiana Mall; St  
ctims; Rising Cost Of Car Ownership; Carson Pickett/US Women's Soccer Team.

2 minutes, 35 seconds

1 – 4 minutes, 45 seconds

seconds

ctims – 2 minutes, 30 seconds

European countries are facing weather they've never seen before. In France, temperatures are expected to top 104 c  
n government is reminding all mimes to crack a window in their invisible boxes."

tee learned last week that the Secret Service erased text messages from January 5 and January 6, after oversight  
e, but their story about this deletion has shifted several times, first blaming it on their 'device replacement program  
our phones,' 'Our phones are going through a tunnel,' and finally, 'New phone, who dis?'"

o Saudi Arabia] "This was always going to be a touchy trip, because the Crown Prince is infamously – and I'm putting  
, so..."

[Saudi Arabia] "America obsesses about these things, like not looking too friendly. It's also funny how President Biden seems less friendly than a handshake. That is the whitest decision of all time."

ustrated with Joe Manchin, because he is on your team, he is wearing your jersey, but every time he gets the ball, h  
t he could do is say so up front, instead of wasting everybody's time and jerking the Democrats around for a year, p

held a controversial meeting with the Crown Prince of Saudi Arabia, but the real controversy was that Biden greeted  
punch him as hard as I could."

hat he plans to retire by the end of President Biden's term. Then everyone turned to Biden like, 'Is there anything y

criticism after he fist-bumped Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman last week during their first in-person meeting  
then weren't they?"

ologized last week after she said the Latino community is 'as unique as the breakfast tacos here in San Antonio.' Said

nd former Vice President Mike Pence are set to hold competing rallies on Friday in Arizona. It will be the first time the

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entia, Meta Analysis Finds.  
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pectancy Could Indicate A Decline In International Stature.  
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### **Rule To Strengthen Consumer Protections For Medicare Part D, MA Plans.**

On April 5, HHS, through CMS, finalized a "rule that, among other things, prohibits advertisements that do not mention the government could mislead and confuse enrollees into believing that the ads come from the government." HHS Secretary Xavier Becerra said, "The rule prohibits marketing schemes by the health insurance companies that offer Medicare Advantage plans, those that offer Part D prescription drug coverage." Chiquita Brooks-LaSure said, "With this final rule, CMS is putting in place new safeguards that make it easier for people to understand their options while also strengthening the Medicare Advantage and Part D programs." The Washington Post (4/5, Subscription Publication, 4K) reports the rule finalized Wednesday "strengthens consumer protections in Medicare's prescription drug coverage, requiring prior authorization approvals by private Medicare Advantage plans to remain valid for the beneficiary's full course of treatment, and requires plan policies each year and mandates that MA plan coverage determinations to be reviewed by professionals with relevant expertise." It also includes the [Wall Street Journal](#) (4/5, Armour, Subscription Publication, 8.41M), [HealthPayerIntelligence](#) (4/5, Bailey), [MarketWatch](#) (4/5, Herman, Subscription Publication, 262K).

### **Emissions Limits On Coal, Oil Power Plants.**

The Washington Post reports, "Biden administration officials are ramping up regulations on coal, seeking stronger limits on mercury and other pollutants, and a crackdown on pollution and greenhouse gas emissions." On Wednesday, the EPA "said it expects it will reduce by more than 70% emissions of pollutants such as brown coal – and emissions that contain nickel, arsenic and other metals from other plants." This "move is part of a broader effort to reduce emissions, and to move the electric power industry to cleaner fuels." The Washington Post (4/5, Subscription Publication, 20.6M) reports the Administration's proposal "would require coal- and oil-fired power plants to reduce emissions of mercury, arsenic, nickel, and lead to protect infants and children." The EPA's rule "has two broad policy aims: Reduce dangerous toxins in the environment, while also promoting the use of cleaner energy sources like solar and wind." The Mercury and Air Toxics Standards rule "is one of several recent E.P.A. actions that could have that effect indirectly, by making coal plants too costly to operate." The Washington Post reports, "The move follows a legal finding by [the] EPA in February that regulating toxic emissions under the Clean Air Act. The new rules aim "to eliminate up to 70% of mercury emissions and other toxic pollutants such as lead, nickel and arsenic." EPA Administrator Michael Regan said, "By leveraging proven, emissions-reduction measures available at reasonable cost, we are cutting down on hazardous pollution from coal-fired power plants – protecting our planet and improving public health for all." The Washington Post reports, "EPA "estimates the new proposals will cost companies up to \$330 million, but yield up to \$1.9 billion in health benefits." It also includes [Bloomberg Law](#) (4/5, Hijazi, Subscription Publication, 4K), [CNBC](#) (4/5, Newburger, 7.34M), [CNN](#) (4/5, Fritz, Nil).

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in South Korea have announced that they will begin testing wastewater samples for COVID-19 viral loads. South Korea's "wastewater surveillance will" commence at 64 treatment facilities across the nation on a weekly basis. After local staff obtain results, "the Agency will post the results on its website." A spokesperson for the Agency added that, to date, "its recent trial runs with cities and provinces have produced results largely aligned with infection trends in those areas."

### **9) Pandemic Regulations.**

(M) reports on changes to COVID-19 pandemic regulations in Los Angeles County, California. The county recently ended its "stay-at-home" order. "The county joined the rest of California's counties in having a low COVID-19 community level according to the CDC's metrics, which allowed the county to lift its mask and distancing orders for patients and visitors in healthcare settings." However, individual healthcare facilities may still have mask and distancing orders for people working in certain areas where people of advanced age or with compromised immune systems are receiving treatment.

### **10) COVID-19 Pandemic in Affluent, More Wealthy Parts Of Alabama.**

(M) reports on a case study of high school students in two school districts in Alabama. The districts are in Macon County, Georgia. "The median household income in the districts is more than double that in Macon County." While testing results showed "students last year were almost a full grade higher in math and a half grade lower in reading" in the Macon County district, "the same analysis found that test scores had actually improved in the Macon County district." Among the findings of the study are that COVID-19 pandemic school closures and shifts to remote instruction "did more harm than good" for students in the affluent districts. Sources: [The Atlantic](#), [The New York Times](#).

### **11) World Health Organization.**

(M) reports on the history of the World Health Organization as it nears its 75th anniversary. During that time, the WHO "has been instrumental in the fight against the United States and the Soviet Union" and the organization has developed "a consistent record for establishing its priorities and quality of vaccines and medicines." At the same time, "how the WHO operates and sets its priorities is also influenced by the amount of money it receives." The WHO "needs more money for its core mission" plus more respect.

### **12) Long COVID in Juvenile Cases Of Long COVID.**

(M) reports on the effects of prolonged COVID-19 symptoms on adolescents and children. "Over the past year," researchers have found that "on average, parents of such juvenile report them experiencing 10 distinct symptoms. While "the majority of kids with long COVID have mild symptoms, the severity occurs can vary greatly. HHS Assistant Secretary for Health Rachel Levine said identifying why long COVID occurs is a priority. The National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases is collaborating with HHS to study long COVID.

### **13) COVID-19 in Forsyth County.**

(M) reports on the latest COVID-19 pandemic statistics in Forsyth County, North Carolina. The state's Department of Health and Human Services reports "Forsyth with two COVID-19 deaths last week" and that brings the county close to a threshold of 1,000 such deaths since the start of the pandemic. "Forsyth remained at a near year-long low last week of 182." Furthermore, Forsyth County "remains listed in the low category."

### **14) COVID-19 Pandemic Benefits Among Working US Residents.**

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the Mellman Group President Mark Mellman writes about recent cuts to nutritional aid benefits and healthcare coverage under the Medicaid Expansion Program...benefits," those cuts will affect "over 30 million people," most of which represent working families. Also, "the pandemic emergency" according to an HHS analysis. Mellman argues that "achieving true environmental justice requires addressing these issues."

### **Assessment Of Mask Requirements.**

Healthcare News (185K) reports Michigan's "Sparrow Health System announced Wednesday" that "it is easing its mask mandate in its facilities. Patients are no longer required to wear a mask when visiting patients, seeking care for respiratory or COVID-19 symptoms including fever, cough, or sore throat. Patients who do not fit those descriptions will not "be required to wear a mask in public areas of its building." Furthermore, "caregivers are no longer required to wear a mask if they're experiencing respiratory symptoms."

### **Applying Various Masking Rules.**

Healthcare News (154K) reported on disparate masking policies inside healthcare facilities in Ventura County, California. While St. Joseph's Hospital and Health Center in Ventura has mostly kept its regulations regarding mask usage "in place in most areas," other facilities have eliminated and maintenance of mask policies, as "policies hinge on local COVID risks" as assessed by the CDC.

### **Report Reveals His Business Received COVID-19 Pandemic Relief Funds.**

Healthcare News (154K) reports on Nebraska Department of Economic Development, Anthony Goins, has resigned. His resignation comes "a day after the department received \$1.5 million of grants from the agency he headed." According to the report in the Nebraska Examiner, the department "gave two-thirds of the money to private equity ownership."

### **COVID-19 Bivalent Booster Shots Ranks Among Highest In US.**

Healthcare News (22K) reports, "While administration of the updated COVID-19 booster has slowed down since it was approved, it remains the highest in the country, data shows." FDA Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research Director Dr. Peter Marks says, "The vast majority of our sites are up to date with a bivalent COVID-19 vaccine."

### **Healthcare Industry As Public Health Emergency Winds Down.**

Healthcare News (91M) reports "the coming months carry broader health implications...with a number of regulatory shifts that expand on the changes made during the pandemic" amid the end of the federal government's public health emergency for the COVID-19 pandemic. Among "three major changes" are "the extension of health insurance coverage for as many as 15 million Medicaid and Children's Health Insurance Program enrollees." At the same time, "the extension of Medicare telehealth flexibilities created during the pandemic have been extended through December 2024."

### **COVID-19 Cases, Infections To Counts.**

Healthcare News (154K) reports on new COVID-19 pandemic statistics out of New Jersey. Public health officials in the state on Wednesday confirmed that, "there were 355 patients with confirmed or suspected coronavirus cases reported across the state's 70 hospitals" and that "the state has 'low' community levels of the coronavirus" and "the statewide positivity rate for tests conducted April 1...was 3.1%."

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### **Hospitalizations, Deaths, New Cases Remain Low.**

es, 372K) reports, "COVID-19 cases, hospitalizations and deaths remain at pandemic lows in Clark County" Nevada. The daily new confirmed cases in Clark County remains at 83, the same number as a week ago, according to data posted on the Nevada Department of Health and Human Services website. "Throughout Nevada, "the number dipped to 109 from last week's 111," and hospitalizations also declined.

### **Shows Strong Immune Response In Hamsters.**

A new study" published Monday in the journal Nature Microbiology "has shown promising results for a nasal COVID-19 vaccine in hamsters." Freie Universität Berlin Institute of Virology head of diagnostics and study lead author Dr. Janine Freyberger says, "The vaccine prevents virus replication – this could be a game changer in controlling SARS-CoV-2 transmission." Separately, a study illustrating the effectiveness of nasal COVID vaccines in hamsters."

### **Version Of Operation Warp Speed.**

h (4/5, 3.1M), Esther K. Choo and Scott Duke Kominers write, "From a public health perspective, the effects of long COVID are being experienced by at least 65 million people worldwide have already experienced it." The authors argue that we need a version of "Operation Warp Speed."

### **Avert Tragedy Of Future Pandemics.**

op the COVID-19 vaccines while at the National Institutes of Health, writes for the [Atlanta Journal-Constitution](#) (4/6, 3.1M) "It is time to consider what has happened, learn from it and decide how the world – and our part in it – should operate." Dr. Fauci says, "The pandemic has exposed and widened. Biology became politicized. We are left with the burdens of long COVID and a mental health crisis here, and it is in everyone's best interest to recognize and solve regional problems before they become global ones. It is time to avert the tragedy of future pandemics."

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### **Obligations Amid Medicaid Eligibility Checks.**

opez, Subscription Publication, 4K) reports that HHS "is reminding state health officials of their civil rights obligations as the emergency draws to a close." In a statement Wednesday, HHS Office for Civil Rights Director Melanie Fontes Rainer says, "Effective communication obligations will go far to prevent people of color and individuals with [limited English proficiency] from being excluded from communications."

### **Report Its Monitoring Of Drug Supply Chain Issues, Official Says.**

astronuovo, Subscription Publication, 4K) reports, "The FDA will need additional funding from Congress to build up its drug supply chain monitoring program after the COVID-19 pandemic, the head of the FDA's drug center said Wednesday." Patrizia Cavazzoni, director of the FDA Center for Drug Evaluation and Research, says, "If we are able to obtain some FDA funding for our work toward shortages and shortage mitigation and surveillance, we will not be at a time where supply chains are not getting any stronger."

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### **ing Opioid Addiction Treatment.**

ts, "The overdose crisis is prompting more hospitals to initiate opioid addiction treatment in emergency rooms – a  
ion among providers over who's really responsible for addressing the underlying problem of opioid misuse."

### **p Shipments Of Fentanyl.**

Mexican President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador is calling for help from the Chinese communist regime to combat f  
makers who have called for more aggressive action against drug cartels over the crisis." Lopez Obrador, "who has f  
has written to Chinese President Xi Jinping asking him to stop shipments of the deadly drug coming from Chinese sh

### **icials Try To Educate Public On Xylazine.**

21K) reports, "Charleston Police officials say they have found" xylazine "here in the city." Officials are now "trying t

### **roviding Fentanyl-Laced Heroin To Actor Michael K. Williams.**

n drug dealer Irvin Cartagena "pleaded guilty Wednesday to providing 'The Wire' actor Michael K. Williams with fen  
g to distribute drugs was entered in Manhattan federal court" and "sentencing was set by U.S. District Judge Ronnie  
ars in prison and the possibility of as many as 40 years."

### **riminalize Fentanyl Test Strips.**

147K) reports, "Kansas Gov. Laura Kelly is calling for the state of Kansas to decriminalize fentanyl strips." On Wedn  
l health experts, as well as the family of a victim who lost their life to an accidental overdose."

### **Combat Opioid Epidemic On Gulf Coast.**

ports, "Drug overdoses are skyrocketing across the Coast," and "just over 160 fatal drug misuse cases on the Missis  
eaders are developing a plan." Mississippi's "monthly report activates a rapid alert by the Mississippi Public Health In  
ke Mississippi OD Free initiative is a multi-agency partnership designed for overdose prevention."

### **t Strips Available In Vending Machines.**

Washington, D.C., is making Narcan and fentanyl test strips available at vending machines in areas with high overdo  
ending machines will offer the opioid overdose reversal drug naloxone, specifically the brand name version of the me  
ness products, according to the joint announcement from DC Health, the Department of Behavioral Health and the D

ports.

### **se Of Xylazine.**

endoza, 224K) reports, "Florida Attorney General Ashley Moody warned Florida residents about the prevalence of th  
rd most Xylazine-related deaths in the state, she said." In 2016, Florida outlawed Xylazine, "but it is FDA-approved

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arasota, Manatee, and DeSoto – “nearly 250 people died from fentanyl poisoning in 2021, a 485% increase since 20

### **Address Fentanyl Crisis.**

Dhillon and former DEA Deputy Chief of Staff Jim Crotty write for the [Dallas Morning News](#) (4/5, 772K), “No drug cri  
tiveness of today’s opioid crisis.” But “sadly...the Drug Enforcement Administration is now failing to perform one of  
rough the annual publication of the National Drug Threat Assessment.” The authors say, “The U.S. has already fallen  
l without strong, forward-thinking leadership from DEA and the Department of Justice.” They conclude, “The Biden a  
working against future threats. This includes greater oversight and accountability for U.S. counterdrug agencies, wh

### **People With SUDs Are Not The Solution.**

tesman (4/6, 299K), “As the father of a drug-addicted adult son...I know with every bone in my body that” people w  
dened my son in what my family and I called a free ‘community college’ for drugs and a life of crime.” But with Idaho  
harsh sentences for the most egregious crimes.” He concludes, “If the power and resources of our government are  
ve individualized justice, and Idaho lawmakers should immediately consider HB233.”

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### **er Bill Allowing Court-Ordered Outpatient Mental Healthcare For People With Persistent Mental Illness.**

ore Massachusetts lawmakers would let family members and mental health professionals ask courts to order outpat  
history of serious physical harm to themselves or others.” According to state Sen. Cindy Friedman (D-MA), who auth  
cluding a monthly assessment by a mental health professional to see if the person should remain in court-ordered c  
ng its way through the Legislature.”

### **For Meeting Youth Mental Health Needs In New Report Card.**

Hui, 396K) says, “North Carolina is getting failing grades for meeting the mental health needs of the state’s children  
rt card is issued every two years, and this year, “mental health is a major focus.” According to the report, “an ‘unpr  
contributing to the state’s F in mental health. Other failing categories include “school-based health, housing and econo

### **ression, Anxiety, Distrust Of Certain Groups, Institutes, Expert Says.**

,” “According to many therapists and mental health professionals,” any people have reported experiencing “generatio  
n or chronic stressors felt by their family or community.” According to Nonprofit BRIDGE Inc. CEO Gwendolyn VanSa  
ays can include depression, anxiety or distrust of certain groups or institutions.” Her nonprofit “worked with vaccine  
e effects of generational trauma firsthand.”

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### **Make Prices Worse, Harm Healthcare.**

Philipson writes for the [Wall Street Journal](#) (4/5, Subscription Publication, 8.41M) that the Biden Administration's approach to drug pricing will harm the value of drug research and will harm healthcare. Philipson argues that the Administration has not learned from issues left to the market to determine.

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### **Supreme Court Chance To Reduce Agency Power.**

Wheeler writes for [Bloomberg Law](#) (4/6, Wheeler, Subscription Publication, 4K) behind a paywall, "Another challenge to the health law's free preventive care mandate is headed to the Fifth Circuit first, and raises arguments about the scope of agency power."

### **Healthcare System Is Akin To A Jackson Pollock Painting.**

Wheeler, clinical instructor at the University of Washington School of Public Health, and chief medical officer at EmCare Health Services, writes for [Bloomberg Law](#) (4/6, Wheeler, Subscription Publication, 4K) behind a paywall, "When you think about the U.S. health care system, the first thing that comes to mind is a Jackson Pollock painting: splashes of color representing the uneven distribution of care venues and resources; the white space represents the gaps across our system that prevent patients from gaining access to care. While many solutions have come to market in an effort to improve the delivery of health care." However, "most are aimed at filling the gaps, not changing care delivery among the splashes of color."

### **Wisconsin Supreme Court Race To Victory In Race For Wisconsin Supreme Court.**

Wheeler reports, "The commanding victory on Tuesday by a liberal candidate in a pivotal race for the Wisconsin Supreme Court is a major motivator for Democratic voters, as well as a continuing struggle among conservatives to put forward candidates." Protasiewicz, swept onto the bench by 11 percentage points, a staggering margin in an evenly divided battleground state, "is a sign that the overturning of Roe v. Wade has transformed American politics." This "race centered squarely on abortion rights and political power." If Protasiewicz wins, the court's new 4-to-3 liberal majority would reverse Wisconsin's 1849 abortion ban and overturn the state's far-reaching abortion ban.

Wheeler, Itkowitz, Knowles, Wells, 10.52M) reports by "overturning a national right to abortion last summer, the U.S. Supreme Court has set a precedent that will have a profound impact on the future of the U.S. Supreme Court. In the process, the justices also angered millions of Americans who have made their views known in key elections." Protasiewicz won the Wisconsin Supreme Court election Tuesday, when a Milwaukee County judge won by 11 points to give liberals the majority after 15 years of conservative control. Protasiewicz had led relentlessly on abortion rights in a state that saw the availability of abortion disappear after the U.S. Supreme Court's high "court is now expected in the next year or two to overturn the...19th-century ban on most abortions." Protasiewicz, Najmabadi, Subscription Publication, 8.41M) reports top Wisconsin Democrats characterized the race as a referendum on the future of the state, as well as some independents and Republicans, to vote for Protasiewicz.

Wheeler also covers the story.

### **Abortion Ban.**

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abortion ban that fueled one of the largest ballot drives in Michigan history was repealed Wednesday by Gov. Gretchen Whitmer. "The ban made it a four-year felony to assist in an abortion. Roe v. Wade had made the law null and void in the Supreme Court."

AP (4/5, 1.5M) reports, "House Bill 4006 repeals two Michigan laws: one that makes it a felony to administer an abortion to a person and another that makes it a misdemeanor to sell or advertise medication for an abortion."

Whitmer said, "Today, we're going to take action to ensure that our statutes, our laws reflect our values and our commitment to protecting everyone's ability to make their own decisions about their bodies, we can win."

Other stories on the story are [ABC News](#) (4/5, Kekatos, 2.44M), [Fox News](#) (4/5, Betz, 23.99M), [CNN](#) (4/5, Forrest, 89.21M), and the [Washington Post](#).

### **Idaho Bans Out-Of-State Abortions For Minors Without Parental Consent.**

AP (4/5, 1.5M) reports, "Idaho on Wednesday became the first state to make it illegal for minors to leave the state to get an abortion. The law creates a crime called 'abortion trafficking,' carrying a penalty of two to five years in jail for anyone who helps a person cross state lines to get an abortion without the parent or guardian." The law "allows the filing of lawsuits against doctors who perform such abortions, even if the doctor is out of state. To enforce the new law, the Idaho attorney general will have 'sole discretion' to do so."

### **Lawsuit To Block Idaho AG's Ban On Referrals For Out-Of-State Abortions.**

AP (4/5, 1.5M) reports, "The American Civil Liberties Union and two doctors on Wednesday filed a lawsuit seeking to block Idaho authorities from punishing doctors who refer patients to other states to get an abortion. Idaho State AG Raul Labrador (R) "said in a legal opinion last week that the state's near-total abortion ban, enacted last year, prohibits doctors from referring patients to other state lines to access abortion services." The plaintiffs contend "Labrador's interpretation of the law violates the U.S. Constitution's guarantee of interstate commerce and the right to travel across state lines without the burden of another state's law beyond its borders."

### **Pro-Life Groups Sue To Overturn Minneapolis Ordinance.**

AP (4/5, 1.5M) reports, "A pro-life group sued the city of Minneapolis on Wednesday to overturn an ordinance that prohibits the obstruction of sidewalk counselors' who try to dissuade them from getting abortions." The plaintiffs, "Pro-Life Action Ministries and the Minnesota Citizens' Council, say the ordinance was a deliberate effort to stifle them."

### **Illinois Approves Abortion Exemption.**

AP (4/5, 1.5M) reports, "Illinois' GOP-dominant Senate gave final approval Wednesday to legislation that would add a narrow exemption to one of the state's abortion laws. The bill requires doctors to consult a physician's desk for his approval." The state Senate approved "the bill on a 26-1 vote, with several of the chamber's Democrats opposing it. The exemption would allow physicians "to use 'reasonable medical judgment' when determining an abortion is necessary to prevent the death of a patient or to prevent a major bodily function." Certain physicians "argue that is a harsher legal standard than before."

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### **Victims Of Sex Trafficking.**

AP (4/5, 1.5M) reports, "Maryland lawmakers on Tuesday passed a bill to protect child victims of sex trafficking in an about 100-0 vote."

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session last year." The law, also "known as Safe Harbor, prohibits authorities from arresting and charging child victims of trafficking, such as trespassing, misdemeanor theft or prostitution." Maryland joins "27 other states and the District of Columbia" across the country about the need for policies that reflect the manipulation and intimidation that traffickers employ.

### **Legal Practice Among Child Welfare Agencies To Seize Kids' Social Security Money.**

is "widespread and "common among child welfare agencies" nationwide to seize funds from "survivor's benefits from the Social Security Administration" to build a case against a parent. A coalition is building to halt the practice, which advocates say has been in place for at least two decades." A rising "number of states" are challenging the practice through a court challenge and a bill set to be introduced in the state Legislature next week."

### **Lack Of Special Street Crossing Signals For People With Visual Disabilities.**

(2.51M) reports the DOJ "said Wednesday that Chicago has violated the Americans With Disabilities Act...for its lack of special street crossing signals for people with visual disabilities." DOJ's "ruling stems from a disability discrimination lawsuit filed in late 2019 by the American Council of the Blind of Metropolitan Chicago." "Chicago has been aware of the shortfall since 2006, the DOJ said." However, only "fifteen of the 2,800 intersections were equipped with special signals" - just 1%." And "things have barely improved since, the feds said Tuesday."

### **4% Cut To Assist With Immigrant Care Costs.**

(2.51M) reports New York City Mayor Eric Adams (D) "has tried hotels, shelters and a cruise terminal to house an influx of refugees and asylum seekers, but the city is running out of options and strained services." He eventually asked Gov. Kathy Hochul (D) to "convert the Javits Convention Center into a shelter for refugees and asylum seekers, but the state has nowhere." And "on Tuesday, city budget officials said they were forced to order 4% cuts to help cope with the costs of the influx."

### **Child Victims Act Is Result Of His Personal Story.**

(2.51M) reports that the night the Child Victims Act written by state Del. C.T. Wilson (D-MD) was about to be passed, it was "the night that C.T. Wilson had pushed the bill "for eight painful years" and a "judge had cited the pending legislation in making public records available to a plaintiff that drove him to wage this fight had defined his whole life and - many, many times - almost killed him." But telling his story was "the only way to help other survivors and their abusers whenever they're ready to face them." And it is also why he wrote a book on his experiences, "10,000 Hours of Darkness."

### **Prioritize Funding For Safety-Net Hospitals.**

(2.51M) reports of Pediatrics Vice Chair of Education Dr. Ingrid Walker-Descartes writes for the New York Daily News (4/6, 2.51M), "New York City's safety-net hospitals suffered from some of the highest rates of COVID hospitalizations, and the overall toll that it took on both the hospitals and the community is staggering." She calls for "funding to help New York; now it is time for New York to help us." She concludes, "As Albany is in the final stretch of negotiations over the state budget, it is time to prioritize funding for safety-net hospitals like Maimonides that serve New Yorkers with the greatest needs, but fewest resources."

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### **Peeps Candy Maker To Stop Using Red Dye 3.**

(2.51M) reports, "Consumer Reports, an advocacy and research nonprofit, is calling on the maker of Peeps candies to stop using Red Dye 3, a synthetic dye that has been linked to cancer and other health problems."

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Consumer Reports sent a letter to Just Born Quality Confections earlier this year – urging the candy manufacturer to r

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### **Congress May Be Paying Too Much For Telehealth, At-Home Care.**

er, 6.73M) reports on an interview with Medicare Payment Advisory Commission (MedPAC) Executive Director James  
be paying too much for them.” MedPAC “advises lawmakers and in its March report to Congress said slashing paym  
illion over five years without impeding access to care.” MedPAC “is also investigating whether telehealth payments s

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### **Medicaid May Be Transferred To Covered California.**

en, 154K) reports, “Up to 50,000 low-income Ventura County” California “residents could lose Medi-Cal benefits that  
ut many can take steps to keep their coverage.” Currently, “counties are again checking eligibility and renewing cov  
ple who could be dropped from the program.” Ventura County Human Services Agency Deputy Director Jennie Pittm  
people “who are no longer eligible may be transferred to Covered California, the Affordable Care Act program.”

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### **Banning Gender-Affirming Care For Minors.**

ov. Eric Holcomb (R) “signed a bill banning all gender-affirming care for minors Wednesday, joining at least 12 other  
ned the legislation after Republican majorities in the Legislature approved it. The law will go into effect July 1, and t  
he year to stop doing so.”  
s the measure, “approved by the state legislature last month, prohibits healthcare providers from ‘knowingly’ provid  
nt surgeries, hormone therapy and drugs that block puberty.”  
nd [HuffPost](#) (4/5, S. Mitchell, 363K) also cover the story.

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### **Criminalizes Gender-Affirming Care For Youth.**

evening, Idaho Gov. Brad Little (R) “signed a bill criminalizing gender-affirming medical care for transgender youth.  
der-affirming care for minors.” Almost “two dozen more are considering bills that would ban or restrict the care.” Th  
vide hormones, puberty blockers or other gender-affirming care to people under age 18.”  
law prevents minors “from undergoing transition-related surgery, though there is no evidence to suggest minors ar  
Boise.”  
ers the story.

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### **Indiana's Ban On Gender-Affirming Care For Minors.**

Subscription Publication, 4K) reports on Wednesday, the ACLU "sued Indiana...to halt its enforcement of a new law that bans gender-affirming care." The lawsuit "filed in the US District Court for the Southern District of Indiana on behalf of clients S.E.A. 480."

reports the ACLU alleges in the lawsuit that "the statute violates patient rights. The national and Indiana state branch of the ACLU filed the bill that saw his state join at least 12 others that have restricted or banned such care."

Subscription Publication, 626K) also covers the story.

### **Florida Sues To Repeal Gender-Affirming Care For Minors.**

"Several Florida families are taking aim at the state's ban on gender-affirming care for minors, filing a lawsuit in a federal court to make medical decisions in their child's best interest." The lawsuit "takes aim at Surgeon General Joseph Ladanyi, claiming their policy would harm transgender minors by forcing them to abide by an identity inconsistent with their gender identity."

### **New Jersey Order Establishes Safe Haven For Transgender People.**

"New Jersey Gov. Phil Murphy (D) signed an order Tuesday aimed at protecting gender-affirming care, with the Department of Health grants protection to anyone providing or receiving gender-affirming care, and prohibits health insurers from denying coverage based on a person's gender identity or expression."

Subscription Publication, 67K) also covers the story.

### **United Therapeutics Settlement Offer Gains Support From Claimants.**

United Therapeutics' shares...rose nearly 4% in early trading to hit a near two-month high of \$164.48 on Wednesday as the company offers a settlement to claimants, easing an overhang on its plans to list consumer health unit Kenvue." Some analysts remained "positive about the offer, as they believe it could bring an end to the lawsuit." A "J.P. Morgan analyst...said in a note the settlement amount is \$1.5 billion."

### **Blue Cross of Philadelphia Reports Steep Decline In Profits In 2022.**

Subscription Publication, 1.2K) reports, "Independence Blue Cross's parent company on Wednesday reported a steep decline profits in 2022, as the company's membership declines." Philadelphia's "biggest health insurer...had \$575 million in operating income last year, down from \$1.4 billion in 2021."

Subscription Publication, 875K) also reports.

### **Friday Health Plans Under Supervision.**

Subscription Publication, 215K) reports, "A year after Friday Health Plans began offering policies on the health insurance exchange in Oklahoma, the state's health insurance commissioner Tuesday "by the Oklahoma Insurance Department came just weeks after its Texas counterpart took a similar action to place Friday Health Plans under supervision for outstanding claims in at least these two states." Friday Health Plans needs to "obtain approval from Oklahoma regulators before it can issue new policies." The state issued Tuesday."

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### **Trial Involving Children With Rare Cancers.**

therapy, "a novel treatment using supercharged immune cells, appears to work against tumors in children with a rare cancer. In the Italian study had no sign of cancer six weeks after the treatment, although two later relapsed and died."

### **Cancer Survivors Four Times More At Risk Of Late Mortality.**

(7/5, Kennedy, 288K) reports, "Childhood cancer survivors are four times more at risk of late mortality – a death occurring in the general population, even 40 years after diagnosis, according to a new study in medical journal The Lancet." The NCI reports that causes of death in cancer survivors are similar to the leading causes of death in the U.S. population, including liver and kidney disease, heart disease, and cancer. "Cancers occur at an earlier age in cancer survivors." Led by researchers at St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, the study offers new insights for hope."

### **Pharmaceutical Profit Expectations Due To \$150M Expense For IPR&D.**

Pharmaceuticals on Wednesday lowered its full-year and first-quarter profit expectations, citing a \$150 million hit from acquired intellectual property. The company "revised its estimated first-quarter adjusted earnings to be between \$2.31 and \$2.41 per share from an earlier range of \$2.31 and \$2.41 per share, compared with its prior forecast of \$10.70 to \$11.10."

### **Novartis Drug Combo Imfinzi, Lynparza Meets Main Goals For Treating Ovarian Cancer.**

Novartis reports, "AstraZeneca on Wednesday said a combination of its cancer drugs Imfinzi and Lynparza met the main goals for treating ovarian cancer. Lynparza, jointly developed with U.S.-based Merck &Co, was approved last year by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration."

### **Sandoz To Duke University, Allergan Over Patent Infringement.**

Pharmaceuticals (Subscription Publication, 854K) reports, "A jury in Colorado has decided the pharmaceutical company Sandoz is liable for infringing a patent related to the drug Latisse." The lawsuit "centers on a patent owned by Duke and licensed to Allergan. Latisse was FDA-approved in "2008 and launched in 2009," and Sandoz "followed this with a generic version of the drug. Sandoz's sales are expected to decline by around 50 percent in Texas – where the suit was originally filed."

### **Novartis Financial Recapitalization, Debt Restructuring Amid Increasing Competitive Pressure.**

Pharmaceuticals (Subscription Publication, 875K) reports, "Facing continued competitive pressures on its portfolio of generic drugs, Novartis is considering a potential recapitalization or restructuring of its debt." So far, "at the end of fiscal 2022, Lannett had \$654 million in debt, including \$350 million in senior secured notes." However, based on positive "late-stage testing of its biosimilar insulin glargine, Novartis believes that biosimilar insulin glargine represents a significant commercial opportunity, and our team is diligently focused on bringing it to market."

### **Novartis Drug Administered That Physicians Need Training.**

Pharmaceuticals (Subscription Publication, 8.41M) reports that for many new drugs, the main obstacle to their success and use is that they are complex and physicians will need training to give them to patients. For example, Kite's FDA-approved CAR T-cell cancer therapy Yescarta requires specialized training for physicians to administer it to patients."

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engineering cells to be administered.

### **82% Effective Preventing Severe Infections In Infants.**

Experimental respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) vaccine was 82% effective in preventing severe infections in infants, according to trial details published on Wednesday that confirm preliminary data from the study published in the New England Journal of Medicine. The vaccine is currently under review by health regulators in both the United States and Europe. The FDA "is expecting to approve the first maternal vaccine available to prevent the disease in infants."

As reports, "A decade ago a research team at the National Institutes of Health figured out a key mechanism of RSV after which the virus binds to a protein on the surface of the body and trigger the body to produce antibodies. This knowledge to create safe vaccines that would recognize the virus when it invaded the body and trigger the body to produce antibodies." [BioPharma Dive](#) (4/5, Alvarado) also cover the story.

### **Drug Shortages Getting New Attention From Legislators, Others.**

Pharmaceutical industry (Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America, 262K) reports that the issue of persistent cancer drug shortages due to the global pharmaceutical supply chain is getting new attention as legislators, health advocates, and members of the health care industry call for action to address the problem. "The number of drug shortages has increased by 30% in 2022, soaring to their highest level in nearly five years, according to a report released by the Senate Homeland Security Committee. "The new wave of attention as legislators, health advocates, and members of the health care industry call for action to address the problem. "All drugs are part of the free market, the FDA "cannot force any company to make any medication, no matter how important it is." "The Center for Drug Shortages" who...has been tracking and charting the national drug shortages since 2001."

### **Influenza B Cases.**

CDC data show that influenza B cases have been on the rise in the United States recently. According to nationwide surveillance data, the rate of influenza B has increased to 0.36%. In January, that rate was 0.12%. However, "since the beginning of the year, the number of cases has increased from 7 to 1,222 the week ending March 25" and "the CDC's weekly flu vaccination dashboard" reveals that "about 48 million people have been vaccinated against influenza B this year."

### **Prevalence Of Alpha-Gal Syndrome.**

Patients suffering from alpha-gal syndrome due to tick bites. Alpha-gal syndrome is caused by a sugar bearing the same name as the tick. "Alpha-gal syndrome can cause an allergy to red meats and even dairy products" which can result in symptoms like "chest pains, abdominal pain, and hives." "Alpha-gal syndrome is closely associated with Lyme disease, which is carried by the black-legged tick and afflicts about 40,000 Americans each year. "The prevalence of alpha-gal syndrome has increased in recent years" put people at greater risk of contracting alpha-gal syndrome as well.

MMWR reports norovirus "is on the rise in California." As a result, the Calif. Dept. of Public Health has issued a notice urging Californians to be vigilant. "At least 25 outbreaks of norovirus since Feb. 1" in the state. Complicating the issues is that according to the CDC, "norovirus is a common cause of gastroenteritis" and "many people are unaware of. For that reason, public health officials recommend regular hand washing."

### **Microscopic Air Pollution, Meta Analysis Finds.**

MMWR reports, "Breathing in microscopic air pollutants may raise the risk of developing dementia, according to a new meta-analysis." "The study found that exposure to fine particulate matter (PM2.5) and nitrogen dioxide (NO2) was associated with an increased risk of dementia." "The researchers found that for every 10 micrograms per cubic meter increase in PM2.5, the risk of dementia increased by 10%." "The researchers also found that for every 10 parts per billion increase in NO2, the risk of dementia increased by 10%."



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### **Screen All Newborns For CMV.**

STAT (2022) reports cytomegalovirus (CMV) "appears in 20,000 babies born each year in the U.S. and leaves an estimated 1 in 100,000 children with hearing loss. Those infected "carry the virus throughout their lifetime." However, infants are rarely tested for it, nor is there a standard screening panel for CMV." In 2015, he began lobbying Minnesota legislators. In 2018, "one proposal for CMV education made it into a state law. Dr. Weiss campaigned for another bill that would require an outreach program for congenital CMV education among prospective parents. In 2021, the state's newborn screening advisory committee to consider adding CMV to the state's screening panel." Legislators "agreed to the recommendation." Minnesota became "the first state to screen all newborns for congenital CMV."

### **Obesity May Be Tied To Highest Risk For Obesity In Offspring, Researchers Say.**

STAT (2022) reports, "Researchers grouped pregnant women based on specific metabolic traits and found that insulin resistance was linked to a higher risk of obesity in offspring, along with other traits such as high cholesterol and triglycerides." The researchers analyzed data from "1,325 women and their children." They found that "the risk linked to insulin resistance was even higher than that associated with prepregnancy obesity, defined as a BMI of 30 or higher."

### **Lung Cancer Risk May Not Involving DNA Mutation, Study Finds.**

STAT (2022) reports, "Air pollution can cause lung cancer without mutating cells, a new study found." Researchers "analyzed the genomes of lung cancer patients and found that, instead of causing mutations, the exposure to pollution resulted in inflammation which fostered tumor growth." The researchers found "some of the immune cells that flocked to the lungs expressed an inflammation-promoting protein that increased their incidence of lung cancer."

### **AI-Driven Chatbots Help Physicians Reduce Paperwork, Improve Relationships With Patients.**

STAT (2022) reports, "Glass Health, a technology startup co-founded by Dr. Dereck Paul, which offers AI-driven chatbots to assist healthcare providers. The chatbots could dramatically reduce the paperwork burden physicians face in their daily lives, and dramatically improve the patient experience." However, "the rush to incorporate the latest AI technology into medicine could lead to errors and biased outcomes that might harm patients." Glass Health has integrated a chatbot and developed a program called Glass AI which "uses a virtual medical assistant to help with paperwork." He "believes Glass AI helps with a huge need for efficiency in medicine," and "is helping to bring them down."

### **Recruiting Struggles Related To Obesity Among Young Americans.**

STAT (2022) reports, "The Air Force is now allowing recruits to have a higher percentage of body fat as it struggles to find new members." According to Air Force Recruiting Service Spokeswoman Leslie Brown, "male recruits are now permitted to have up to 26% body fat, up from the previous max of 28%." These changes follow Air Force Secretary Frank Kendall's statement in 2021 that "the Air Force is struggling to meet its recruiting goal by 10% this year, after dipping into a pool of delayed-entry applicants to meet last year's goal." He stated that "national security," stating that just over one out of every three young adults aged 17-24 are too heavy to serve in the military.

### **Gun Violence In US, Data Suggest.**

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record number of people are dying from firearm injuries in the US, and new research suggests that shootings are becoming more frequent. "In 2021 occurred at the scene of the shooting, up 9% since 1999." Researchers analyzed "data from the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention on firearm injuries."

### **Present-Day Stroke Risk For Some NYC Communities, Study Finds.**

research found "structural racism in the form of housing discrimination is associated with modern-day stroke risk for some NYC communities." The study used weighted scores for historical redlining using the average proportion of original redlined territory overlapped with modern-day stroke prevalence. It compared how redlining compared with other social determinants of health when it came to modern-day stroke prevalence. The study found that redlining from 1934 to 1968 that segregated areas in cities based on housing conditions and racial or ethnic composition.

### **Healthcare Funding Fuels Debate Between Lawmakers.**

on the surface, providing veterans the health care they need is one of the most bipartisan issues in Congress' appropriations process. Lawmakers have signaled that veterans funding will be protected." However, "a debate over how that funding should be prioritized, especially in light of proposed cuts to other programs, is emerging as an early flashpoint in the fiscal 2024 process."

### **AI Offers New Way For The Future.**

University College London Centre for Computational Science Director Peter Coveney and Science Museum Group Scientist Dr. Sarah-Jane Leslie have created a real heart "that still pounds inside a patient's chest." A "digital twin" has "100 million patches of simulated cells" and can be used to test treatments like drugs and implants. The duo adds, "This worldwide effort to create virtual cells, tissues, and organs is a major step forward in personalized medicine." Doctors try to figure out what is the best treatment for their patients by assessing past clinical trials on subjects who are similar to them. They conclude, "Ultimately, the rise of digital twins could pave the way for methods to enhance your body and your health."

### **Higher Risks Of Pregnancy Complications Regardless Of Local Vulnerability, Study Finds.**

A study released Monday from a team of researchers found that Black mothers disproportionately live in counties with high levels of vulnerability. "The researchers "quantified racial disparities to find the counties with the highest levels of vulnerability, including high rates of death, low birth weight and preterm birth." They "concluded that mothers being more exposed to high community level of vulnerability. A disparity between white and Black mothers exists at all vulnerability levels."

Researchers looked at 13 million births from Black and white women aged 10-44, comparing vulnerability scores across counties.

### **Study Links Health Effects To Excess Sugar Consumption.**

Previous research has shown the negative effects of excessive sugar intake on health, which has informed recommendations to limit added sugars to 10% of daily caloric intake." In a "review of 73 meta-analyses – which included 8,601 studies – high consumption of added sugars is linked to poor health outcomes, including diabetes, gout, obesity, high blood pressure, heart attack, stroke, cancer, asthma, tooth decay, and more." The authors, led by experts from Sichuan University in China, said these findings – combined with existing guidance from the Institute of Medicine and the American Cancer Society – suggest reducing the consumption of added sugars to below 25 g/day, approximately one serving a week."

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11M) also reports.

### **105,615 Settlement With Juul.**

reports, "The Kenosha Unified School Board has approved a mass-action vaping lawsuit settlement following a disclosure by Weiss was informed by legal counsel from Franz Law group and attorney Lori Lubinsky that the district is eligible to sue against Juul Labs Inc., according to school board documents." Additionally, "the school board approved to join a lawsuit by the Law Group in a 6-1 vote."

### **Improving Cigar Lounges To Governor.**

Turley, 49K) reports North Dakota "House of Representatives and Senate approved House Bill 1229, which makes proposed legislation "specifies that licensed establishments could only allow the indoor smoking of cigars if their buildings meet certain standards." Burgum's "spokesman declined to comment" on whether the bill would be signed.

### **Why We Need To Stop Alarmism Over Nonexistent Youth Vaping Epidemic.**

(4/5, Stroud, 626K), Taxpayers Protection Alliance's Consumer Center Director Lindsey Stroud writes, "A recent survey found that 40.3% of U.S. adults currently using electronic cigarettes, 40.3% had formerly smoked cigarettes. ... It also confirms the term 'youth vaping epidemic.'" Stroud says, "There is no youth vaping epidemic. ... The percentage of youth using e-cigarettes increased by 53% between 2019 and 2022." Stroud adds, "It's time for American public health leaders to drop the alarmism."

### **Product Recall Process Is So Challenging, Failing Parents.**

on the experience of Erika Richter "whose 2-week-old daughter Emma died in 2018 due to asphyxia, or the inability to breathe, after a toy was recalled twice within 6 years and is linked to at least 40 infant deaths. In 2022, the US "had the highest number of infant deaths from toys and clothes – since 2013, according to a report released this month by" the nonprofit Kids in Danger. But "the real challenge is to recall a baby product once it hits the market, according to Nancy Cowles, executive director of Kids in Danger."

### **Why More Children In US Are Dying At Scene Of Shooting Before They Can Reach Care.**

A new study has found that fatalities from gun violence in the U.S. have increased over time, with more victims dying at the scene of the crime. "The study "published Wednesday in the Journal of the American Medical Association, examined gun violence deaths from suicides, unintentional injuries and unknown intent." Using CDC data, "researchers discovered the proportion of deaths at the scene of the crime has increased from 2007 to 2019."

### **Governor Urging To Veto Marijuana Bills.**

writes in a letter to Gov. John Carney (D-DE) on Friday, March 31 published by the [Delaware News Journal](#) (4/6, 477K) "urging you to veto marijuana bills. Last year you showed great leadership and courage to veto similar bills." While "the dangers associated with marijuana are real...the dangers are real." Richardson highlights the dangers over marijuana in his letter and writes, "According to a study, people who tested positive for marijuana had 55% more industrial accidents, 85% more injuries and 75% greater absenteeism."

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M) reports Irish Prime Minister Leo Varadkar in a statement "said it would be 'a privilege and a special moment' to v...". Varadkar added, "Over many decades, and to this day, he has supported the cause of peace in Ireland and the G... continue working together as true partners to fulfill the potential of all the people who call this island their home." T... at the White House for St. Patrick's Day, where the two hinted at a possible Biden visit to Ireland." The Hill adds tha... s Irish poet William Butler Yeats."

5, Wagner, Pager, 10.52M) reports that Biden's trip comes the week before "a host of top leaders – including King... former secretary of state Hillary Clinton – plan to be in Belfast for the official anniversary celebrations of a deal brok... an announced meeting with Charles, whose realms as king include Northern Ireland," nor "the coronation of Charles... Kingdom." According to [Fox News](#) (4/5, Gillespie, 23.99M), White House Press Secretary Karine Jean-Pierre "stumb... Biden's decision not to attend the coronation of King Charles III." Fox News claims Jean-Pierre "fumbled her words"... president's 'good relationship' with the king while avoiding directly answering why he decided not to attend."... (Burton) reports Jean-Pierre later announced King Charles "invited... Biden to the United Kingdom for a state visit a... the visit would take place, but said it would be "in the near future."" Reuters adds that Jean-Pierre revealed the invi... which Biden informed the king that U.S. first lady Jill Biden would attend his coronation in May." According to Reut...

### **Taiwan's President In California.**

key, 20.6M) reports House Speaker McCarthy on Wednesday "hosted a carefully choreographed series of meetings... United States as it tries to confront an increasingly aggressive China without precipitating a military crisis around th... in California "unfolded as China is expanding its global influence," and adds that it "was a political and diplomatic c... st-level government reception a Taiwanese president has enjoyed on U.S. soil, but still fell short of an audience with... 4/5, Sotomayor, Shepherd, Nakashima, Wang, 10.52M), McCarthy's meeting with Tsai "marks the culmination of an... onships with countries that share democratic values with Taipei, even if they do not have formal diplomatic ties." Th... political leader in the line of presidential succession on U.S. soil since the United States opened diplomatic relations w... ern, 3.57M) reports the Speaker "emerged from [their] meeting...stressing the importance of the relationship betw... berg adds neither McCarthy nor Tsai "mentioned China in their joint public remarks," and as such the [AP](#) (4/5, Masc... confrontational stance toward China in defense of self-ruled Taiwan." Nonetheless, [Politico](#) (4/5, Adragna, 6.73M) cha... se lawmakers," as "a concrete step in furtherance of one of McCarthy's top priorities: pushing back on the influence... 9M) reports McCarthy told reporters that the bipartisan meeting "underscored Congressional unity in supporting Tai... hese Communist Party in Beijing to overtake the island," and [Bloomberg](#) (4/5, Hordern, 3.57M) reports McCarthy in... " and "also said he wanted the US to speed arms sales to Taiwan to strengthen the island democracy's military dete... [Fox News](#) (4/5, Elkind, 23.99M) that China must not be allowed to "dictate" who US lawmakers can meet with and... [Axios](#) (4/5, Knutson, 1.26M) that US lawmakers "will relentlessly stand up for freedom and with Taiwan, and we... ong "more than a dozen Republican and Democratic lawmakers" to join McCarthy at the meeting, while Ernst met v... rthy, 89.21M), "The meeting gave both Tsai and McCarthy a prominent platform to highlight US-Taiwan ties." CNN... highly anticipated event that marked a show of democratic solidarity in defiance of threats from China." While Elizab... O'Donnell, 3.64M), likewise labeled the meeting as "a show of democratic solidarity," [CNBC](#) (4/5, Wilkie, 7.34M) say...

been weakened in recent years by Beijing's territorial expansion in the South China Sea and its aggressive effort to  
6:41 p.m. ET, story 7, 2:10, Holt, 5.02M), Andrea Mitchell said having their meeting in the US was "less provocative"  
which "sparked a furious barrage from China of missiles over the self-governing island that China declares its territory."  
China's Foreign Ministry "quickly denounced the meeting, accusing the United States of colluding with separatists se  
its over the island." In addition, [ABC World News Tonight](#)  [Video](#) (4/5, 6:43 p.m. ET, story 6, 1:15, Davis, 6.01M)  
"resolute actions in response."

[CNN](#) reports the White House had "warned Chinese officials publicly and privately to hold off on 'overreacting' or harsh  
[News](#) (4/5, Elkind, 23.99M) reports Pelosi "praised" McCarthy after his meeting with Tsai. [The Hill](#) (4/5, Schnell, 5.6  
"praise" was noteworthy.

[Washington Post](#) (4/5, 8.41M) editorial asserts Pelosi's praise for McCarthy shows how Taiwan has become a rare matter  
the US will do more to help Taiwan strengthen its defenses against a potential Chinese attack.

[NPR](#) (4/5, 1.26M) says that as Tsai traveled "the Americas, former Taiwanese President Ma Ying-jeou has been  
according to Axios, "The two trips mark two differing visions for Taiwan's future, as offered by Taiwan's two main po  
[Times](#) (4/5, Yang, 3.37M) says that the "simultaneous visits to rival superpowers by Taiwanese presidents past and p  
the self-governing island, and the uncertain path to maintaining it as relations between China, the U.S. and Taiwan have gr

[Washington Post](#) (4/5, 4.41M) article titled "China's Warnings Loom Over Speaker McCarthy's Meeting With Taiwan's Leader" provides simila  
[New York Times](#) (4/5, Blanchard) reports Taiwan's Defense Ministry "said on Wednesday a Chinese aircraft carrier  
the Defense Ministry "said the ships were going for training in the Western Pacific, and that Taiwanese naval and air f

[Washington Post](#) (4/5, Wang, Choong Wilkins, Gu, 3.57M) describes the ship transit as "an early sign of the 'resolute measures' China ha  
Bernberg adds Taiwan's Mainland Affairs Council "hours later...protested that China is planning maritime inspections on  
passenger ships to Taiwan's offshore islands." [Reuters](#) (4/6, Lee, Blanchard) reports Taiwan's Transport Ministry's Marit

if they encounter such requests from China they should refuse them and immediately notify Taiwan's coast guard to  
***Its Recognition Of Taiwan.*** [Reuters](#) (4/5, Martina, Spetalnick, Desantis) reports as China "seeks to further whittle dov  
officials increasingly believe Paraguay may be the island's next diplomatic ally to flip loyalties to Beijing." Reuters s  
Central American partners underscored her government's efforts to head off further defections after Honduras switched  
analysts see Paraguay as the likeliest to ditch Taiwan in the near term, especially if the South American country's c  
China, as its agricultural lobby has demanded."

***Attempts To Reschedule Blinken Trip.*** [Politico](#) (4/5, Toosi, Kine, Banco, 6.73M) says Secretary of State Blinken "wants to  
According to Politico, the Biden Administration "called off Blinken's planned trip to Beijing in February after a Chines  
talks. That includes rescheduling the Blinken visit, and setting up other trips by top U.S. officials and a phone call  
reports that China is "rebuffing the U.S. efforts," and "some U.S. officials worry Beijing's thin-skinned diplomacy is hamp  
fallout in a major crisis."

## **National Museum Of African American History And Culture Event.**

Vice President Harris on Wednesday discussed "her recent trip to Africa at an event at the National Museum of Africa  
as "a historic visit as the first Black female vice president to visit the continent to which she has a family connection  
importance for Harris to enhance her connection to Black Americans, a key voting block needed for President Joe Biden and

## To Biden.

anti-vaccine activists Robert F. Kennedy Jr. (D) "is running for president. Kennedy filed a statement of candidacy with the FEC, a challenge to President Biden "a long shot." While he was "once a bestselling author and environmental lawyer who worked on a belief that vaccines are not safe. He emerged as one of the leading voices in the anti-vaccine movement, and his own family as misleading and dangerous." A brief [CBS Evening News](#)  [Video](#) (4/5, 6:40 p.m. ET, story 4, 0:25, O'D

## ors.

Former President Donald Trump is reaching out to Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis' (R) donors "directly in an effort to steal the election." Tuesday evening sought to paint the former president as the inevitable nominee and urged DeSantis' donors to jump on the bandwagon with huge numbers and Governor Ron DeSantis' collapsing numbers. ... Now is the time to demonstrate your support and loyalty. See page memo written by Trump campaign pollster John McLaughlin. McLaughlin summarizes recent surveys showing that Trump is favored in New Hampshire, a key early nominating state."

[ent. Bloomberg](#) (4/5, House, 3.57M) reports Rep. Thomas Massie (R-KY) "became the first congressional Republican to endorse Trump. He didn't mention the former president in his Wednesday endorsement but said the US needs a leader 'who respects the Constitution, is decisive, respects the Constitution, understands policy, puts family first, and leads by inspiring. ... That's why I'm endorsing him." [Air Time Amid Trump Indictment](#). The [AP](#) (4/5, Kinnard) reports Republicans "vying against...Trump for the White House nomination this week as the GOP front-runner's indictment and arraignment dominate headlines." DeSantis "kept up a brisk week-long campaign in New York." Former Arkansas Gov. Asa Hutchinson "used the historic moment to announce his own 2024 Republican presidential campaign." "visit to the U.S.-Mexico border," and "former Secretary of State Mike Pompeo made a trip to Ukraine." But "most of the GOP didn't criticize Trump. In fact, most voiced support for the former president," and "carried on with schedules that had been disrupted by the grand jury had indicted Trump."

## Six Weeks Of Her Campaign.

[The Post](#) reports former UN Ambassador Nikki Haley "raised more than \$11 million in the six weeks after launching her White House bid." [The Post](#) adds that the former Trump Administration official "finished the first-quarter fundraising period, which ended on April 5, with \$11.5 million in donations, according to her campaign." The Post says Haley's campaign "framed the amount as more than the \$9.5 million that Trump raised in his first quarter since declaring his own reelection bid." The [New York Times](#) (4/5, O'Brien, 20.6M) does the math and says Haley "was able to raise during the same period after announcing his candidacy."

[The Post](#) says Haley "is polling in a distant third place in the Republican race, according to a Reuters/Ipsos poll released on Monday. Only 11% of voters plan to vote for Haley...versus 48% for Trump and 19% for Florida Governor Ron DeSantis, who has not yet entered the race."

## Large Presidential Run.

[The Post](#) interviewed "roughly a dozen Senate Republicans" about Sen. Tim Scott's (R-SC) "possible 2024 presidential run." O'Rourke (Texas) – said they have outright encouraged Scott to run for the White House, while two others – Sens. Kevin Cramer (Montana) and closed doors about his potential run. Almost every other senator spoke glowingly of the South Carolina Republican's

ate.” Thune said, “I think he’d be a great candidate. I’m excited about it. I’ve been encouraging him. ... I think he’s d respected and I think he’d be a really interesting candidate for president, and in a field that kind of could be fairly

### **Seeking His Endorsement In Wisconsin Supreme Court Race.**

former President Donald Trump “took aim at Daniel Kelly, the losing Republican candidate for the Wisconsin state Sup foolish man’ for not seeking the former president’s endorsement.” In a post on his Truth Social platform Wednesdayn’t give it – which guaranteed his loss. ... How foolish is a man that doesn’t seek an Endorsement that would have closely watched race in Wisconsin that flipped the court to a liberal majority for the first time in 15 years. ... Kelly saump.”

*Protasiewicz An Advantage In Wisconsin Supreme Court Race.* [Politico](#) (4/5, Montellaro, 6.73M) reports Protasiewicz “cr opened on Tuesday. At least 435,000 people voted early, either by mail or in-person. Democratic Party officials estiote advantage” as a result. Democrats “have embraced a big mail and absentee voting strategy in the past few cycl practice from...Trump. But it comes at a cost. Republicans are increasingly finding themselves in the hole before Ele ge financial and get-out-the-vote disadvantage” and “after Tuesday’s blowout, some in the party are renewing calls *Elections Could Be Democrats’ Template For 2024.* [Politico](#) (4/5, Kapos, Cadelago, 6.73M) says Democrats “were brim President Joe Biden was handed a template for crucial battlegrounds once he moves forward his reelection bid.” Top that again leans heavily into shielding abortion rights and doesn’t shy away from taking more nuanced approaches at on the Wisconsin Supreme Court “had emboldened their belief that voters were more repelled by the GOP brand.

analysis calls the “double-digit victory by the liberal candidate in Wisconsin’s state Supreme Court race” a “promising nism and abortion rights has political staying power.” Protasiewicz ran a campaign “that sounded quite similar to the nines embraced by former president Donald Trump in Arizona, Georgia, New Hampshire and Pennsylvania.” Meanw r by tying the law-and-order moderate Democrat, Paul Vallas, to a GOP donor who supported Trump and to Florida r of Police, a major Vallas backer, served as a wedge in the traditionally Democratic city.” Johnson said during the c

, 20.6M) says Johnson’s victory “injected confidence in the Democratic Party’s most liberal wing – and may have po walked back some of his most progressive positions, including budget cuts to Chicago’s police force,” he “never disav power must take a fundamentally different approach to public safety.”

[nal](#) (4/5, Subscription Publication, 8.41M) points to the Wisconsin results as evidence that abortion continues to be a ir position on the issue in line with voters’ views or they will face more defeats in 2024.

[gton Post](#) (4/5, 10.52M) that “the victory that liberals just pulled off in Wisconsin’s Supreme Court race,” suggests “ es who stood up for abortion rights – and emphasized that protecting democracy is critical to safeguarding those rig

[Washington Post](#) (4/5, 10.52M) that the election results in Wisconsin and Chicago’s mayoral runoff “sent the messag ate – even at a moment when many voters are petrified by crime and when the Democratic Party continues to sort

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## Attention To Rural America.

interview with [Roll Call](#) (4/5, Saksa, 130K) why Vermont dairy farmers are supporting “guys like you and Bernie Sanders” said, “I guess the biggest thing is the size of Vermont – it’s really small and intimate. Both Bernie and I spent a lot of time there. It moves past the red state/blue state, ‘whose team are you on?’ I get an opportunity to reach out and show my people that I want to pay much more attention to rural America, to connect.”

## Reelection.

Sen. Jacky Rosen (D-NV) “announced Wednesday that she will seek reelection...ahead of a challenging 2024 Senate race. She’s one of the toughest in the country,” Rosen said in a video announcement.” According to Politico, “Rosen’s reelection campaign has yet announced plans to take on Rosen.” The [AP](#) (4/5) notes that “the November 2024 election will come two months after Liz Masto, eked out a reelection victory over Republican Adam Laxalt, even though the GOP managed to flip the governor’s seat.”

## Seek Reelection.

With Senate Democrats facing “a brutal electoral map in 2024 that puts them on defense in 23 states,” it “appears that Bob Casey [D-PA] is in the saddle in a critical swing state: Bob Casey [D-PA].” Casey “has not yet announced whether he will seek a fourth term, but he is already fully operating campaign-in-waiting. He is in deep discussions about who will serve as his national finance director and who will be his top Democrats familiar with the events,” Casey has also “selected a ‘finance council,’” which “held its first meeting on Wednesday.” “Casey is treating him announcing another run as a mere formality.”

## Primary In Bid To Defeat Tester.

Montana legislators “are advancing legislation that would alter next year’s U.S. Senate primary in an apparent bid to thwart Tester’s reelection in leaning states.” A measure that would “allow the top two candidates in the primary, no matter their party, to win slots in the Senate by a 27-23 vote on Tuesday.” Tester in January “announced his bid for a fourth term in a seat that has been the last remaining Democrat to hold a statewide political office in Montana after the GOP dominated recent elections.”

## Democrats Struggling With Who Qualifies As “Progressive.”

Reports that California “has become almost a caricature of the left’s war not only on Republicans, but on centrism in the party.” “Senator, centrist senator, Dianne Feinstein, to retire.” But, now that she has announced her retirement, the primary race is “less a matter of left versus center, as it was in the 2020 presidential primary, but a skirmish over who represents the party.” “The 2020 presidential election was a setback for progressives, with Joe Biden defeating the likes of Sanders and Warren in a landslide.” “It’s not something else entirely – the sheer number of Democrats claiming to represent the brand.”

## Arizona.

Arizona state Sen. Raquel Terán (D) on Wednesday was “officially launching her campaign to replace outgoing Democrat Kyrsten Sinema. Terán stepped down as the Arizona state Senate’s minority leader in March after just two months on the job in her first term. She spent nearly two years in the state Senate and almost three in the state House and a concurrent stint as chair of the Arizona House of Representatives.”

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### **ate Race, Giving GOP A Supermajority.**

n state Rep. Dan Knodl (R) defeated attorney Jodi Habush Sinykin (D) "to win an open Senate seat in Tuesday's special election. The seat will be used to impeach Democratic Gov. Tony Evers and other office holders." The 8th District seat "represents Milwaukee and is the Republican incumbent Alberta Darling decided to retire in November." Knodl's victory "gives Senate Republicans 20 seats in that house."

### **ties, Giving GOP A Statehouse Supermajority.**

North Carolina state Rep. Tricia Cotham, who was "elected as a Democrat," announced Wednesday that she is "defecting to the Republican Party in the state's legislature." Cotham "cited her treatment by Democrats as her motivation." Cotham said at a news conference, "I don't want me." She "said the turning point in her decision was when she faced backlash for using the American flag and a Confederate battle flag."

analyst (20.6M) says Cotham's "startling defection...upended the balance of power in North Carolina." Cotham's "decision helps Republicans cement razor-thin but complete control over a second chamber of the legislature, setting a glide path for their legislative agenda. Republican leaders have indicated a desire to seek new restrictions on abortion."

Democrats" called for Cotham's resignation, "because the voters in her liberal-leaning district expected her to support Democrats." In a news conference that Cotham's decision is "a deceit of the highest order. It is a betrayal to the people of Mecklenburg County and the entire state of North Carolina." The Wall Street Journal (4/5, Calfas, Subscription Publication, 8.41M) provides a similar editorial (8.41M) says political parties generally try to be big tents for a reason, and Cotham's defection is a betrayal.

### **Denver Mayor's Race.**

and Mike Johnston, "two of the more moderate candidates for Denver mayor in the unusually large and divergent field." If the primary results hold, Brough and Johnston "could be pushed to a runoff election. They would leave behind the more progressive candidates."

### **Missouri As Storms Continue To Impact US.**

(20.6M) reports "five people died and others were injured in southeast Missouri early Wednesday after at least one tornado struck. The storm brought heavy rain, hail, and blizzard warnings across many regions." Bollinger County Sheriff Casey Graham "confirmed the deaths of five people." Missouri State Highway Patrol Public Information Officer Sgt. Clark Parrott "said earlier on Wednesday that the impact at the scene."

reports five people "were injured, State Highway Patrol Superintendent Eric Olson said at a news conference." The superintendent "said the storm damage area Wednesday and said President Joe Biden had called to offer relief. Efforts, he said." Reuters (4/5, O'Brien, Clifford) reports "Parson said the state would aid people who lost their homes and property. Enough damage to be eligible for public disaster relief." Parson said, "This is going to be weeks upon months to be able to get things back to normal." (10.52M) reports the tornado in Bollinger County "was one of numerous tornadoes that hit Missouri this week."

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a between northern Arkansas and southwest Michigan on Tuesday night and Wednesday morning." As officials "begin to deliver another round of dangerous thunderstorms across the Tennessee and Ohio valleys and eastern Great Lakes region, we'll provide similar coverage.

### **Blunt, Lobbying Firms.**

Former Sen. Roy Blunt (R-MO) "says he doesn't miss Congress after 26 years," but he "can't entirely pull himself away, so he's staying in an advisory group, he said in an interview, where he will offer the same kind of counsel that he gave House speakers and other members of Congress for free for a long time. And generally people have been willing to take it and it worked out pretty well." A former member of the House of Representatives clearance and is also working on projects with Director of National Intelligence Avril Haines that he declined to elaborate on. "I'm going to be helping her with."

130K) reports former Rep. Jim Moran (D) "spent more than two decades in the House, representing northern Virginia and West Virginia, the largest caucus in Congress." This week, "he is launching Moran Global Strategies, a lobbying firm that will focus on national and local work in two politically consequential states, Virginia and Florida."

### **Ranked-Choice Voting.**

Publication, 8.41M) editorial welcomes the decisions by Idaho, Florida, Tennessee, and South Dakota to ban ranked-choice voting.

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**Defections.**" In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (4/5, Subscription Publication, 8.41M) points to the Wisconsin results and warns that Republicans need to bring their position on the issue in line with voters' views or they will face more defections in the future. **President.**" A [Wall Street Journal](#) (4/5, Subscription Publication, 8.41M) editorial asserts Pelosi's praise for McCarthy signals a shift in tone for both parties. The Journal expresses hope that the US do more to help Taiwan strengthen its defenses against a potential Chinese invasion. **Democratic Defector.**" A [Wall Street Journal](#) (4/5, Subscription Publication, 8.41M) editorial says political parties generally demand ideological purity, they sometimes get it.

**Ranked-Choice Voting.**" A [Wall Street Journal](#) (4/5, Subscription Publication, 8.41M) editorial welcomes the decisions by Idaho, Florida, Tennessee, and South Dakota to ban ranked-choice voting, but says the process is confusing and has yielded questionable outcomes.

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**Efficiently With So Many Posts Vacant.**" In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (4/5, 10.52M) says that the Administration has made significant progress in filling positions that now require Senate confirmation, according to Post data." Of those nominated, "510 have been confirmed and 1,000 more are in the process of nomination." But "many other crucial positions remain unfilled." While Biden "deserves credit for making crucial progress in filling key posts," "there are still other important ambassadorships, such as to Italy, that sit empty with no nominee on the horizon." The Administration "must not transcend partisan politics in its dealings overseas."

**Infrastructure Law.** **He May Be One Obstacle.**" A [Washington Post](#) (4/5, 10.52M) editorial says the "bipartisan infrastructure law devoted to building roads, bridges, and other infrastructure is a major step forward, but it may be one of the last major pieces of legislation that the Biden administration will pass before the end of the year."

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ports” and the Inflation Reduction Act “is supposed to pump tens of billions more into renewables and other energy i  
ne country needs to sustain Americans’ quality of life and reduce planet-warming emissions: protectionist clauses su  
ergy, broadband lines and new miles of track is the top priority...the Biden administration will liberally waive Buy Am  
e economy into one in which the federal government directs investment to domestic industries.” Building US supply  
. The country should not spend more than necessary as the planet warms and other needs go unmet.”

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[To Find Oil](#)

[ny Democrats Want In 2024](#)

[rvel, I Wasn't Laid Off](#)

[famous Russian Prison Holding Evan Gershkovich](#)

[Salsa Spiciness](#)

[ponsor Fire Brigades And Direct Traffic](#)

[oon](#)

[In State-Building](#)

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[nea If Counteroffensive Succeeds](#)

[ainst Banks During Turmoil](#)

[Disrupting Hollywood](#)

**ork News:**

s; Former VP Pence To Testify In January 6 Probe; Fatal Police Shooting In DC; Investigation Into Death Of Bob Lee  
wan's President; Sutherland Springs Mass Shooting Settlement; Dominion Voting Systems Defamation Lawsuit; High  
To Masters Tournament; Community Recovery Efforts In Areas Affected By Tornadoes.  
Tornado Outbreak In Several States; House Speaker McCarthy Meets With Taiwan's President; Robert F. Kennedy Jr.  
Sexual Abuse Allegations Against Baltimore Archdiocese; Investigation Into Death Of Bob Lee; Israeli Forces Raid Jer  
ion; Masters Golf Tournament.

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Tornado Outbreak In Several States; US Weather Forecast; Calls For Gun Reform; Investigation Into The Death Of B  
With Taiwan's President; War In Ukraine; High Rise Fire In Chicago; US Fentanyl Crisis; Tornado Alley Shifting Across

minutes, 35 seconds

minutes, 45 seconds

Taiwan's President – 5 minutes, 45 seconds

minutes, 10 seconds

10 seconds

minutes, 45 seconds

s: Happy Passover. It commemorates the captive Israelites escaping the oppression of the pharaoh after God sent 1  
e and suddenly seeing a display of huge, flavorless saltines. Yesterday, New York City celebrated the passing of its c

ent, he drove to LaGuardia, got on his private jet and flew to Mar-a-Lago, where he held an angry rally for all his cu  
spire a nation with a six-minute list of unresolved grievances. What do you expect? You're listening to a 76-year-old

us day for Donald J. Trump. He was indicted for 34 counts of falsifying business records, and also one count of clog

arding Judge Juan Merchan] "Trump said [Merchan] has a 'Trump-hating wife.' To be fair, I don't even know if that

counts because of hush money payments he made to porn star Stormy Daniels and Playboy model Karen McDougal,  
secret child he fathered. The doorman got suspicious at a Trump Tower birthday party when the kid fired the magicia

mp flew back home to Florida and held a rally in Mar-a-Lago. It's always nice to have a traditional post-arrest recep

oke last night at Mar-a-Lago following his arraignment and said, 'I never thought anything like this could happen in  
ump getting arrested was like 'Avatar 2.' I just figured it was never going to happen, but then it finally did. And, yo

o last night after his arraignment, former President Trump thanked his family and said, 'I have a great family and th

...t he likes his family, but why does he talk about them the way a high school principal talks about the prom committe

...p's post-arraignment event at Mar-a-Lago last night, Georgia Congresswoman Marjorie Taylor Greene said that Tru  
...y low benchmark. If he was committed before, he wouldn't be in this mess to begin with."

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**Subject:** HHS R5/R7 FYSA: 2022 Recycling Warehouse Fire, Madison, IL (Update #2)

**Date:** 2022/08/10 17:32:36

**Priority:** Normal

**Type:** Note

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### **HHS R5/R7 FYSA: 2022 Recycling Warehouse Fire, Madison, IL (Update #2)**

**BLUF:** FEMA R7 reports multiple fire departments from the Metro East and St. Louis and St. Louis County, MO have responded to a large industrial fire at Interco Recycling located at 10 Fox Industrial Dr. in Madison, IL (pop. 2,941). Madison, IL is approximately 9 miles east of St. Louis, MO (pop. 304,709)

**CISA reports the warehouse fire caused the collapse of two buildings resulting in one injury.**

- • \* **The Office of Emergency Management issued a red alert, asking residents nearby to turn off their air conditioning and close windows.**
- • \* **Officials report magnesium is burning at the site.**
- • \* **Open sources reports the fire started around 1130ET and a large plumes of smoke can be seen for miles and could potentially be hazardous to residents in St. Louis, MO.**
  - • \* **The fire reportedly began when magnesium in the plant came in contact with water.**
  - • \* **The building is one of five on the 40-acre Interco campus.**
  - • \* **Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, said the agency has teams at the fire and they are trying to determine what is burning.**
  - • \* **Smoke has reportedly risen higher than 5,000 feet.**
  - • \* **The Granite City Police Department stated anyone who resides from 17th Street towards Madison to shelter in place until the hazards can be understood and mitigated.**
- • \* **Wind direction is currently blowing SW and is not expected to change in the next 48 hours.**
- • \* **One hospital, Gateway Regional Medical Center in Madison, IL (288 beds) is approx. 1.5 miles NE of the incident location.**
- • \* **Madison County EMA reported shelter in place order will be for half-mile around the warehouse until further notice.**

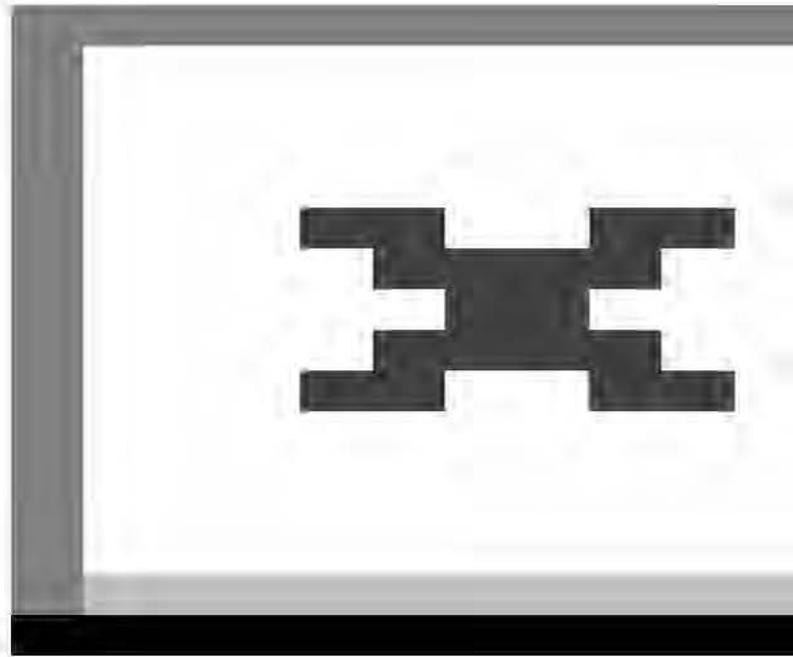
#### **Federal:**

- • \* **DTRA has activated its Interagency Modeling and Atmospheric Assessment Center (IMAAC) to support the incident.**

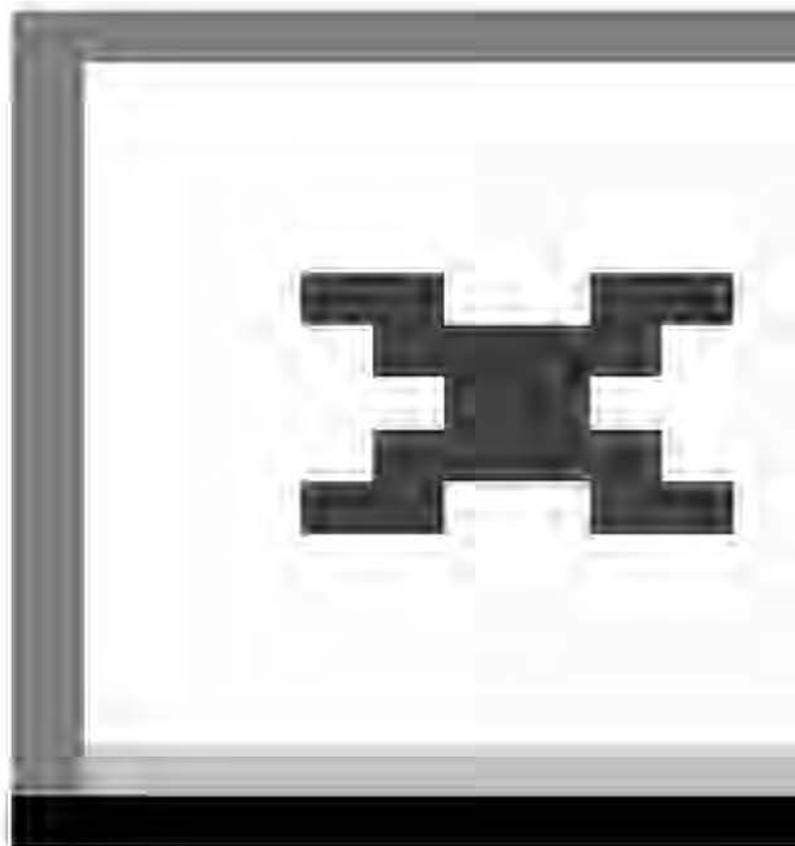
- • \* The soot from the fire is projected to go towards the south southwest, initially turning southerly in 24 hours.
- • \* EPA R5 is on scene and will be conducting air monitoring.
  - • \* The warehouse contains: aluminum, brass, copper, lead, stainless steel, metallic powder, lithium ion batteries, **hazardous material, and propane tanks.**

**ESF-8 Assessment:** The SOC is in communications with ASPR R5 and R7 who will advise of any impacts to health facilities in the area. Hazards consisting of lithium ion batteries can exacerbate a fire and release toxic gases CO, CO<sub>2</sub> and hydrogen fluoride. A lithium battery fire will be difficult to extinguish and may pose a localized explosive hazard. There are currently no requests for Federal ESF-8 assistance at this time.

**Graphic Courtesy of ASPR GIAV:**



**Image Courtesy of GeoHealth:**



**Actions/Follow-Up:** SOC notified ASPR R5, ASPR R7, CIP, CBRNE Response Team, and CISA Central. The SOC and ASPR R5/R7 will continue to monitor this incident and report as needed. ASPR GIAV has provided an updated graphic that includes the IMAAC plume modeling for this incident. *This message was sent to the SOC FYSA and ASPR R5/7 Distribution Lists. To be removed from this distribution list just send us a note by clicking: [UNSUBSCRIBE](#)*

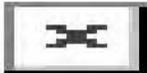
**Prepared by:** Adam Miller, Watch Officer

**Approved by:** Scott Brackins, Watch Section Chief

Very Respectfully,

**Secretary's Operations Center**

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)  
Administration for Strategic Preparedness and Response (ASPR)  
200 Independence Ave., S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20201  
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Shimabukuro, Tom (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/DHQP) /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=2026182a04b74c03bc96dd70cfff52a-Shimabukuro <ayv6@cdc.gov>;  
Wharton, Melinda (CDC/DDID/NCIRD/OD) /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=15d0db5b00ec44f1a9044ac95a9daf25-Wharton, Me <mew2@cdc.gov>;  
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Anderson, Steven (FDA/CBER) /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=841ac38bda6d446ba1a5d8a7d78eab29-steven.ande  
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Kroop, Seth (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/DHQP) /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group  
**CC:** (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=b4c7361aa6ca4b51a5644be7b60ddd76-seth.kroop. <wpw7@cdc.gov>

**Subject:** RE: Vaccine Safety Briefing with ADM Levine - October 31 at 11:00 AM

**Date:** 2022/10/27 11:19:46

**Priority:** Normal

**Type:** Note

Hi Valerie and all,

CDC would like to provide a few read aheads for this meeting on Monday. Please see the below paper and two related media articles. CDC plans to walk through this timely example to highlight successes, challenges, and ongoing needs in the vaccine safety landscape and demonstrate the connection to our recent work together. Nicole Coffin will be our primary speaker and others from CDC will chime in to support her as needed.

- • Study: [Association Between Aluminum Exposure From Vaccines Before Age 24 Months and Persistent Asthma at Age 24 to 59 Months \(elsevierhealth.com\)](#)
- • Media article: [Study tries to see if child vaccines and asthma are linked | AP News](#)
- • Media article: [Study examines tie between aluminum in kids' vaccines, risk of asthma \(statnews.com\)](#)

Regards,

Seth

Seth Kroop

Associate Director for Policy, Division of Healthcare Quality Promotion

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Office: 404-639-6206

Cell: (b)(6)

Email: [skroop@cdc.gov](mailto:skroop@cdc.gov)

**From:** Marshall, Valerie (HHS/OASH) <Valerie.Marshall@hhs.gov>

**Sent:** Friday, October 21, 2022 3:50 PM

**To:** Krem, Haley (HHS/OASH) <Haley.Krem@hhs.gov>; Kim, David (HHS/OASH) <David.Kim@hhs.gov>; Hayes, Kaye (HHS/OASH) <Kaye.Hayes@hhs.gov>; Aikin, Ann (OS/OASH) <Ann.Aikin@hhs.gov>; Coffin, Nicole (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/DHQP) <ndc3@cdc.gov>; Kroop, Seth (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/DHQP) <wpw7@cdc.gov>; Shimabukuro, Tom (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/DHQP) <ayv6@cdc.gov>; Wharton, Melinda (CDC/DDID/NCIRD/OD) <mew2@cdc.gov>; Marks, Peter (FDA/CBER) <Peter.Marks@fda.hhs.gov>; Anderson, Steven (FDA/CBER) <Steven.Anderson@fda.hhs.gov>; Musmar, Jomana (HHS/OASH) <Jomana.Musmar@hhs.gov>; Hall, Bill (HHS/ASPA) <bill.hall@hhs.gov>; Sams, Ian (HHS/ASPA) <ian.Sams@hhs.gov>; Cure, Kelly (OS/OASH) (CTR) <Kelly.Cure@hhs.gov>; Oh, Kathy (OS/OASH) <Kathy.Oh@hhs.gov>; Fisher, Megan (HHS/OASH) <Megan.Fisher@hhs.gov>; Boateng, Sarah

(HHS/OASH) <Sarah.Boateng@hhs.gov>; 'Handley, Elisabeth (OS/OASH)' <Elisabeth.Handley@hhs.gov>; Levine, Rachel (HHS/OASH) <Rachel.Levine@hhs.gov>; Sarvana, Adam (HHS/OASH) <Adam.Sarvana@hhs.gov>; Broido, Tara (HHS/OASH) <Tara.Broido@hhs.gov>  
**Subject:** Vaccine Safety Briefing with ADM Levine - October 31 at 11:00 AM

Dear Colleagues,

We look forward to meeting with you on Monday, October 31, 2022, at 11:00 AM to brief ADM Levine on vaccine safety initiatives across the Department.

The briefing will follow the same format as the April meeting, with vaccine safety updates from each agency (updates, challenges, opportunities for ASH engagement).

As a reminder of the last discussion, Haley captured the attached high-level summary.

Please let me know if you intend to present slides.

Kind Regards,  
Val

-----Original Appointment-----

**From:** Marshall, Valerie (HHS/OASH)

**Sent:** Monday, October 3, 2022 5:16 PM

**To:** Marshall, Valerie (HHS/OASH); Krem, Haley (HHS/OASH); Kim, David (HHS/OASH); Hayes, Kaye (HHS/OASH); Aikin, Ann (OS/OASH); Coffin, Nicole (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/DHQP); Kroop, Seth (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/DHQP); Shimabukuro, Tom (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/DHQP); Wharton, Melinda (CDC/DDID/NCIRD/OD); Marks, Peter (FDA/CBER); Anderson, Steven (FDA/CBER); Musmar, Jomana (HHS/OASH); Hall, Bill (HHS/ASPA); Sams, Ian (HHS/ASPA); Cure, Kelly (OS/OASH) (CTR); Oh, Kathy (OS/OASH); Fisher, Megan (HHS/OASH); Boateng, Sarah (HHS/OASH); Handley, Elisabeth (OS/OASH); Levine, Rachel (HHS/OASH); Sarvana, Adam (HHS/OASH); Broido, Tara (HHS/OASH)

**Subject:** Vaccine Safety Update Briefing with ADM Levine

**When:** Monday, October 31, 2022 11:00 AM-12:00 PM (UTC-05:00) Eastern Time (US &Canada).

**Where:** Microsoft Teams Meeting

Dear Colleagues,

We apologize for any inconvenience in postponing the date, and hope that you can attend on October 31 from 11 - 12.

The meeting format will follow the previous format with Vaccine Safety updates from each agency.

Kind Regards,  
CDR Val Marshall

---

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Krem, Haley (HHS/OASH) /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=91de81a971b64e8f8373a34bd8889179-Krem, Haley <Haley.Krem@hhs.gov>;

Kim, David (HHS/OASH) /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=55198903d72d43278868a0f9caa39656-Kim, David\_ <David.Kim@hhs.gov>;

Hayes, Kaye (HHS/OASH) /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=325e577483dc469dba2a7e975abb21f4-Hayes, Kaye <Kaye.Hayes@hhs.gov>;

Aikin, Ann (OS/OASH) /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=07a0a48dcd5144efb695427ff17a56fe-Aikin, Ann <Ann.Aikin@hhs.gov>;

Coffin, Nicole (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/DHQP) /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=32c503bbd5f6477bbba15d567d5efab0-Coffin, Nic <ndc3@cdc.gov>;

Shimabukuro, Tom (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/DHQP) /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=2026182a04b74c03bc96dd70cfff52a-Shimabukuro <ayv6@cdc.gov>;

**Recipient:** Wharton, Melinda (CDC/DDID/NCIRD/OD) /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=15d0db5b00ec44f1a9044ac95a9daf25-Wharton, Me <mew2@cdc.gov>;

Marks, Peter (FDA/CBER) /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=df56588b970c43c8a9a2b9b31406746c-peter.marks <Peter.Marks@fda.hhs.gov>;

Anderson, Steven (FDA/CBER) /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=841ac38bda6d446ba1a5d8a7d78eab29-steven.ande <Steven.Anderson@fda.hhs.gov>;

Musmar, Jomana (HHS/OASH) /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=bc0e77677cd34242afcc402a0f170ed6-Musmar, Jom <Jomana.Musmar@hhs.gov>;

Hall, Bill (HHS/ASPA) /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=02b39f27f3b4469a960054b23545cc24-Hall, Bill <bill.hall@hhs.gov>;

Sams, Ian (HHS/ASPA <Ian.Sams@hhs.gov>;

Cure, Kelly (OS/OASH) (CTR) /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=565a5e448d8341ba9b12dda3befd0787-Cure, Kelly <Kelly.Cure@hhs.gov>;

Oh, Kathy (OS/OASH) /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group

(FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=2c7d2ccfd4bb4a74877eba68f09777ed-Kathy, Oh  
<Kathy.Oh@hhs.gov>;  
Fisher, Megan (HHS/OASH) /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group  
(FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=ac4a8e3790f240e189f97ec0830ac093-Fisher, Meg  
<Megan.Fisher@hhs.gov>;  
Boateng, Sarah (HHS/OASH) /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group  
(FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=d83ded642af84229a075d7e1f7b59a59-Boateng, Sa  
<Sarah.Boateng@hhs.gov>;  
'Handley, Elisabeth (OS/OASH)' <Elisabeth.Handley@hhs.gov>;  
Levine, Rachel (HHS/OASH) /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group  
(FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=e691235ff2f3496e9b53eeb5f538b2f6-Levine, Rac  
<Rachel.Levine@hhs.gov>;  
Sarvana, Adam (HHS/OASH) /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group  
(FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=cef02713edbb48e9a5d823ee64466ed9-Sarvana, Ad  
<Adam.Sarvana@hhs.gov>;  
Broido, Tara (HHS/OASH) /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group  
(FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=2c3cd5c5afe049b6a8b48c25324c7465-Broido, Tar  
<Tara.Broido@hhs.gov>;  
Kroop, Seth (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/DHQP) /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group  
(FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=b4c7361aa6ca4b51a5644be7b60ddd76-seth.kroop.  
<wpw7@cdc.gov>

**Sent Date:** 2022/10/27 11:19:18

**Delivered Date:** 2022/10/27 11:19:46

<b>From:</b> Bechara Choucair <Bechara.Choucair@kp.org>
Sarvana, Adam (HHS/OASH) /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=cef02713edbb48e9a5d823ee64466ed9-Sarvana, Ad <Adam.Sarvana@hhs.gov>; Boateng, Sarah (HHS/OASH) /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group
<b>To:</b> (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=d83ded642af84229a075d7e1f7b59a59-Boateng, Sa <Sarah.Boateng@hhs.gov>; Levine, Rachel (HHS/OASH) /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=e691235ff2f3496e9b53eeb5f538b2f6-Levine, Rac <Rachel.Levine@hhs.gov>
Fisher, Megan (HHS/OASH) /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=ac4a8e3790f240e189f97ec0830ac093-Fisher, Meg <Megan.Fisher@hhs.gov>;
<b>CC:</b> Mataka, Arsenio (HHS/OASH) /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=feb10adfd4454326b57ca91571e4bc76-Mataka, Ars <Arsenio.Mataka@hhs.gov>; John M Vu <John.Vu@kp.org>
<b>Subject:</b> RE: Net Zero Event
<b>Date:</b> 2022/05/30 13:02:04
<b>Priority:</b> Normal
<b>Type:</b> Note

Admiral Levine and team,

Thank you again for your offer to join us in our commitment to Net Zero. I wanted to provide a couple of updates and confirm if you're still available for an event in Oakland in June.

First off, we have completed our internal reviews and set to commit to a decarbonizing goal of 50% reduction by 2030 and aiming for Net Zero by 2050. With that, we are happy to sign on to the HHS Climate Pledge. My team will be going to the HHS site and signing on before the June 3 deadline.

As mentioned previously, we would like to hold an event to announce our goal and use the opportunity to delve further into issues of climate and health equity. If you are still available on the dates Adam mentioned below, we would welcome the chance to host you at our office in Oakland for a discussion. We are envisioning holding a fireside chat with you that could be livestreamed. If at all possible, June 9 would be the ideal date but we could also try June 8 if the 9th isn't particularly good. Of course, we can provide further details on the overall plan for the event.

This is an exciting time to discuss how we and the healthcare sector work and partner to drive climate action and center health equity. Thank you for your partnership.

Bechara

**Bechara Choucair, MD**

SVP & Chief Health Officer

Kaiser Permanente

(b)(6) (mobile)

Executive Assistant: Misty Rose Spencer ([Misty-Rose.Spencer@kp.org](mailto:Misty-Rose.Spencer@kp.org)) c: (b)(6)

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**From:** Sarvana, Adam (HHS/OASH) <[Adam.Sarvana@hhs.gov](mailto:Adam.Sarvana@hhs.gov)>

**Sent:** Wednesday, May 18, 2022 6:30 AM

**To:** Boateng, Sarah (HHS/OASH) <[Sarah.Boateng@hhs.gov](mailto:Sarah.Boateng@hhs.gov)>; Bechara Choucair <[Bechara.Choucair@kp.org](mailto:Bechara.Choucair@kp.org)>

**Cc:** Fisher, Megan (HHS/OASH) <[Megan.Fisher@hhs.gov](mailto:Megan.Fisher@hhs.gov)>; Levine, Rachel (HHS/OASH) <[Rachel.Levine@hhs.gov](mailto:Rachel.Levine@hhs.gov)>; Mataka, Arsenio (HHS/OASH) <[Arsenio.Mataka@hhs.gov](mailto:Arsenio.Mataka@hhs.gov)>; Misty Rose Spencer <[Misty-Rose.Spencer@kp.org](mailto:Misty-Rose.Spencer@kp.org)>; John M Vu <[John.Vu@kp.org](mailto:John.Vu@kp.org)>

**Subject:** RE: Net Zero Event

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Hi, all. We'll be in California June 7-14 – we start in the Bay Area and fly to L.A. on the afternoon/evening of Saturday, June 11. If you're considering holding this in Oakland or thereabouts, our best open times are the afternoons of that Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, though I should say that we have other some other commitments and we'll need to coordinate. Let us know what your timeline is and whether we can make this work.

**Adam Sarvana**

Director of Communications

Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health

.... image004.png

**Email:** [adam.sarvana@hhs.gov](mailto:adam.sarvana@hhs.gov)

**Mobile:** (b)(6)

**Desk:** (202) 795-7619

[hhs.gov/ash](https://hhs.gov/ash)



image005.png

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**From:** Boateng, Sarah (HHS/OASH) <[Sarah.Boateng@hhs.gov](mailto:Sarah.Boateng@hhs.gov)>

**Sent:** Wednesday, May 18, 2022 9:04 AM

**To:** [Bechara.Choucair@kp.org](mailto:Bechara.Choucair@kp.org)

**Cc:** Fisher, Megan (HHS/OASH) <[Megan.Fisher@hhs.gov](mailto:Megan.Fisher@hhs.gov)>; Levine, Rachel (HHS/OASH) <[Rachel.Levine@hhs.gov](mailto:Rachel.Levine@hhs.gov)>; Mataka, Arsenio (HHS/OASH) <[Arsenio.Mataka@hhs.gov](mailto:Arsenio.Mataka@hhs.gov)>; Sarvana, Adam (HHS/OASH) <[Adam.Sarvana@hhs.gov](mailto:Adam.Sarvana@hhs.gov)>; [Misty-Rose.Spencer@kp.org](mailto:Misty-Rose.Spencer@kp.org); [John.Vu@kp.org](mailto:John.Vu@kp.org)

**Subject:** RE: Net Zero Event

Good Morning Dr. Choucair

Thank you so much for the outreach. This is very exciting, congratulations. ADM Levine will be on the West Coast in early June. I am adding our Communications Director Adam Sarvana and our Senior Advisor on Climate Change and Health Equity Arsenio Mataka who will be point for our office.

Sarah

**Sarah Newman Boateng (She/Her)**

Chief of Staff

Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health

**Email:** [sarah.boateng@hhs.gov](mailto:sarah.boateng@hhs.gov)

**Mobile:** (b)(6)

**Desk:** (202) 401-7003



image006.jpg

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**From:** Bechara Choucair <[Bechara.Choucair@kp.org](mailto:Bechara.Choucair@kp.org)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 17, 2022 9:45 PM  
**To:** Levine, Rachel (HHS/OASH) <[Rachel.Levine@hhs.gov](mailto:Rachel.Levine@hhs.gov)>  
**Cc:** John M Vu <[John.Vu@kp.org](mailto:John.Vu@kp.org)>; Misty Rose Spencer <[Misty-Rose.Spencer@kp.org](mailto:Misty-Rose.Spencer@kp.org)>  
**Subject:** Net Zero Event

Admiral Levine,

I would like to invite you to join Kaiser Permanente as we finalize our commitment to a net zero goal and to the HHS pledge focused on decarbonization.

Kaiser Permanente has a long-standing history and commitment focused on environmental stewardship. In 2020, we were the first health system to achieve carbon neutrality, building on broad actions focused on environmental sustainability. Since that time, we have completed a full GHG inventory, inclusive of Scope 3, and are now ambitiously working on achieving a net carbon reduction goal.

In addition to driving carbon reduction in our environmental footprint, we hope to catalyze sector change by showcasing leadership and sharing best practices through our actions and coalition building. We would like to hold a forum at a date and time that works with your calendar and bring together key stakeholders to help advance the cause and share learnings. We invite you in

joining us at that forum, where we think your voice could help drive action and further galvanize practices around decarbonization.

We look forward to continuing to collaborate across sectors to make progress in decarbonizing and ensuring equitable health for our communities. We appreciate the efforts of HHS, OCHE and all the agencies needed to work on climate change.

If you are open to participating, John Vu on my team here at Kaiser Permanente can coordinate with your office.

(Please keep in mind that we are still finalizing our commitment to Net Zero and it's not public yet).

Bechara

Bechara Choucair, MD  
SVP & Chief Health Officer

Kaiser Permanente

(b)(6) (mobile)

Executive Assistant: Misty Rose Spencer ([Misty-Rose.Spencer@kp.org](mailto:Misty-Rose.Spencer@kp.org)) c (b)(6)

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**Sender:** Bechara Choucair <Bechara.Choucair@kp.org>

Sarvana, Adam (HHS/OASH) /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=cef02713edbb48e9a5d823ee64466ed9-Sarvana, Ad <Adam.Sarvana@hhs.gov>;

Boateng, Sarah (HHS/OASH) /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=d83ded642af84229a075d7e1f7b59a59-Boateng, Sa <Sarah.Boateng@hhs.gov>;

**Recipient:** Levine, Rachel (HHS/OASH) /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=e691235ff2f3496e9b53eeb5f538b2f6-Levine, Rac <Rachel.Levine@hhs.gov>;

Fisher, Megan (HHS/OASH) /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=ac4a8e3790f240e189f97ec0830ac093-Fisher, Meg <Megan.Fisher@hhs.gov>;

Mataka, Arsenio (HHS/OASH) /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group  
(FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=feb10adfd4454326b57ca91571e4bc76-Mataka, Ars  
<Arsenio.Mataka@hhs.gov>;  
John M Vu <John.Vu@kp.org>

**Sent Date:** 2022/05/30 12:59:03

**Delivered Date:** 2022/05/30 13:02:04

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<p>Levine, Rachel (HHS/OASH) /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group  <b>To:</b> (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=e691235ff2f3496e9b53eeb5f538b2f6-Levine, Rac          &lt;Rachel.Levine@hhs.gov&gt;</p>
<p>Sarvana, Adam (HHS/OASH) /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group  <b>CC:</b> (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=cef02713edbb48e9a5d823ee64466ed9-Sarvana, Ad          &lt;Adam.Sarvana@hhs.gov&gt;</p>
<p><b>Subject:</b> Fwd: URGENT: Kaiser Permanente Visit -- Updated Question Set</p>
<p><b>Date:</b> 2022/06/09 15:04:59</p>
<p><b>Priority:</b> Normal</p>
<p><b>Type:</b> Note</p>

Hi Adm Levine,  
 Sending along additional Questions for review, should time allow.  
 Best,  
 Megan

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**From:** Tara L Herberth <Tara.L.Herberth@kp.org>

**Sent:** Thursday, June 9, 2022 9:17:49 AM

**To:** Fisher, Megan (HHS/OASH) <Megan.Fisher@hhs.gov>; Sarvana, Adam (HHS/OASH)  
 <Adam.Sarvana@hhs.gov>

**Cc:** Kathleen A Siedlecki <Kathleen.A.Siedlecki@kp.org>; Robyn Rothman  
 <Robyn.Rothman@mboothhealth.com>; John M Vu <John.Vu@kp.org>; Josie Wulsin  
 <Josie.Wulsin@kp.org>; Seema S Wadhwa <Seema.S.Wadhwa@kp.org>

**Subject:** URGENT: Kaiser Permanente Visit -- Updated Question Set

Good morning – Bechara built in a few additional questions should time allow and I wanted to share the full set below. They align with what we discussed on Thursday and I know the Admiral is well versed in all these topics; however if there is a certain question we should pull, just let us know. Thanks so much!  
 Tara

- • HHS Climate Pledge
  - • Admiral Levine, we are so excited to share this news with you and work in partnership with the Office of Climate Change and Health Equity in its mission.
  - • **Q: Can you tell me more about why HHS decided to create this climate pledge and why it is so important that the health care sector decarbonize?**
  - • **Q: What are the next step after the climate pledge closes tomorrow?**
- • New HHS Office of Environmental Justice
  - • Last week's announcement of the new HHS Office of Environmental Justice was another major milestone for HHS and their commitment to address health disparities.
  - • **Q: How will this office work to protect the health of frontline communities and how will it work together with OCCHE?**

- • Centering Health and Health Equity
  - • In addition to building a low carbon, more resilient US health care system, health equity is a crucial aspect of OCCHE's work. I know that during your trip here to California, you are focused on visiting communities that are facing unequal environmental impacts.
  - • **Q: How is HHS identifying communities facing disproportionate exposures to climate harms and addressing these disparities?**
  - • **Q: How is OCCHE planning to work with these communities? What do you see as the opportunities for HHS to identify and assist the communities who need the most help?**
  - • **Q: As you know, Kaiser Permanente is deeply committed to community health and addressing health disparities. How can the health sector work with HHS to connect the dots between community health initiatives and the disproportionate environmental harms impacting the health of low-income communities and communities of color?**
- • New Vision of Healthcare
  - • With HHS expanding its focus to include climate change and address the health disparities caused by unequal exposures to health harms, there is an evolution in thinking about how health care must approach patient care, community health, and care delivery.
  - • **Q: What final thoughts do you want to share about this and the HHS vision for protecting individuals and communities from the health impacts of climate change?**

---

**From:** Fisher, Megan (HHS/OASH) <Megan.Fisher@hhs.gov>

**Sent:** Thursday, June 9, 2022 5:21 AM

**To:** John M Vu <John.Vu@kp.org>; Sarvana, Adam (HHS/OASH) <Adam.Sarvana@hhs.gov>

**Cc:** Tara L Herberth <Tara.L.Herberth@kp.org>; Kathleen A Siedlecki <Kathleen.A.Siedlecki@kp.org>; Robyn Rothman <Robyn.Rothman@mboothhealth.com>; Tara L Herberth <Tara.L.Herberth@kp.org>

**Subject:** RE: Final Details For Kaiser Permanente Visit

Good morning and thank you,

I'll print and provide to ADM Levine this morning so she has it prior to the meeting today.

Best,  
Megan

---

**From:** John M Vu <John.Vu@kp.org>

**Sent:** Thursday, June 9, 2022 3:00 AM

**To:** Sarvana, Adam (HHS/OASH) <Adam.Sarvana@hhs.gov>; Fisher, Megan (HHS/OASH) <Megan.Fisher@hhs.gov>

**Cc:** Tara L Herberth <Tara.L.Herberth@kp.org>; Kathleen A Siedlecki <Kathleen.A.Siedlecki@kp.org>;

Robyn Rothman <[Robyn.Rothman@mboothhealth.com](mailto:Robyn.Rothman@mboothhealth.com)>; Tara L Herberth <[Tara.L.Herberth@kp.org](mailto:Tara.L.Herberth@kp.org)>  
**Subject:** RE: Final Details For Kaiser Permanente Visit

Adam and Megan – Sorry, one more thing. Attached is a briefing overview of some of the past and current work of Kaiser Permanente as related to environmental stewardship/climate change. We thought it could provide Admiral Levine and team some good background on our work. We're very excited for tomorrow. Thanks again for everything you've done to help us get this into shape!

-John

**From:** Sarvana, Adam (HHS/OASH) <[Adam.Sarvana@hhs.gov](mailto:Adam.Sarvana@hhs.gov)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 8, 2022 11:42 AM  
**To:** Tara L Herberth <[Tara.L.Herberth@kp.org](mailto:Tara.L.Herberth@kp.org)>  
**Cc:** John M Vu <[John.Vu@kp.org](mailto:John.Vu@kp.org)>; Kathleen A Siedlecki <[Kathleen.A.Siedlecki@kp.org](mailto:Kathleen.A.Siedlecki@kp.org)>; Robyn Rothman <[Robyn.Rothman@mboothhealth.com](mailto:Robyn.Rothman@mboothhealth.com)>; Tara L Herberth <[Tara.L.Herberth@kp.org](mailto:Tara.L.Herberth@kp.org)>; Fisher, Megan (HHS/OASH) <[Megan.Fisher@hhs.gov](mailto:Megan.Fisher@hhs.gov)>  
**Subject:** Re: Final Details For Kaiser Permanente Visit

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Handshakes are no problem. As for how best to use the time, I think that makes the most sense. I know things are a bit tight.

I've included my colleague Megan Fisher for any last logistical questions. This is all looking good.

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**From:** Tara L Herberth <[Tara.L.Herberth@kp.org](mailto:Tara.L.Herberth@kp.org)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 8, 2022 9:25 AM  
**To:** Sarvana, Adam (HHS/OASH) <[Adam.Sarvana@hhs.gov](mailto:Adam.Sarvana@hhs.gov)>  
**Cc:** John M Vu <[John.Vu@kp.org](mailto:John.Vu@kp.org)>; Kathleen A Siedlecki <[Kathleen.A.Siedlecki@kp.org](mailto:Kathleen.A.Siedlecki@kp.org)>; Robyn Rothman <[Robyn.Rothman@mboothhealth.com](mailto:Robyn.Rothman@mboothhealth.com)>; Tara L Herberth <[Tara.L.Herberth@kp.org](mailto:Tara.L.Herberth@kp.org)>  
**Subject:** Final Details For Kaiser Permanente Visit

Hi Adam...I hope you have/had a safe trip to California and we are looking forward to hosting Admiral Levine, you and the team on Thursday. We wanted to check in on a few items:

- Let us know if you have any open questions re: logistics, run of show, etc. Note: John will be at the curb of 1950 Franklin to meet the team tomorrow at 12:30. His cell is (b)(6) should you need it. Tara's cell is (b)(6)
- COVID protocols: Everyone will be masking as required by our organization and the county of Alameda except when filming the event. (We will have the Admiral and Bechara six feet apart). We also will follow the six feet apart protocols for the meet/greet. **QUESTION:** Should people refrain from shaking hands with Admiral Levine or are there other protocols she prefers? We can let participants know of her preferences.

- See below a list of invitees for the meet/greet. We recognize we only have ~15 minutes with the Admiral. Our thinking is the flow could be as follows: Introduction by Bechara; A few opening remarks by Admiral Levine; Quick intro by KP leaders and their role in our Net Zero strategy; Close.
- We will update the list of attendees as we finalize RSVPs

Please let us know if you need anything. John/Tara

**Kaiser Permanente Net Zero – Pre-event Meet and Greet Attendees (12:30 – 12:45)**

<b>CONFIRMED</b> (as of 5:00pm, 6/7/22)	
Admiral Rachel Levine	Assistant Secretary of Health
Bechara Choucair	SVP and Chief Health Officer
Stephanie Ledesma	Interim SVP, Community Health
Seema Wadhwa	Exec Director, Environmental Stewardship
John Vu	VP Strategy, Community Health
Don Orndoff	SVP, National Facilities Services
Steve Chyung	SVP, Chief Supply Chain and Procurement Executive
Eric Berzon	VP, Assistant Treasurer
Rita Ng, MD	Oakland Physician in chief, The Permanente Medical Group
<b>OTHERS INVITED</b> [not confirmed as of 6/8/22]	
Yazdi Bagli	EVP, Enterprise Business Services
Laurel Junk	SVP, Enterprise Shared Services
Ije-enu N Udeze Nwosu	Executive Director, Impact Spending
Kathy Lancaster	EVP and Chief Financial Officer
Thomas Meier	SVP and Corporate Treasurer
Tony Barrueta	SVP, Government Relations
Andy Bindman	EVP, Chief Medical Officer
Chris Grant	COO, Permanente Federation

Tara Herberth  
Executive Director

Kaiser Permanente  
Communications  
(510) 504-5315

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**Sender:** Fisher, Megan (HHS/OASH) /O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=AC4A8E3790F240E189F97EC0830AC093-FISHER, MEG

<Megan.Fisher@hhs.gov>

**Recipient:** Levine, Rachel (HHS/OASH) /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=e691235ff2f3496e9b53eeb5f538b2f6-Levine, Rachel <Rachel.Levine@hhs.gov>; Sarvana, Adam (HHS/OASH) /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=cef02713edbb48e9a5d823ee64466ed9-Sarvana, Adam <Adam.Sarvana@hhs.gov>

**Sent Date:** 2022/06/09 15:04:57

**Delivered Date:** 2022/06/09 15:04:59

OS Secretarys Operations Center /O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=32B1F28D808B43B6903C00083291303E-SECRETARYS <hhs.soc@hhs.gov>

OS Secretarys Operations Center /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group  
**To:** (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=32b1f28d808b43b6903c00083291303e-Secretarys <hhs.soc@hhs.gov>

**Subject:** HHS R5/R7 FYSA: 2022 Recycling Warehouse Fire, Madison, IL (Update #1)

**Date:** 2022/08/10 16:24:59

**Priority:** Normal

**Type:** Note

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### **HHS R5/R7 FYSA: 2022 Recycling Warehouse Fire, Madison, IL (Update #1)**

**BLUF:** FEMA R7 reports multiple fire departments from the Metro East and St. Louis and St. Louis County, MO have responded to a large industrial fire at Interco Recycling located at 10 Fox Industrial Dr. in Madison, IL (pop. 2,941). Madison, IL is approximately 9 miles east of St. Louis, MO (pop. 304,709)

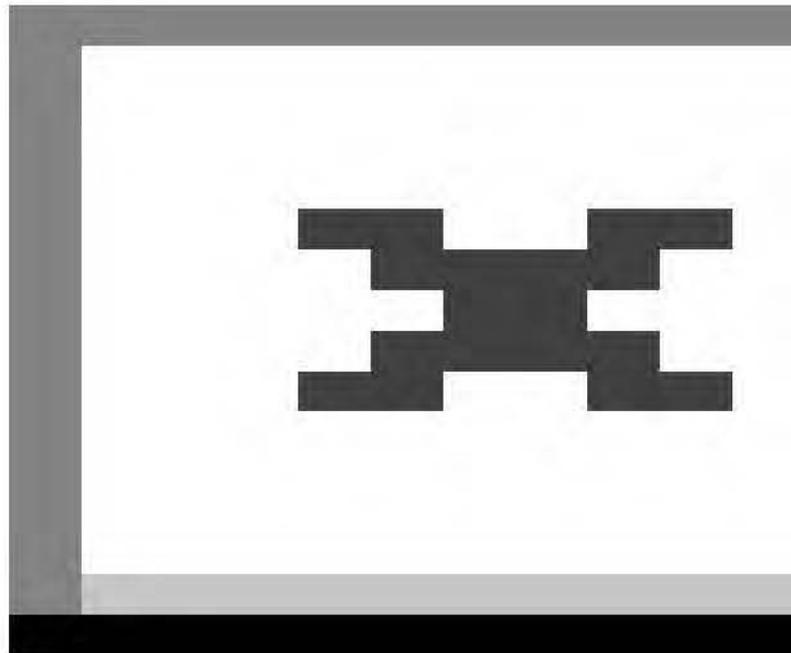
- • \* Open sources reports the fire started around 1130ET and a large plumes of smoke can be seen for miles and could potentially be hazardous to residents in St. Louis, MO.
  - • \* **Smoke has reportedly risen higher than 5,000 feet.**
  - • \* **Nearly 200 firefighters are on the scene of this 5-alarm fire.**
  - • \* **The Granite City Police Department stated anyone who resides from 17th Street towards Madison to shelter in place until the hazards can be understood and mitigated.**
  - • \* **One employee has been hospitalized after being burned by the flames, severity of injuries are unknown.**
- • \* Interco is located approximately 4.25 miles northeast from the center of St. Louis, MO.
- • \* Wind direction is currently blowing SW and is not expected to change in the next 48 hours.
- • \* One hospital, Gateway Regional Medical Center in Madison, IL (288 beds) is approx. 1.5 miles NE of the incident location.
- • \* **Madison County EMA reported shelter in place order will be for half-mile around the warehouse until further notice.**

#### **Federal:**

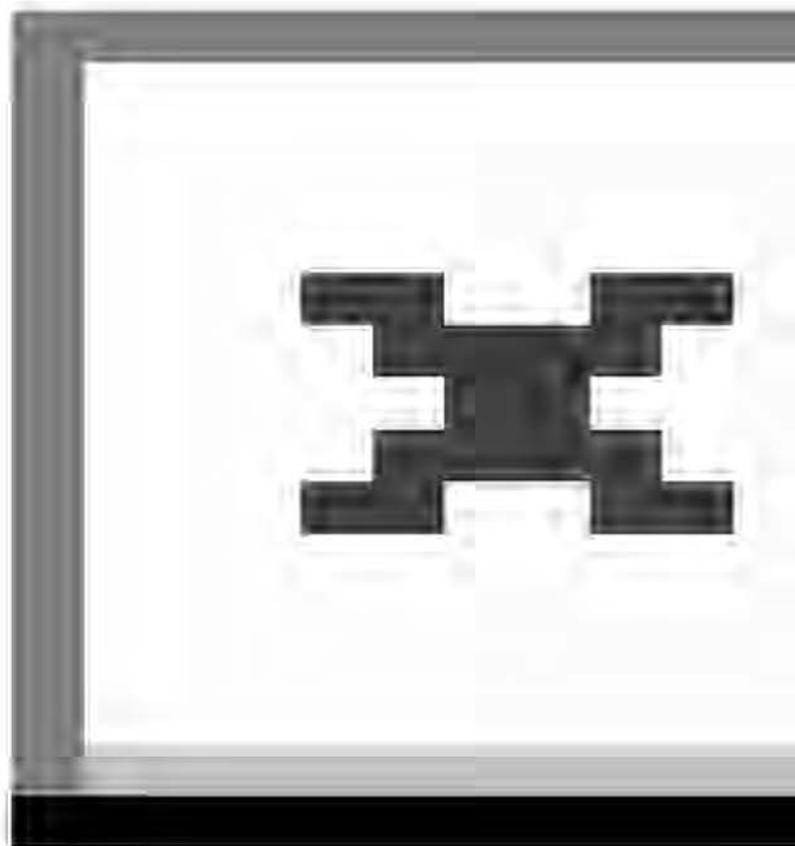
- • \* DTRA has activated its Interagency Modeling and Atmospheric Assessment Center (IMAAC) to support the incident.
  - • \* **The soot from the fire is projected to go towards the south southwest, initially turning southerly in 24 hours.**
- • \* **EPA R5 is on scene and will be conducting air monitoring.**
  - • \* **The warehouse contains: aluminum, brass, copper, lead, stainless steel, metallic powder, and lithium ion batteries.**

**ESF-8 Assessment:** The SOC is in communications with ASPR R5 and R7 who will advise of any impacts to health facilities in the area. **Hazards consisting of lithium ion batteries can exacerbate a fire and release toxic gases CO, CO<sub>2</sub> and hydrogen fluoride. A lithium battery fire will be difficult to extinguish and may pose a localized explosive hazard.** There are currently no requests for Federal ESF-8 assistance at this time.

**Graphic Courtesy of ASPR GIAV:**



**Image Courtesy of GeoHealth:**



**Actions/Follow-Up:** SOC notified ASPR R5, ASPR R7, CIP, CBRNE Response Team, and CISA Central. The SOC and ASPR R5/R7 will continue to monitor this incident and report as needed. **ASPR GIAV has provided an updated graphic that includes the IMAAC plume modeling for this incident.** *This message was sent to the SOC FYSA and ASPR R5/7 Distribution Lists. To be removed from this distribution list just send us a note by clicking: [UNSUBSCRIBE](#)*

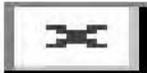
**Prepared by:** Adam Miller, Watch Officer

**Approved by:** Scott Brackins, Watch Section Chief

Very Respectfully,

**Secretary's Operations Center**

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)  
Administration for Strategic Preparedness and Response (ASPR)  
200 Independence Ave., S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20201  
Office: (202) 619-7800  
Fax: 1-800-514-4256  
Email: [hhs.soc@hhs.gov](mailto:hhs.soc@hhs.gov)



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**Recipient:** OS Secretarys Operations Center /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=32b1f28d808b43b6903c00083291303e-Secretarys <[hhs.soc@hhs.gov](mailto:hhs.soc@hhs.gov)>

**Sent Date:** 2022/08/10 16:24:14

**Delivered Date:** 2022/08/10 16:24:59

**From:** Boateng, Sarah (HHS/OASH) /O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=D83DED642AF84229A075D7E1F7B59A59-BOATENG, SA <Sarah.Boateng@hhs.gov>

Mataka, Arsenio (HHS/OASH) /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=feb10adfd4454326b57ca91571e4bc76-Mataka, Ars <Arsenio.Mataka@hhs.gov>;

Hayes, Kaye (HHS/OASH) /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=325e577483dc469dba2a7e975abb21f4-Hayes, Kaye <Kaye.Hayes@hhs.gov>;

Levine, Rachel (HHS/OASH) /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=e691235ff2f3496e9b53eeb5f538b2f6-Levine, Rac <Rachel.Levine@hhs.gov>;

**To:** Iademarco, Michael (HHS/OASH) /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=05f30cb4a3354ca680578e7561b107f0-Lademarco, <Michael.Iademarco@hhs.gov>;

Richmond, Alicia (HHS/OASH) /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=db07f34311b348dcb2bb7a29aba4b7a9-Richmond, A <Alicia.Richmond@hhs.gov>;

Oh, Kathy (OS/OASH) /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=2c7d2ccfd4bb4a74877eba68f09777ed-Kathy, Oh <Kathy.Oh@hhs.gov>

**Subject:** FW: upcoming vaccine safety datalink research paper

**Date:** 2022/09/10 08:26:05

**Priority:** Normal

**Type:** Note

Lets discuss

**From:** Despres, Sarah (HHS/IOS) <Sarah.Despres@hhs.gov>

**Sent:** Friday, September 9, 2022 5:30 PM

**To:** Tierney, Julia (FDA/OC) <Julia.Tierney@fda.hhs.gov>; Lesko, Max (HHS/OASH)

<Max.Lesko@hhs.gov>; Grossman, Jordan (HRSA) <JGrossman@hrsa.gov>; Folkers, Greg (NIH/NIAID) [E]

<gfolkers@niaid.nih.gov>; Schwetz, Tara (NIH/OD) [E] <tara.schwetz@nih.gov>; Burklow, John (NIH/OD)

[E] <burklowj@od.nih.gov>; Boateng, Sarah (HHS/OASH) <Sarah.Boateng@hhs.gov>; Richardson

(she/her), Erin (CMS/OA) <Erin.Richardson@cms.hhs.gov>

**Subject:** upcoming vaccine safety datalink research paper

All –

A paper will be published September 23, 2022 (tentative) that I would like to bring to your attention.

Because this paper has not yet been published, please keep this information close hold.

Below is information from CDC regarding this study.

Thanks,

Sarah

**Summary:**

(b)(5)

Boateng, Sarah (HHS/OASH) /O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP  
**Sender:** (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=D83DED642AF84229A075D7E1F7B59A59-BOATENG, SA  
<Sarah.Boateng@hhs.gov>

Mataka, Arsenio (HHS/OASH) /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=feb10adfd4454326b57ca91571e4bc76-Mataka, Ars <Arsenio.Mataka@hhs.gov>;  
Hayes, Kaye (HHS/OASH) /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=325e577483dc469dba2a7e975abb21f4-Hayes, Kaye <Kaye.Hayes@hhs.gov>;  
Levine, Rachel (HHS/OASH) /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=e691235ff2f3496e9b53eeb5f538b2f6-Levine, Rac <Rachel.Levine@hhs.gov>;  
**Recipient:** Iademarco, Michael (HHS/OASH) /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=05f30cb4a3354ca680578e7561b107f0-Lademarco, <Michael.Iademarco@hhs.gov>;  
Richmond, Alicia (HHS/OASH) /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=db07f34311b348dcb2bb7a29aba4b7a9-Richmond, A <Alicia.Richmond@hhs.gov>;  
Oh, Kathy (OS/OASH) /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=2c7d2ccfd4bb4a74877eba68f09777ed-Kathy, Oh <Kathy.Oh@hhs.gov>

**Sent Date:** 2022/09/10 08:26:03

**Delivered Date:** 2022/09/10 08:26:05

<b>From:</b> Bechara Choucair <Bechara.Choucair@kp.org>
Sarvana, Adam (HHS/OASH) /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=cef02713edbb48e9a5d823ee64466ed9-Sarvana, Ad <Adam.Sarvana@hhs.gov>; Boateng, Sarah (HHS/OASH) /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group
<b>To:</b> (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=d83ded642af84229a075d7e1f7b59a59-Boateng, Sa <Sarah.Boateng@hhs.gov>; Levine, Rachel (HHS/OASH) /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=e691235ff2f3496e9b53eeb5f538b2f6-Levine, Rac <Rachel.Levine@hhs.gov>
Fisher, Megan (HHS/OASH) /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=ac4a8e3790f240e189f97ec0830ac093-Fisher, Meg <Megan.Fisher@hhs.gov>;
<b>CC:</b> Mataka, Arsenio (HHS/OASH) /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=feb10adfd4454326b57ca91571e4bc76-Mataka, Ars <Arsenio.Mataka@hhs.gov>; John M Vu <John.Vu@kp.org>
<b>Subject:</b> RE: Net Zero Event
<b>Date:</b> 2022/05/30 13:01:31
<b>Priority:</b> Normal
<b>Type:</b> Note

Admiral Levine and team,

Thank you again for your offer to join us in our commitment to Net Zero. I wanted to provide a couple of updates and confirm if you're still available for an event in Oakland in June.

First off, we have completed our internal reviews and set to commit to a decarbonizing goal of 50% reduction by 2030 and aiming for Net Zero by 2050. With that, we are happy to sign on to the HHS Climate Pledge. My team will be going to the HHS site and signing on before the June 3 deadline.

As mentioned previously, we would like to hold an event to announce our goal and use the opportunity to delve further into issues of climate and health equity. If you are still available on the dates Adam mentioned below, we would welcome the chance to host you at our office in Oakland for a discussion. We are envisioning holding a fireside chat with you that could be livestreamed. If at all possible, June 9 would be the ideal date but we could also try June 8 if the 9th isn't particularly good. Of course, we can provide further details on the overall plan for the event.

This is an exciting time to discuss how we and the healthcare sector work and partner to drive climate action and center health equity. Thank you for your partnership.

Bechara

**Bechara Choucair, MD**

SVP & Chief Health Officer

Kaiser Permanente

(b)(6) (mobile)

Executive Assistant: Misty Rose Spencer ([Misty-Rose.Spencer@kp.org](mailto:Misty-Rose.Spencer@kp.org)) c: (b)(6)

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**From:** Sarvana, Adam (HHS/OASH) <[Adam.Sarvana@hhs.gov](mailto:Adam.Sarvana@hhs.gov)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 18, 2022 6:30 AM  
**To:** Boateng, Sarah (HHS/OASH) <[Sarah.Boateng@hhs.gov](mailto:Sarah.Boateng@hhs.gov)>; Bechara Choucair <[Bechara.Choucair@kp.org](mailto:Bechara.Choucair@kp.org)>  
**Cc:** Fisher, Megan (HHS/OASH) <[Megan.Fisher@hhs.gov](mailto:Megan.Fisher@hhs.gov)>; Levine, Rachel (HHS/OASH) <[Rachel.Levine@hhs.gov](mailto:Rachel.Levine@hhs.gov)>; Mataka, Arsenio (HHS/OASH) <[Arsenio.Mataka@hhs.gov](mailto:Arsenio.Mataka@hhs.gov)>; Misty Rose Spencer <[Misty-Rose.Spencer@kp.org](mailto:Misty-Rose.Spencer@kp.org)>; John M Vu <[John.Vu@kp.org](mailto:John.Vu@kp.org)>  
**Subject:** RE: Net Zero Event

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Hi, all. We'll be in California June 7-14 – we start in the Bay Area and fly to L.A. on the afternoon/evening of Saturday, June 11. If you're considering holding this in Oakland or thereabouts, our best open times are the afternoons of that Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, though I should say that we have other some other commitments and we'll need to coordinate. Let us know what your timeline is and whether we can make this work.

**Adam Sarvana**

Director of Communications

Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health

.... image004.png

**Email:** [adam.sarvana@hhs.gov](mailto:adam.sarvana@hhs.gov)

**Mobile:** (b)(6)

**Desk:** (202) 795-7619

[hhs.gov/ash](https://hhs.gov/ash)



image005.png

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**From:** Boateng, Sarah (HHS/OASH) <[Sarah.Boateng@hhs.gov](mailto:Sarah.Boateng@hhs.gov)>

**Sent:** Wednesday, May 18, 2022 9:04 AM

**To:** [Bechara.Choucair@kp.org](mailto:Bechara.Choucair@kp.org)

**Cc:** Fisher, Megan (HHS/OASH) <[Megan.Fisher@hhs.gov](mailto:Megan.Fisher@hhs.gov)>; Levine, Rachel (HHS/OASH) <[Rachel.Levine@hhs.gov](mailto:Rachel.Levine@hhs.gov)>; Mataka, Arsenio (HHS/OASH) <[Arsenio.Mataka@hhs.gov](mailto:Arsenio.Mataka@hhs.gov)>; Sarvana, Adam (HHS/OASH) <[Adam.Sarvana@hhs.gov](mailto:Adam.Sarvana@hhs.gov)>; [Misty-Rose.Spencer@kp.org](mailto:Misty-Rose.Spencer@kp.org); [John.Vu@kp.org](mailto:John.Vu@kp.org)

**Subject:** RE: Net Zero Event

Good Morning Dr. Choucair

Thank you so much for the outreach. This is very exciting, congratulations. ADM Levine will be on the West Coast in early June. I am adding our Communications Director Adam Sarvana and our Senior Advisor on Climate Change and Health Equity Arsenio Mataka who will be point for our office.

Sarah

**Sarah Newman Boateng (She/Her)**

Chief of Staff

Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health

**Email:** [sarah.boateng@hhs.gov](mailto:sarah.boateng@hhs.gov)

**Mobile:** (b)(6)

**Desk:** (202) 401-7003



image006.jpg

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**From:** Bechara Choucair <[Bechara.Choucair@kp.org](mailto:Bechara.Choucair@kp.org)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 17, 2022 9:45 PM  
**To:** Levine, Rachel (HHS/OASH) <[Rachel.Levine@hhs.gov](mailto:Rachel.Levine@hhs.gov)>  
**Cc:** John M Vu <[John.Vu@kp.org](mailto:John.Vu@kp.org)>; Misty Rose Spencer <[Misty-Rose.Spencer@kp.org](mailto:Misty-Rose.Spencer@kp.org)>  
**Subject:** Net Zero Event

Admiral Levine,

I would like to invite you to join Kaiser Permanente as we finalize our commitment to a net zero goal and to the HHS pledge focused on decarbonization.

Kaiser Permanente has a long-standing history and commitment focused on environmental stewardship. In 2020, we were the first health system to achieve carbon neutrality, building on broad actions focused on environmental sustainability. Since that time, we have completed a full GHG inventory, inclusive of Scope 3, and are now ambitiously working on achieving a net carbon reduction goal.

In addition to driving carbon reduction in our environmental footprint, we hope to catalyze sector change by showcasing leadership and sharing best practices through our actions and coalition building. We would like to hold a forum at a date and time that works with your calendar and bring together key stakeholders to help advance the cause and share learnings. We invite you in

joining us at that forum, where we think your voice could help drive action and further galvanize practices around decarbonization.

We look forward to continuing to collaborate across sectors to make progress in decarbonizing and ensuring equitable health for our communities. We appreciate the efforts of HHS, OCHE and all the agencies needed to work on climate change.

If you are open to participating, John Vu on my team here at Kaiser Permanente can coordinate with your office.

(Please keep in mind that we are still finalizing our commitment to Net Zero and it's not public yet).

Bechara

Bechara Choucair, MD  
SVP & Chief Health Officer

Kaiser Permanente

(b)(6) (mobile)

Executive Assistant: Misty Rose Spencer ([Misty-Rose.Spencer@kp.org](mailto:Misty-Rose.Spencer@kp.org)) c: (b)(6)

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Boateng, Sarah (HHS/OASH) /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=d83ded642af84229a075d7e1f7b59a59-Boateng, Sa <[Sarah.Boateng@hhs.gov](mailto:Sarah.Boateng@hhs.gov)>;

**Recipient:** Levine, Rachel (HHS/OASH) /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=e691235ff2f3496e9b53eeb5f538b2f6-Levine, Rac <[Rachel.Levine@hhs.gov](mailto:Rachel.Levine@hhs.gov)>;

Fisher, Megan (HHS/OASH) /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=ac4a8e3790f240e189f97ec0830ac093-Fisher, Meg <[Megan.Fisher@hhs.gov](mailto:Megan.Fisher@hhs.gov)>;

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(FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=feb10adfd4454326b57ca91571e4bc76-Mataka, Ars  
<Arsenio.Mataka@hhs.gov>;  
John M Vu <John.Vu@kp.org>

**Sent Date:** 2022/05/30 12:59:34

**Delivered Date:** 2022/05/30 13:01:31

**From:** Boateng, Sarah (HHS/OASH) /O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=D83DED642AF84229A075D7E1F7B59A59-BOATENG, SA <Sarah.Boateng@hhs.gov>

**To:** Levine, Rachel (HHS/OASH) /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=e691235ff2f3496e9b53eeb5f538b2f6-Levine, Rac <Rachel.Levine@hhs.gov>

**Subject:** FW: upcoming vaccine safety datalink research paper

**Date:** 2022/09/12 12:07:07

**Priority:** Normal

**Type:** Note

FYSA

---

**From:** Hayes, Kaye (HHS/OASH) <Kaye.Hayes@hhs.gov>  
**Sent:** Monday, September 12, 2022 11:16 AM  
**To:** Boateng, Sarah (HHS/OASH) <Sarah.Boateng@hhs.gov>  
**Cc:** Harrison, Timothy (HHS/OASH) <Timothy.Harrison@hhs.gov>  
**Subject:** FW: upcoming vaccine safety datalink research paper

Hi, Sarah—

Providing follow-up on your question about childhood vaccines that contain aluminum--

Per [CDC](#), the following vaccines contain aluminum adjuvant. Highlighted in yellow are vaccines that are used in children. Note that the Japanese encephalitis vaccine, while used for protection for travel for children, is not routinely recommended.

Anthrax

DT (no trade name)

DTaP (Daptacel)

DTaP (Infanrix)

DTaP-IPV (Kinrix)

DTaP-IPV (Quadracel)

DTaP-HepB-IPV (Pediatrix)

DTaP-IPV/Hib (Pentacel)

Hep A (Havrix)

Hep A (Vaqta)

Hep B (Engerix-B)

Hep B (Recombivax)

HepA/Hep B (Twinrix)

HIB (PedvaxHIB)

HPV (Gardasil 9)

Japanese encephalitis (Ixiaro)\*

MenB (Bexsero, Trumenba)

Pneumococcal (Prevnar 13)

Td (Tenivac)

Td (Mass Biologics)  
Tdap (Adacel)  
Tdap (Boostrix)

\*Not routinely recommended

FYI,  
Kaye

<b>Sender:</b>	Boateng, Sarah (HHS/OASH) /O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=D83DED642AF84229A075D7E1F7B59A59-BOATENG, SA <Sarah.Boateng@hhs.gov>
<b>Recipient:</b>	Levine, Rachel (HHS/OASH) /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=e691235ff2f3496e9b53eeb5f538b2f6-Levine, Rac <Rachel.Levine@hhs.gov>
<b>Sent Date:</b>	2022/09/12 12:07:05
<b>Delivered Date:</b>	2022/09/12 12:07:07

**From:** Boateng, Sarah (HHS/OASH) /O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=D83DED642AF84229A075D7E1F7B59A59-BOATENG, SA <Sarah.Boateng@hhs.gov>

**To:** Levine, Rachel (HHS/OASH) /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=e691235ff2f3496e9b53eeb5f538b2f6-Levine, Rac <Rachel.Levine@hhs.gov>;  
Calsyn, Maura (HHS/OASH) /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=3c49e2e84a0b4f9d88ee34ab0177149d-Calsyn, Mau <Maura.Calsyn@hhs.gov>;  
Hayes, Kaye (HHS/OASH) /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=325e577483dc469dba2a7e975abb21f4-Hayes, Kaye <Kaye.Hayes@hhs.gov>

**CC:** Oh, Kathy (OS/OASH) /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=2c7d2ccfd4bb4a74877eba68f09777ed-Kathy, Oh <Kathy.Oh@hhs.gov>;  
Richmond, Alicia (HHS/OASH) /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=db07f34311b348dcb2bb7a29aba4b7a9-Richmond, A <Alicia.Richmond@hhs.gov>

**Subject:** FW: Vaccine paper

**Date:** 2022/09/26 08:13:51

**Priority:** Normal

**Type:** Note

Good Morning

We are working with CDC to schedule a briefing for ADM Levine on the CDC vaccine/aluminum study. In advance CDC provided the attached.

Sarah

**Sender:** Boateng, Sarah (HHS/OASH) /O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=D83DED642AF84229A075D7E1F7B59A59-BOATENG, SA <Sarah.Boateng@hhs.gov>

**Recipient:** Levine, Rachel (HHS/OASH) /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=e691235ff2f3496e9b53eeb5f538b2f6-Levine, Rac <Rachel.Levine@hhs.gov>;  
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Hayes, Kaye (HHS/OASH) /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=325e577483dc469dba2a7e975abb21f4-Hayes, Kaye <Kaye.Hayes@hhs.gov>;  
Oh, Kathy (OS/OASH) /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=2c7d2ccfd4bb4a74877eba68f09777ed-Kathy, Oh <Kathy.Oh@hhs.gov>;  
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**Sent Date:** 2022/09/26 08:13:35

**Delivered Date:** 2022/09/26 08:13:51

**From:** Bechara Choucair <Bechara.Choucair@kp.org>  
Levine, Rachel (HHS/OASH) /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group  
**To:** (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=e691235ff2f3496e9b53eeb5f538b2f6-Levine, Rac  
<Rachel.Levine@hhs.gov>  
**Subject:** Event Invite – Join KP & WEF on June 7 in DC  
**Date:** 2023/05/09 17:19:46  
**Priority:** Normal  
**Type:** Note

Admiral Levine--I hope you can join us on **Wednesday, June 7, 11am-12:30pm ET in DC**, as Kaiser Permanente and the World Economic Forum launch "Connecting Climate Change and Health" – a series of high-profile events where we will highlight topics such as air quality, extreme heat, and extreme weather, all in the context of the impact on individual and community health and health equity. In this first event, we will be joined by special guests who will discuss how national business leaders across different industries can prioritize health and health equity as part of climate action planning. It would be great to have you there in person.

Please look for the formal invitation this week with additional details (including a virtual option if you can't make it in person). Let me know if you have questions.

Bechara

Bechara Choucair, MD  
SVP & Chief Health Officer  
Kaiser Permanente

(b)(6) (mobile)

Executive Assistant: Misty Rose Spencer ([Misty-Rose.Spencer@kp.org](mailto:Misty-Rose.Spencer@kp.org)) c: (b)(6)

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Levine, Rachel (HHS/OASH) /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group  
**Recipient:** (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=e691235ff2f3496e9b53eeb5f538b2f6-Levine, Rac  
<Rachel.Levine@hhs.gov>  
**Sent Date:** 2023/05/09 17:18:48  
**Delivered Date:** 2023/05/09 17:19:46

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**CC:** Sarvana, Adam (HHS/OASH) /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=cef02713edbb48e9a5d823ee64466ed9-Sarvana, Ad <Adam.Sarvana@hhs.gov>;

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**Subject:** OASH Comms Nightly: Tuesday, September 27

**Date:** 2022/09/27 16:19:37

**Priority:** Normal

**Type:** Note

Dear ADM Levine,

We have two updates for you this evening.

FOR YOUR REVIEW/APPROVAL

FOR YOUR AWARENESS:

**1. Photos from your meeting with Dr. Tam: [9-27-2022 ASH,SG and Dr. Tam | 9-27-2022 ASH,SG and Dr. Tam | Flickr](#)**

**2. Association Between Aluminum Exposure From Vaccines Before Age 24 Months and Persistent Asthma at Age 24 to 59 Months** has published:

- a. Direct link to PDF: [https://els-jbs-prod-cdn.jbs.elsevierhealth.com/pb/assets/raw/Health%20Advance/journals/acap/Aluminium\\_Exposure\\_Article-1664288052690.pdf](https://els-jbs-prod-cdn.jbs.elsevierhealth.com/pb/assets/raw/Health%20Advance/journals/acap/Aluminium_Exposure_Article-1664288052690.pdf)
- b. CDC Key messages and rollout plan are attached.

OASH Comms

**Sender:** Broido, Tara (HHS/OASH) /O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=2C3CD5C5AFE049B6A8B48C25324C7465-BROIDO, TAR <Tara.Broido@hhs.gov>

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**Sent Date:** 2022/09/27 16:19:23

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**From:** POLITICO Pro Health Care <alert@email.politicopro.com>

Sullivan, Rose (HHS/ASL) /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group

**To:** (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=9424ce352ba14c278bd21a84fe92e45c-Sullivan, R  
<Rose.Sullivan@hhs.gov>

**Subject:** Future uncertain at generic drug lobby as cuts threaten its influence

**Date:** 2023/04/13 05:10:07

**Priority:** Normal

**Type:** Note



# Future uncertain at generic drug lobby as cuts

BY MEGAN R. WILSON 04/13/2023 05:07 AM EDT



LAST OPEN

**Pain Relief**

**ACETAMINOPHEN**

**PAIN RELIEVER**

150

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<Rose.Sullivan@hhs.gov>

**Sent Date:** 2023/04/13 05:10:00

**Delivered Date:** 2023/04/13 05:10:07

**Message Flags:** Unread

**From:** Lunsford, Erin (HHS/ASL) /O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=4DBA18F731064B809FC02CBE7E11F047-LUNSFORD, E <Erin.Lunsford@hhs.gov>

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Letter, Elizabeth (HHS/ASL) /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=5d9d5de6c5d14a3f83f50083cba81e91-Letter, Eli <Elizabeth.Letter@hhs.gov>

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**Subject:** ASL Day Ahead - September 20th, 2022

**Date:** 2022/09/19 19:53:32

**Priority:** Normal

**Type:** Note

### Upcoming Secretary Engagement

- **September 28: White House Conference on Hunger, Nutrition & Health**
  - Topic: Hunger, Nutrition & Health
  - Memos: TBD (OASH Leading)
  - Members: Senators Booker, Braun and Congressman McGovern - (potentially more)
  
  - Staffing: TBD
  
- **TBD: Calls on IHS Advance Appropriations**
  - Topic: IHS Advance Appropriations
  - Memos: TBD
  - Staffing: Rose, Maddie
  
- **TBD: Call with Congressman Llyad Doggett**
  - Topic: CICP
  - Memos: TBD
  - Staffing: Rose

### Upcoming HHS Principal Engagement with Members of Congress

- **Thursday September 22<sup>nd</sup>: Administrator Carole Johnson Meeting with Chairman Ron Wyden**
  - Topic: Intro Meeting/MIECHV
  - Memos: HRSA
  - Staffing: HRSA/Leslie

### Upcoming Secretary Travel

- **September 23 (All Day): Madison, WI**
  - Topic: Cancer Moonshot & Mental Health
  - Members Attending: Congressman Mark Pocan
  - Notecards: Yes, due Thursday September 24<sup>th</sup>

### Upcoming HHS Principal Travel

- **Monday September 19<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday September 20<sup>th</sup>:** Surgeon General Murthy Travel to NYC
  - Notifications sent to NY delegation
- **Tuesday September 20<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday September 21<sup>st</sup>:** ADM Levine Travel to Durham, NC
  - Notifications sent & invite to Price made
- **Tuesday, September 29<sup>th</sup>:** Deputy Secretary Travel to Atlanta, GA
  - Invitations will be sent to GA Senators, Reps. Johnson, Williams

### Upcoming Hearings

- **Tuesday, September 20<sup>th</sup>:** Ways & Means Committee Markup
  - Topic: Resolutions of inquiry and social security legislation

### Nominations Updates

- N/A

### This Week's Policy Announcements

- **ACF (TBD):** Field Guidance
  - ASL Role: TBD
- **HRSA (Tuesday):** HRSA awards over \$5 million to 11 HRSA-funded health centers across seven states (CA, FL, KS, OK, TN, TX, and VA) to increase equitable access to life-saving cancer screenings and referral for care and treatment. **Aligns with Cancer Moonshot Initiative and Unity Agenda**
  - ASL Role: HRSA OL
- **FDA (Tuesday):** Infant Formula Report
  - ASL Role: FDA OL
- **Secretary/HHS (Wednesday):** Secretary Becerra participates virtually in the United States Mission to the United Nations Universal Health Coverage Meeting
  - ASL Role: None, FYI only
- **HHS/HRSA (Wednesday):** HHS Invests \$266 Million in New Programs to Expand and Strengthen the Community Health Worker and Public Health Workforces (ARP funding.) HRSA is awarding \$225.5 million to 83 grantees as part of the Community Health Worker Training Program, which is a new, multiyear program that will support training and apprenticeship to support new community health workers. Also \$40.7 million to 29 grantees through the Public Health Scholarship Program, which will incentivize individuals to pursue training and careers in public health, including as epidemiologists and other positions critical to community public health needs.

- ASL Role: HRSA OL
- **Secretary/HHS (Thursday):** HOLD: Monkeypox Press Call with Latino Press
  - ASL Role: None
- **CMS (Thursday):** CMS approves a postpartum coverage extension state plan amendment (SPA) for state in the south.
  - ASL Role: CMS OL
- **SAMHSA (Thursday):** HHS releases WH Recovery Event grant bundle - Grants to Expand Substance Abuse Treatment Capacity in Adult and Family Treatment Drug Courts, \$7.1M - State Opioid Response Grants, \$1.440B - Tribal Opioid Response Grants, \$55M – Rural Community Opioid Response Programs, \$104 million.
  - ASL Role: SAMHSA OL
- **HRSA (Friday):** HRSA announces awards of more than \$104 million across three Rural Community Opioid Response Programs (RCORP), part of HRSA’s RCORP initiative to address the barriers to treatment for substance use disorder, including opioid use disorder, in rural communities.
  - ASL Role: HRSA OL
- **CDC (Friday):** CDC and Kaiser Health authors publish a study in *Academic Pediatrics: Association Between Aluminum Exposure from Vaccines Before Age 24 Months and Persistent Asthma at Age 24-59 Months*. Summary: In a large observational study, a positive association was found between vaccine related aluminum exposure and persistent asthma.
  - ASL Role: CDC OL
- **WH/CDC (Friday):** Twitter Spaces with Dr. Daskalakis and Dr. Mena from the CDC to talk about monkeypox
  - ASL Role: None, FYI only

#### Tomorrows Briefings

- **NIH (Tuesday at 11:00am):** Alcohol Associated Liver Disease Congressional briefing with NIAAA
  - ASL Staff: Lauren

**Erin Lunsford** (she/her)

Special Assistant

Office of the Assistant Secretary for Legislation | Health and Human Services

(202) 590-6768 | [Erin.Lunsford@hhs.gov](mailto:Erin.Lunsford@hhs.gov)

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## **MORE PHARMACEUTICAL NEWS**

### [White House says ignoring judge's abortion pill ruling would set 'dangerous precedent'](#)

By Kierra Frazier

“We are ready to fight this. This is going to be a long fight,” press secretary Karine Jean-Pierre said.

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[The \\_\\_\\_\\_ will see you now: How the pandemic could change who treats you](#)

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[The abortion pill rulings are scaring the FDA and drugmakers. Here's why.](#)

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[White House says a horse sedative is an 'emerging threat' to public health](#)

**[White House says ignoring judge's abortion pill ruling would set 'dangerous precedent'](#)**  
(back)

By Kierra Frazier

The White House said on Monday that it would be a “dangerous precedent” for the administration to ignore a federal judge’s decision last week blocking the sale of an abortion pill.

“But I’ll say this, you know, as a dangerous precedent is set for the court to set aside the FDA’s and expert judgment regarding a drug’s safety and efficiency, it will also set a dangerous precedent for this administration to disregard a binding decision,” White House press secretary Jean-Pierre said at her briefing on Monday. “We are ready to fight this. This is going to be a long fight. We understand this. We stand by FDA approval of mifepristone.”

Jean-Pierre's comments came after a federal judge in Texas ruled on Friday to suspend the FDA's approval of mifepristone, a drug that can be used in tandem with another to induce an abortion. Though it isn't set to take effect for a week, the decision virtually bans the sale of the pills across the country.

On Friday, Democrats such as Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez of New York said the Biden administration should ignore the ruling, and GOP Rep. Nancy Mace of South Carolina agreed on Monday.

"It's not up to us to decide as legislators or even, you know, as the court system whether this is the right drug to use or not," Mace told CNN.

On Monday, the Justice Department asked an appeals court to put on hold the Friday ruling.

"We get the frustration regarding this decision. Absolutely," Jean-Pierre said on Monday. "And that's why we were quick to act. That's why you saw DOJ take action."

*To view online [click here](#).*

## **The \_\_\_\_ will see you now: How the pandemic could change who treats you ([back](#))**

By Daniel Payne

State lawmakers have introduced nearly 200 bills this year to change who should be allowed to provide certain types of care.

That tops most years since 2015 when the National Conference of State Legislatures began tracking the topic, and speaks to how providers — from pharmacists to nurse practitioners to psychologists — looking to do more feel that ongoing workforce shortages and the wind down of pandemic responses are buttressing their case to state and federal lawmakers.

Bills introduced in several states would allow pharmacists to prescribe hormonal contraceptives and administer vaccines or give optometrists the authority to inject local anesthetics before minor surgery.

Others would reduce the supervision required for some care, including bills in Colorado, Connecticut, Florida, Iowa and Montana that would center collaboration over supervision in the relationship between physician assistants and doctors. Eight people leading health organizations fighting for or against the proposed changes told POLITICO many health workers see the effort as their best chance to influence policy. Some are relying on growing public concern over provider shortages and a weakened public health system to advance their arguments while others are pushing patient safety as their key focus.

The shortage of health workers has grown to be many providers' biggest concern about the future — from financial and care perspectives alike. Health policymakers on the Hill have also cited workforce issues as a key challenge, making it a top priority for the coming months.

The legislation can significantly impact how health care is delivered, as it can determine not only how much training or doctor supervision is required to perform procedures or prescribe drugs but also how accessible care is for patients.

Provider groups representing doctors, nurses, pharmacists and everyone in between recognize that. Utah state Sen. Curtis Bramble, who recently led a bill to lessen regulations on non-physician providers, said touching scope of practice policy is like touching “a third rail.”

Money is partly to blame for that, he said. The legislation has the potential to shift some revenue from physicians to other types of providers if they are allowed to offer care and bill insurers for services that had been under the purview of doctors.

“That is the challenge that we have, is how do you identify whether it is economics — is it concern about erosion of a revenue base — or are there legitimate credible concerns about public safety?” Bramble, who has served as president of the National Conference of State Legislatures, said.

Some groups have argued the pandemic, which led to loosened rules allowing some clinicians to do more than they were previously permitted, proved their ability to provide additional care safely. And they're using that argument to change the rules permanently.

“Right now, we are seeing a lot of focus on codifying the temporary authorities that were gained during the public health emergency,” said E. Michael Murphy, a state governments adviser for the American Pharmacists Association, which is tracking more than 100 bills related to scope of practice. “It's really about increased access.”

Safety vs. access

Physician groups, while acknowledging the need for more access, are working to stop expanded authorities they say would endanger patients.

And they have significant sway at the state and federal level, proving for years that they can persuade lawmakers to abandon changes to scope of practice laws — defeating proposals across states for decades.

The Texas Medical Association, one of the largest provider groups in the country, listed scope of practice as its top legislative priority for the year.

“There's a lot of folks who want to do what Physicians do without doing the training or acquiring the experience that we have,” said Gary Floyd, president of the TMA, adding he and other physicians were against some of the scope of practice changes made during the pandemic, like pharmacists being at the center of test-to-treat protocols.

Understanding some of the new fights that came up because of the pandemic, Floyd said scope of practice has topped the TMA's list of priorities for years, pointing to the longstanding debate among providers.

Still, other doctors groups see a new trend emerging from that history.

"These trends that we're seeing, and just a general sense by the non-physician community that they can do anything that a physician can do, is going to only continue to expand," Manuel Bonilla, chief advocacy and practice officer at the American Society of Anesthesiologists, said at an American Medical Association panel on fighting efforts to allow non-physicians to do more.

Other clinicians, however, point to how they performed since the pandemic began as evidence that they can do more without the watchful eye of an MD.

"We've had removal of supervision for the last three years, and clearly there has not been a problem with that or we would have heard about it," said Angela Mund, president of the American Association of Nurse Anesthesiology. "We're looking at making it permanent."

Mund, like other clinician group leaders, noted now was a time for "all hands on deck" to address high patient volumes and health worker shortages in the pandemic's wake.

"We have so many problems with rural health care and access to health care that everybody should be working into the top of their education and training and in order to just take care of people," she said.

A federal approach

Scope of practice is increasingly becoming a federal issue, too, as the Department of Veterans Affairs looks to set its own standards and the Senate HELP Committee takes on workforce shortages.

The VA plans to finalize and implement scope of practice standards for over 50 types of health providers in the coming months, continuing the process through early 2024, according to internal agency slides obtained by POLITICO.

Those standards would apply for all VA clinics, regardless of state regulations and will be open to public comment before the final policy is released.

"We are being deliberate. We are not rushing to any judgment on any profession," Ethan Kalett, senior adviser at the Veterans Health Administration's Office of Regulations, Appeals and Policy, said in an interview. "We are going to take every comment very seriously."

Providers in the private sector see the VA's move as an opportunity to influence state laws.

"They tend to be a trendsetter and a forward thinker when it comes to providing health care," said Jennifer Orozco, president and chair of the board of the American Academy of Physician Associates. "I think the VA is going to continue to expand services because they know they can't take care of everybody."

Orozco and other clinicians looking to expand what they're allowed to do under the law emphasized that they don't want to go beyond their education and training. Instead, they said they want to change outdated laws that are keeping them from helping patients they have the skills to treat.

"We did it during the pandemic because we were forced to," she said. "We can't just do it in times of crisis. ... You have this workforce. You have to tap into them."

To the Hill

The fight is also in Congress, where several lawmakers are looking to solve health workforce shortages.

HELP Committee Ranking Member [Bill Cassidy](#) (R-La.) said during a hearing last month that solutions to the health workforce shortage should include using the current workforce more efficiently, though he doubted federal legislation is the only way to achieve that.

"Scope of practice has traditionally been state-based, and I personally think it should continue to be state-based," he said in an interview with POLITICO. "But as a rule, I am very much for everybody practicing to the upper limit of their license."

Though mostly an issue decided at the state level, provider groups are taking their arguments to Congress and the administration in hopes of parlaying federal wins into nationwide success.

And for some lobbying for changes to scope of practice, the federal government is getting more interested in the issue.

"What I sense this year over the other years is the momentum and the support," April Kapu, president of the American Association of Nurse Practitioners, said after a recent push on the Hill. "A lot of nodding heads and engaging questions — it felt like more than ever before."

*To view online [click here](#).*

## **Top 5 takeaways from POLITICO Pro's briefing on health care ([back](#))**

By POLITICO Pro Staff

Reporters from POLITICO's health care team hosted a briefing Thursday for POLITICO Pro subscribers to dive into the most significant developments surrounding the FDA, pharmaceuticals and more.

Reporters David Lim, Katherine Ellen Foley and Ben Leonard pulled from their recent stories and their notebooks to give readers insights and perspectives on the implementation of the Inflation Reduction Act, the transition to the commercial market for Covid-19 treatments, and the withdrawal of the approval of Makena, a drug approved under the accelerated approval pathway to reduce the risk of preterm birth in women pregnant with one baby who have a history of spontaneous preterm birth. They also discussed the effort to ban quality-adjusted life years in

Congress, the potential impacts more broadly of a court ruling on mifepristone, FDA funding and insights from the World Vaccine Congress this week.

**Here are five takeaways from the call:**

**1. The future of Covid-19 vaccines** — Drugmakers and regulators have their eyes on the next iteration of Covid-19 boosters, which will likely include another updated shot this fall. Regulators are slated to decide the strain they'd like to see included in fall vaccinations by June.

**Katherine noted** that at the World Vaccine Congress last week, industry representatives, academics and government officials had high-level discussions of additional types of Covid-19 vaccines, including pan-coronavirus vaccinations and those with alternative administration routes, including intranasal and oral vaccines.

**2. FDA approval and CMS coverage of Alzheimer's drugs** — In the last two years, two new Alzheimer's drugs have hit the market via the FDA's accelerated approval pathway. These drugs are the first of their kind to eliminate the deformed amyloid protein in the brains of Alzheimer's patients. But the Centers of Medicare and Medicaid Services have opted not to cover these drugs — which cost more than \$26,000 per year — unless patients are enrolled in a clinical trial, of which there are currently none enrolling.

**Katherine explained** that CMS limited coverage of the entire class of anti-amyloid Alzheimer's drugs after Biogen's Aduhelm was first approved because of conflicting data on the drug's benefit to patients. Now that a similar drug, Leqembi, has been brought to market, patient advocates like the Alzheimer's Association are pressing Congress to force CMS to update its coverage of these drugs in the hopes that patients can better access the drug before their symptoms progress.

**3. David explained the timeline for CMS' implementation of the Inflation Reduction Act** — The agency issued a draft document outlining how Medicare will select and negotiate drugs in the coming years last month and asked drugmakers and other stakeholders to give feedback on the plan. The comment deadline for those developing policy thoughts is April 14.

**4. FDA documents keep coming** — The FDA is pumping out draft and final guidance documents to give industry advice on a variety of policy topics, including patient-focused drug development and how to notify the agency of a discontinuance or interruption in manufacturing medical products or active pharmaceutical ingredients.

**5. Keep an eye on QALYS** — Ben has been tracking Energy and Commerce Committee chair Cathy McMorris Rodgers' push to ban the use of quality-adjusted life years in federal programs. The metric, known as QALYs, measures how valuable a treatment may be given its impact on length and quality of life. Rodgers, a Washington State Republican, and proponents of the ban argue it discriminates against people with disabilities.

Democrats have also said the metric is discriminatory, and a bipartisan deal aimed at assuaging committee Ranking Member Frank Pallone (D-N.J.) has appeared close at times. But Pallone has continued to raise concerns that such a ban could prohibit other measures of cost-effectiveness.

The bill passed the full committee earlier this month on party lines. If Pallone gets on board, the prospects of a deal get much better.

*To view online [click here](#).*

## **Blue states are buying up abortion medication amid legal uncertainty ([back](#))**

By Rachel Bluth

SACRAMENTO, Calif. — California and other blue states are rushing to stockpile abortion medication amid uncertainty at the federal level about the status of the drugs.

Gov. [Gavin Newsom](#) said Monday that California had secured 250,000 misoprostol pills and negotiated the purchase of up to 2 million — the latest move by a state that has repeatedly tried to shore up abortion access in the face of restrictive laws elsewhere. The announcement follows a [Texas judge's decision to invalidate the Food and Drug Administration's approval for mifepristone](#), another medication commonly used in the procedure.

“We will not cave to extremists who are trying to outlaw these critical abortion services,” the Democratic governor said in a statement. “Medication abortion remains legal in California.”

California contracted with ANI Pharmaceuticals through the state's drug affordability initiative to pay a little over \$100,000 for the first 250,000 doses on hand, with an option to purchase more at the same price of around 43 cents per pill, according to Deputy Legal Affairs Secretary Julia Spiegel. Pharmacies who cannot find the drug on their own [can request some from the state's supply](#).

The details have been shared with other states who may want to take advantage of the same deal. “We wanted to be very mindful about not creating any kind of run on the market or uncertainty in other states,” Spiegel said.

Newsom is not the only Democratic governor buying abortion medication in bulk. Last week, Washington Gov. Jay Inslee announced [his state had purchased 30,000 doses of mifepristone](#) through the correctional system and 10,000 doses through the university system. Massachusetts Gov. Maura Healey announced Monday that [her state would be purchasing roughly 15,000 doses of mifepristone](#) through the state university system and setting aside \$1 million to help clinicians that contract with the state purchase the pills.

The initial batch cost about \$675,000 and is expected to last for more than a year. “I know the odds in this case,” Healey, a former attorney general of Massachusetts, said at a news conference Monday. “I know the legal landscape, which is why what this judge [in Texas] did is a sham and I am not the least bit concerned about [legal] liability.”

New York Governor Kathy Hochul on Saturday told CNN she would push legislation that would require insurance companies to cover misoprostol. "We're trying to figure out all the different ways we can get ahead of this," she said.

Newsom and fellow Democrats have long proclaimed California to be a "reproductive freedom state," launching a website to connect abortion seekers with services, appropriating money to help people with the costs of getting an abortion and teaming up with other states to secure abortion access.

Misoprostol works by causing contractions, so the uterus expels any products of conception and passes a pregnancy. It's usually taken 24-48 hours after mifepristone, a drug that blocks the hormone progesterone and terminates a pregnancy.

Mifepristone was the subject of two federal court rulings on Friday that could complicate patients' access. A judge in Texas ruled that the FDA's 20-year-old approval of the drug should be blocked — a decision the Justice Department immediately vowed to appeal. Secretary of Health and Human Services Xavier Becerra said the Biden administration may simply ignore the decision. But on the same day, a federal judge in Washington ruled in a separate case against blocking mifepristone.

Misoprostol can also be used by itself to end a pregnancy, which could provide a backstop if mifepristone suddenly becomes unobtainable.

"Given the uncertainty and fear with the ongoing litigation and conflicting court opinions, it's hard enough for those in the weeds of it to follow what's happening," Spiegel said. "We purchased this stockpile to ensure Californians know that they have ongoing access to medication abortion no matter what is happening in the courts."

*Lisa Kashinsky contributed to this report.*

*To view online [click here](#).*

**The abortion pill rulings are scaring the FDA and drugmakers. Here's why. [\(back\)](#)**

By Katherine Ellen Foley, David Lim, Megan Messerly and Alice Miranda Ollstein

A Texas judge's decision to rescind the FDA's approval of the abortion pill could jeopardize access to the most popular method of terminating a pregnancy.

And many in government and inside the pharmaceutical industry fear that it could also undermine the agency's broader authority to regulate medicines, opening the door for courts to

question approvals of anything from birth control pills to new treatments for debilitating diseases.

HHS Secretary Xavier Becerra suggested insulin, vaccines and new Alzheimer's drugs could conceivably all come under scrutiny if U.S. District Court Judge Matthew Kacsmaryk's ruling is upheld.

While Kacsmaryk stayed his decision until Friday and the Biden administration has already appealed to the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, the ramifications from Friday's decision for the FDA and the drug industry could be felt for decades regardless of how this case is ultimately decided.

Here's what we know:

**Will the decision turn the FDA approval process “upside down”?** Experts disagree. Kacsmaryk's ruling focused on the procedures around mifepristone's approval and the FDA's delayed response to petitions from anti-abortion organizations asking the agency to reconsider. It did not directly address FDA's approval authority, said Greer Donley, an associate professor at the University of Pittsburgh law school.

“The stay itself has no other impact on any drug other than mifepristone,” she said.

The concern, she said, is that the precedent, in this case, could be used to implicate other drugs should groups choose to challenge the procedures surrounding their approval.

Jane Henney, who was FDA commissioner when mifepristone was approved, said Monday that “this ruling sets a very dangerous precedent for the FDA's authority in terms of other new medications.”

“Clearly, we would be entering totally uncharted territory in that regard,” she said during a call with reporters.

Beccera's worry that other medical products are at risk was echoed by leaders in the pharmaceutical industry.

Pfizer CEO Albert Bourla was among the dozens of pharmaceutical executives to sign a letter calling for an immediate reversal of the ruling, citing the “uncertainty for the entire biopharma industry.”

“If courts can overturn drug approvals without regard for science or evidence, or for the complexity required to fully vet the safety and efficacy of new drugs, any medicine is at risk for the same outcome as mifepristone,” the letter said.

And William Schultz, former deputy commissioner for the FDA and former general counsel for HHS, said the decision "could allow virtually anyone to challenge any FDA drug approval decision with a good chance of succeeding."

"Any FDA drug approval involves hundreds of judgments by the agency. If a court feels free just to kind of take a fresh look at each of those, there's a chance that a court will find one of those judgments is wrong," Schultz said.

HHS did not immediately respond to a request for comment on Monday.

### **What happened in Washington state and how does it affect the Texas ruling?**

Just after Kacsmaryk's ruling, U.S. District Court Judge Thomas Rice in the Eastern District of Washington issued a conflicting order that blocks the FDA from rolling back access to the pills in the dozen blue states and Washington D.C. that brought the lawsuit. This seeming contradiction is one reason many believe the case is headed to the Supreme Court.

The Department of Justice on Monday asked the judge in Washington state to clarify the injunction while Danco, which manufactures and sells mifepristone under the name Mifeprex, and the Department of Justice have filed appeals to the conservative-leaning 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals.

Donley noted that it is technically possible for the FDA to comply with both rulings by using its enforcement discretion to look the other way if companies distribute a drug that no longer has the agency's approval.

"The only way for the FDA to comply with both orders is to allow the drug to become unapproved ... but then issue a guidance document or something similar saying 'We are not going to enforce the Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act against the manufacturers and distributors of mifepristone, so long as those manufacturers and distributors follow these carefully articulated rules,'" she said.

### **Would that work?**

Andrew Pincus, a visiting lecturer at Yale Law School and an experienced Supreme Court and appellate attorney, said that may not be enough assurance for manufacturers and other potentially liable entities.

"It's not clear that enforcement discretion is a route to give them the assurance they need," Pincus said.

### **What would happen if mifepristone is removed from the market?**

Misoprostol, the second drug in the two-pill regimen used for medication abortions, will still be available for patients across the country even if mifepristone is banned. The drug isn't subject to the FDA's drug safety program like mifepristone because it's used for many non-abortion purposes, including treating stomach ulcers, making it harder to challenge and ban. Although the drug is commonly used alone for abortions in other countries, it has slightly higher rates of requiring surgery to complete an abortion than using misoprostol and mifepristone together.

"It would be devastating from a lot of different perspectives and there would be a lot of patients who would be left with a less-optimal regimen to manage pregnancy loss and abortion care,"

Jennifer Villavicencio, an OB-GYN and member of leadership at the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, told reporters on Monday.

In theory, Danco — or any other drug maker — could also resubmit an application for mifepristone’s approval. However, it could take two to three years for a drug maker and the FDA to go through another approval process, said Kirsten Moore, the director of the Expanding Medication Abortion Access Project, on a press call.

**Why are drugmakers so concerned?** The pharmaceutical industry said the Texas lawsuit could curb drug development in the U.S. and throw the regulatory framework FDA uses to approve drugs into question if the case is upheld by higher courts.

“This decision has ramifications that extend well beyond this case, setting a dangerous precedent for undermining the FDA and creating regulatory uncertainty that will impede the development of important new treatments and therapies,” Biotechnology Innovation Organization interim CEO Rachel King said on Saturday.

If the Supreme Court upholds Kacsmayk’s decision, the industry would likely push Congress to pass legislation to cement the FDA’s authority, according to John Murphy, chief policy officer and deputy general counsel of healthcare at BIO.

“If that were to survive through sort of a theoretical SCOTUS challenge, you really have to look at Congress to ensure we get back to having FDA in the driver’s seat here,” Murphy said.

### **What are Democratic governors doing to support mifepristone access while the case winds its way through the courts?**

Massachusetts Gov. Maura Healey announced Monday that she has requested UMass Amherst and state-contracted health care providers to stockpile mifepristone and issued an executive order “confirming protections for medication abortion under existing state law.”

The university purchased about 15,000 doses last week to ensure coverage for more than a year, with more doses expected to be purchased, and Healy is also allocating \$1 million to help providers who are contracted with the state Department of Public Health purchase the drug.

The move comes on the heels of an announcement from Washington Gov. Jay Inslee who is having his Department of Corrections purchase a three-year supply of mifepristone. State lawmakers have introduced legislation to allow the department to sell mifepristone to licensed health providers across the state.

And in California, Gov. Gavin Newsom announced the state has secured an “emergency stockpile” of up to 2 million misoprostol pills, with 250,000 pills having already arrived in the state.

*To view online [click here](#).*

## **New York stockpiles abortion pills after FDA approval suspended [\(back\)](#)**

By Maya Kaufman

NEW YORK — New York state will create a stockpile of the abortion pill misoprostol to ensure continuing access to medication abortions after a Texas judge invalidated federal approval of mifepristone, another drug commonly used in medication abortions.

The New York State Department of Health will immediately begin efforts to stockpile 150,000 doses — a five-year supply — to meet anticipated needs, Gov. Kathy Hochul announced Tuesday. While the purchasing process is currently being finalized, preliminary estimates for the five-year supply of Misoprostol come to approximately \$100,000, according to the governor's office.

Hochul said the state is prepared to devote an additional \$20 million to support abortion providers should the mifepristone ruling stand, building on [a \\$35 million investment](#) launched last year in the wake of the Supreme Court's decision overturning the constitutional right to an abortion.

She and the state Legislature are also working on a bill that would require private insurers to cover misoprostol when prescribed off-label for abortion and ensure that providers do not lose medical malpractice coverage or face higher rates for coverage due to prescribing the drug off-label.

Misoprostol is FDA-approved for use as an ulcer drug, not a standalone abortion pill, but it can be prescribed off-label for medication abortion and other purposes.

Medication abortions are typically performed using both mifepristone and misoprostol, but experts say a misoprostol-only regimen is a safe and effective alternative.

“Judges have made it clear that they won't stop at any one particular drug or service, so it's going to ensure that New Yorkers will continue to have access to medication abortion no matter what,” Hochul said at a press conference hosted by Planned Parenthood of Greater New York.

Hochul's initiative to create a state misoprostol stockpile follows in the footsteps of California and other Democrat-led states that are [stocking up on abortion pills](#) amid uncertainty about the legal status of mifepristone.

The ruling by U.S. District Court Judge Matthew Kacsmaryk in Amarillo, Texas, an appointee of former President Donald Trump, is slated to go into effect Friday.

California Gov. Gavin Newsom said Monday the state had purchased 250,000 misoprostol pills and negotiated the purchase of up to 2 million more, and Washington Gov. Jay Inslee said last week that the state bought 40,000 doses of mifepristone.

Massachusetts plans to purchase roughly 15,000 doses of mifepristone through the state university system and set aside \$1 million to help state-contracted clinicians obtain the pills, Gov. Maura Healey said Monday.

Kacsmark's ruling that suspends the FDA's approval of mifepristone — combined with a conflicting order from a Washington state judge that blocks the FDA from rolling back access to the medication in certain states — created uncertainty around the drug's legality.

But abortion providers in New York are already preparing in the event that Kacsmark's ruling goes into effect.

Mayor Eric Adams said NYC Health + Hospitals, the municipal health system, is prepared to switch to the misoprostol-only regimen. And Gabriela Aguilar, medical director for Planned Parenthood of Greater New York, said the organization will shift to using just misoprostol if it is forced to stop administering mifepristone.

*To view online [click here](#).*

### **Appeals court keeps abortion pill on the market but sharply limits access ([back](#))**

By Kyle Cheney, Josh Gerstein and Alice Miranda Ollstein

A federal appeals court ruled late Wednesday that an abortion pill can remain on the market but only under strict conditions that prohibit its use beyond seven weeks of pregnancy and bar its distribution by mail.

In a [42-page decision](#), a three-judge panel of the 5th Circuit Court of Appeals agreed to temporarily block the central aspect of a Texas-based federal judge's ruling that [suspended the FDA's 2000 approval](#) of the drug, mifepristone. But by a 2-1 vote, the panel permitted other aspects of that ruling to take effect that would block a seven-year effort by the FDA to widen access to the drug.

Among the policies temporarily blocked by the appeals court's decision: the FDA's decision to expand mifepristone's availability until the 10th week of pregnancy; authorization for retail pharmacies to dispense the drug; eliminating the requirement for in-person office visits to obtain a mifepristone prescription and allowing physicians to prescribe the pills via telemedicine; allowing non-physicians to prescribe or administer the drug; and ending a requirement for prescribers to report "non-fatal adverse events" related to mifepristone.

Reining in the drug's availability while keeping it on the market is likely to dramatically diminish its usefulness to patients seeking to terminate pregnancies in Republican-led states where severe restrictions on abortion kicked in or were passed after the Supreme Court overturned the federal constitutional right to abortion last June. The decision will also significantly hamper access in blue states that have sought to maintain broad access to the pills — both for their own residents and for the surge of patients traveling across state lines to terminate their pregnancies.

Mifepristone has been used for decades in combination with another drug, misoprostol, to induce abortions in the first trimester of pregnancy. It now accounts for more than half of all abortions in the United States.

The Biden administration and abortion rights activists have sought to ease access to abortion medication by mail as an alternative to surgical abortion, which is easier for states to restrict as a practical matter.

Anti-abortion groups, aware that mifepristone is being used to circumvent state bans, sued to revoke the 23-year-old federal approval of the drug as well as the FDA's more recent policies to expand its access. Last week, Judge Matthew Kacsmaryk, a Texas-based appointee of former President Donald Trump, suspended both the original approval and the expanded-access policies, setting up what is likely the most consequential legal battle over abortion since the high court's 5-4 decision last June overturning *Roe v. Wade* after nearly half a century.

The Justice Department confirmed Thursday that it will ask the Supreme Court to intervene immediately.

"The Justice Department strongly disagrees with the Fifth Circuit's decision in *Alliance for Hippocratic Medicine v. FDA* to deny in part our request for a stay pending appeal," Attorney General Merrick Garland said in a statement. "We will be seeking emergency relief from the Supreme Court to defend the FDA's scientific judgment and protect Americans' access to safe and effective reproductive care."

Alliance Defending Freedom, which represents the anti-abortion groups seeking to block access to the medication, told reporters on a call Thursday that they see the appeals court's decision as a "significant victory" and have "no immediate plans" to appeal it.

But Erin Hawley, ADF's senior counsel in the case, stressed that they will continue pushing to have the FDA's original approval of mifepristone overturned.

"We anticipate that we might be able to persuade the Fifth Circuit on a fuller briefing that the 2000 ruling is in play," she said. "But for now, we've got a great victory in the fact that there are now three required doctor visits to make sure women are safe, and the FDA complies with the rule of law."

Danco, the manufacturer of the brand name version of mifepristone, said the company "remains unchanged in its commitment to do all that we can" to protect access to the drug. Danco intervened in the lawsuit to help defend the FDA's approval of the drug.

If the Supreme Court does not step in, the 5th Circuit's ruling limiting access to the drug will take effect at the end of this week. The appeals court panel consisted of Judges Andrew Oldham and Kurt Engelhardt, who are both Trump appointees, and Judge Catharina Haynes, an appointee of former President George W. Bush. Haynes indicated she would have kept Kacsmaryk's entire ruling on hold until a subsequent panel had a chance to consider the merits of the case.

Oldham and Engelhardt said suspending the original approval of mifepristone would have untenable consequences, but in a ruling issued shortly before midnight on Wednesday, they defended their decision to allow the other portions of Kacsmaryk's ruling to stand.

"This is an exceedingly unusual regime," the judges wrote, referring to the FDA's relaxation of restrictions around the drug. They said the agency "chose to cut out doctors from the prescription and administration of mifepristone." And they disputed the agency's contention that the drug is just as safe as ibuprofen.

The Justice Department defended the drug's safety record earlier this week in [court papers](#). "FDA made those changes after fifteen years of adverse event data that showed 'known risks occurring rarely,'" the government's lawyers wrote. "By that point, mifepristone's 'well-characterized safety profile' was firmly established. Serious adverse events were 'exceedingly rare,' as demonstrated by eleven different studies and data from 'well over 30,000 patients.'"

The appeals court opinion — like Kacsmaryk's ruling last week — frequently deployed language more commonly associated with anti-abortion advocates, such as referring to the medication as "chemical abortion" and the follow-up procedure sometimes needed after a patient takes the pills in the first few weeks of pregnancy as "remov[ing] an unborn child."

Kacsmaryk's ruling appeared to be the first time that a judge ever suspended the FDA's approval of a drug, according to legal experts. Few conservative legal authorities stepped forward to defend the ruling, which the the Justice Department faulted for an "extravagant" interpretation of legal standing.

At an event Wednesday focused on reproductive rights, Vice President Kamala Harris said Kacsmaryk's decision amounted to "what could very righteously be considered a nationwide ban."

Flanked by Attorney General Merrick Garland and Health and Human Services Secretary Xavier Becerra, Harris stopped just short of accusing Kacsmaryk of acting for political, rather than legal, reasons.

"We have, in effect, a situation where politicians and politics have driven lawyers to go to a court of law where a judge who is not a medical professional is making a decision to undo the ruling 20 — over 20 — years ago of the FDA that declared a specific medication safe and effective for the American people," the vice president said.

Garland also warned that permitting judges to second-guess drug approval decisions would invite future challenges going far beyond the abortion drug in question.

"This could happen to any medication that Americans rely on, no matter how essential it is. And no matter how long ago it was approved," the attorney general said.

The president of the American Medical Association, Jack Resneck Jr., issued a similar warning Thursday morning in response to the 5th Circuit's ruling, saying the decision "would still roll

back mifepristone access, favor ideology and pseudoscience over facts, harm patients and establish dangerous precedent of judges without scientific training overriding FDA expertise.”

Anti-abortion groups cheered the middle-of-the-night ruling as an endorsement of their core criticisms of the FDA.

“From a pro-life perspective, this very evidence-based rejection of Biden's weakened health and safety standards for chemical abortion pills is good news for women,” Kristi Hamrick, the spokesperson for Students for Life, said in a statement. “A sloppy, Roe v. Wade mentality allowed the drug to proceed as it impacted the preborn in the first months of life. But those issues are being looked at now.”

Kacsmaryk’s decision last week was handed down just minutes before another federal judge, who sits in Spokane, Wash., issued an order requiring the FDA to maintain current procedures for access to the drug in 17 states and Washington, D.C. U.S. District Court Judge Thomas Rice acted at the request of state attorneys general who filed a suit challenging the FDA’s remaining restrictions on mifepristone as unnecessary and unjustified.

The dueling decisions appeared to pull federal authorities in different directions, although it was unclear whether they were in direct conflict.

On Monday, Justice Department attorneys asked Rice to clarify his order in light of the ruling from Texas. He has not yet responded to the request.

The 5th Circuit panel said Rice’s order did not impact their ruling. “We cannot embrace an argument that would, in effect, allow the decision of an out-of-circuit district court to impel us towards ‘extraordinary’ relief that would be otherwise inappropriate,” the appeals court panel’s majority wrote.

Abortion providers around the country say they are preparing to administer medication abortions using misoprostol alone if courts cut off access to mifepristone. While misoprostol-only abortions have been common in other countries for many years and groups including the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists consider them safe and effective, they carry a higher rate of complication and more severe side effects than the two pills used together.

*To view online [click here](#).*

**Sanders, Cassidy postpone drug pricing markup to get expert feedback ([back](#))**

By Megan R. Wilson

The Senate HELP Committee had hoped to hold a hearing on a bipartisan drug pricing bill shortly after the spring recess, but it appears it's being postponed as the panel gathers intel and hears privately from industry experts.

The panel, led by Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.), hoped to mark up the yet-to-be-seen legislation focused on pharmaceutical middlemen and generic drug policy on April 19, POLITICO previously reported.

But closed-door roundtables with experts and representatives from the pharmacy benefit manager and generics industries are prolonging the timeline, according to committee documents and a congressional aide familiar with the process.

While it's unclear exactly what the legislation will say, policymakers have a number of bipartisan options to pull from as they craft the bill — including some provisions from a 2019 offering introduced by former Sen. Lamar Alexander (R-Tenn.), who chaired the health panel at the time, and Sen. Patty Murray (D-Wash.).

The committee is hosting a private roundtable with biosimilars experts on Wednesday afternoon and held one to hear from generics industry experts on Monday, according to documents obtained by POLITICO.

“We are still waiting on a significant amount of technical assistance, which is not unreasonable with the compressed timeline, but we are still making good progress on a bipartisan basis,” said a Republican HELP Committee staffer granted anonymity to discuss internal process for the markup.

Sanders spokesperson Freeland Ellis declined to comment when asked when the committee plans to hold the markup.

Here's the guest list for Wednesday's biosimilars roundtable:

- • **Eric Foster**, the managing principal of market access consulting and analytics at research organization IQVIA
- • **Hans Sauer**, the deputy general counsel and vice president for intellectual property at the Biotechnology Innovation Organization, the industry group for biotechnology companies
- • **Eva Temkin**, a partner in the FDA and life sciences practice at King & Spalding, a law and lobbying firm, and former director for policy at the FDA's Office of Therapeutic Biologics and Biosimilars
- • **Mark Trusheim**, a consultant for biotech companies who is a visiting scientist at the MIT Sloan School of Management and strategic director of the MIT New Drug Development Paradigms Initiative

And Monday's roundtable of experts:

- • **Rena Conti**, a researcher and associate professor at Boston University's Questrom School of Business

- • **David Gaugh**, interim CEO of the Association for Accessible Medicines, the industry group representing the makers of generic drugs and biosimilars
- • **Scott Gottlieb**, former commissioner of the Food and Drug Administration and senior fellow at the American Enterprise Institute
- • **Erika Lietzan**, a law professor at the University of Missouri School of Law and former partner of the food and drug group at law and lobbying firm Covington & Burling

**Why it matters:** The effort to craft the bill has already been on a tight timeline.

In mid-March, top health staffers for Sanders and Sen. [Bill Cassidy](#) (R-La.), the HELP Committee's ranking Republican, reached out to other committee member offices, notifying a planned markup for a bipartisan drug pricing bill focused on generic drugs and PBMs “early in the next work period” — meaning soon after the April break.

The legislative push comes amid efforts to increase access to cheaper generic medicines and critiques about the lack of transparency of the business practices of pharmacy benefit managers, the middlemen that negotiate discounts with pharmaceutical companies and decide which drugs insurance plans will cover.

— *David Lim contributed reporting*

To view online [click here](#).

### **Future uncertain at generic drug lobby as cuts threaten its influence** ([back](#))

By Megan R. Wilson

Simmering tensions inside one of the nation’s leading trade organizations for generic drugmakers could threaten its lobbying clout at a crucial time for the industry.

The Association for Accessible Medicines has lost some members or reduced dues to keep others, contributing to the need for budget cuts that culminated in layoffs of top public affairs, trade policy and advocacy executives, as [POLITICO previously reported](#).

The slimdown is happening while the organization attempts to raise its profile with the public and policymakers and is still without a permanent CEO after its former leader stepped down at the end of 2022.

And its challenges come as the \$93 billion generics industry, which is financially outgunned by brand-name drugmakers, is also trying to convince Congress and state legislatures to help expand access to generic and biosimilar medicines.

Ten people with knowledge of the association’s inner workings said the turmoil imperils the industry’s position in Washington. The people — including former employees, people who’ve worked in association management and lobbyists who’ve represented generic drugmakers — were granted anonymity to discuss the sensitive topic.

“In baseball, there’s something called the golden sombrero — it’s when a guy strikes out four times in a game. It’s really embarrassing,” said an executive who has worked at several health care trade associations and was given anonymity to speak about the situation. “Their golden sombrero is a dysfunctional board, no money, no staff, no agenda. That’s a pretty bad combination.”

In an email to POLITICO, AAM broadly disputed the characterization, saying the organization is “right-sized” and its board is united in its defense of an industry critical to American medicine, accounting for 91 percent of drugs sold in the U.S. but 18 percent of spending on medicines.

“No other sector helps patients afford their health care as much as the generic and biosimilar industries,” the association said in the email.

Further, the group is still active on Capitol Hill. This week, interim CEO David Gaugh was part of a small, closed-door roundtable of experts advising the Senate HELP Committee as it works to draft drug pricing legislation covering generic drugs and pharmacy benefit managers.

Several of the people who spoke to POLITICO said that AAM — and its new board chair, Christine Baeder, a Teva Pharmaceuticals executive — has a promising vision for elevating the generic and biosimilar drug industries. However, they worry the group may be too under-resourced to execute it. Teva didn’t respond to requests for comment.

The association has tried to cut costs and scale down its budget, especially after generic drugmaker Mylan, now Viatris, left in 2020 and took a hefty portion of dues with it.

This year, AAM is slashing its budget by more than \$4 million, according to four people familiar with the figure — an almost 20 percent cut that would bring the group’s war chest to roughly \$19 million, the lowest in seven years. The association disputed those amounts but declined to provide figures to correct them.

Top executives — head lobbyist Erik Komendant, top communications staffer Allen Goldberg and the person in charge of trade and international issues, Jonathan Kimball — were laid off as part of the cuts, and their positions eliminated, Gaugh, who has worked at AAM for more than a decade, told board members in an email first reported by POLITICO.

Almost all of AAM’s revenue comes from member dues, tax disclosures show. That’s not uncommon for industry groups, but AAM in particular relies heavily on its larger members, including Teva, the association’s largest dues payer.

Most of AAM’s 23 members are small or medium-sized companies, and two-thirds are based overseas, some of which only have small U.S. operations — a dynamic multiple people said also leads to some of them underappreciating the need to invest in Washington.

That leaves AAM potentially vulnerable to its larger members such as Teva or Sandoz having an outsized impact on the trade group’s revenue, should they decide to depart. Three smaller companies departed the association, according to the list on AAM’s website. It added one new member.

Leslie Pott, a spokesperson for Sandoz, said a strong industry association in Washington and the states is crucial because “one member company cannot do this alone,” calling this year “a watershed year for biosimilars.”

“We are confident that the association is on the right path, is being thoughtful in leadership choices and priority choices (which we all own as member companies), and will be effective in the future strategies and campaigns we decide to put our muscle behind together,” Pott wrote in an email.

The generics industry is lobbying the federal government to help with a myriad of issues including supply chain problems that have led to shortages of popular drugs including amoxicillin, generic Adderall, children’s acetaminophen — the generic version of Tylenol — and albuterol sulfate, the medicine in asthma inhalers.

‘An inflection point’

Several high-level staff left AAM last year, including Food and Drug Law Institute CEO Christine Simmon, who led AAM’s Biosimilars Council, and lobbyists Polly Webster and Joe Russo, who both took jobs on Capitol Hill. Then-CEO Dan Leonard resigned in December after a tumultuous two years at the helm. Leonard declined to comment about his tenure.

The association is now down to 19 people after the departures, layoffs and the exit of Steve Selde, the former director of its Biosimilars Council, who departed for the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services in March to help implement the Inflation Reduction Act.

There are two federal lobbyists in AAM’s government affairs shop, Katherine Raab and Peter Kelbel, and three lobbyists handling state issues. AAM told POLITICO it wants to add a third lobbyist to its federal team and will be filling positions in other areas. However, its stable of lobbying, public relations, research, advertising and legal firms is likely to shrink, said five people familiar with the situation.

AAM wouldn’t disclose which firms have been cut but told POLITICO it has “made deliberate and sound financial decisions for the association, in partnership with our board, and landed where we need to be.”

“AAM is at an inflection point which has led us to right-size the organization,” AAM’s email said. “The right positions are in place; the right staff are in those positions; and the right resources — both internal and external — are in place.”

A diminished trade group for generics and biosimilars could have negative consequences for its members: Only eight of its 23 member companies employ in-house lobbyists in Washington, outside firms or both. Three others disbanded their lobbying representation in recent years, disclosures show.

“This is an industry that was born from government action, with Hatch-Waxman,” said one of the people knowledgeable about the group’s inner workings, referring to the law named after former Sen. Orrin Hatch (R-Utah) and former Rep. Henry Waxman (D-Calif.) that established the generic drug market. It “should be super sensitive to how the government can affect their business and the need to stay engaged. Instead, it’s gone the opposite way.”

‘The trade association it deserves’ Manufacturers operate on ultra-thin margins that don't incentivize production or investments in generic medicines. Several people familiar with the industry noted that the intense, sometimes zero-sum competition can cause friction among member companies.

“They need to be able to look at [the policy landscape] with a broader prism,” said one of those people. “A lot of them lack that. As a result, the board doesn't have cohesiveness.”

Additionally, one-third of the board seats are filled by company executives below the president or CEO level, which six people knowledgeable about association management said can be problematic because chief executives are the ultimate decisionmakers at their companies — everyone has to check with them.

“There's an old saying at trade associations: Sometimes the board of directors gets the trade association it deserves. And if you don't have the right people sitting at that table, then the stability of the association can come under stress” because there's a risk of “not having the level of buy-in you need from your leading members,” said one of the six people, another executive who has worked at health care industry groups.

Board members “are selected by their company's leadership and receive their full support,” regardless of their position at the company, AAM said in its emailed statement. “In all instances, the AAM board member ably represents the company.”

AAM also refuted the idea that it has a discordant membership — all of which have a board seat — saying that they are, and have been, in agreement about the association's decisions about policy priorities and how it allocates its resources.

“As is the case with most trade associations, and AAM is no different, individual members have a unique set of business objectives and bring their own value to the table, but they share a common purpose,” despite having “substantial continued pressures facing our industry and the market around us,” the group said.

'An important voice'

AAM is now trying to capitalize on the message that the industry lowers Americans' health care costs, recently unveiling a social media campaign meant to remind people how generics “do so much for them for so little money,” Baeder, AAM's new board chair, said of the debut at its February conference.

But while companies are enthusiastic about the concept — urging people to use the hashtag #4GRxANTED on posts talking about things they take for granted but shouldn't — the backstory of its branding efforts is an illustration of the group's struggles.

It had been pushed by Amneal CEO Chirag Patel, who'd circumvented the normal succession process to chair AAM's board last year by calling member executives — sometimes going above the person from a company already on the board — and asking to lead it, said five people with knowledge of the situation.

Patel, who people described as intently focused on the initiative, insisted on retaining his preferred branding consultant — a choice that riled some board members and AAM employees, the five people said. Amneal didn't respond to requests for comment.

Amneal's senior vice president of regulatory strategy and policy took over the company's spot when Patel stepped down from the board, as he'd planned, after his one-year term as chair.

AAM said Amneal, and Patel specifically, have been "an important voice" at the association since 2007. It acknowledged Patel "spearheaded this effort" after "generously donating his time" to chair the board, noting he "was unanimously voted into that position by the full board."

"Bringing in an outside reputation consultant was one step in a thoughtful and deliberate process to build a successful campaign," AAM said, of the #4GRxANTED initiative, which so far hasn't gained much traction on social media. The group says it will "kick off, in full," this month.

*To view online [click here](#).*

## **White House says a horse sedative is an 'emerging threat' to public health [\(back\)](#)**

By Carmen Paun

The White House Office of National Drug Control Policy said today that the horse sedative xylazine is showing up in an increasing number of fentanyl overdoses and is an emerging threat to public health.

The designation, which Congress created in [a 2018 law](#) aimed at combating the opioid epidemic, obligates the administration to form a plan to combat it.

Because xylazine, also known as Tranq, is not an opioid, it makes it harder to reverse fentanyl overdoses with opioid antagonists like naloxone.

Furthermore, those who survive taking Tranq-laced fentanyl can develop severe wounds and rotting human tissue requiring amputation.

The number of overdose deaths where xylazine was detected increased by more than 1,000 percent between 2020 and 2021 in the South, according to the Drug Enforcement Administration, with several-hundred-fold increases in other parts of the country.

**Why it matters:** An emerging threat designation obligates the administration to take steps to combat the drug.

Rahul Gupta, director of the drug control policy office, said the White House will:

— Increase testing capacity for xylazine, which is uneven across the U.S. and makes it hard to get a countrywide picture of the threat. "We also need to develop a point-of-care xylazine test, usable for real-time testing and care," Gupta said.

- Create a comprehensible data system, updated regularly, to inform the national picture and local response.
- Develop health interventions. The Office of National Drug Control Policy will bring together experts to identify the most promising approaches in clinical stabilization, withdrawal management and treatment protocols.
- Attack the illicit supply chain of xylazine, by having public health and public safety officials learn more about the drug’s trade routes so law enforcement can disrupt them.
- Regulate the drug. The Biden administration will look at whether scheduling xylazine or the broader class of substances used to adulterate fentanyl makes sense, Gupta said, adding: “We also must maintain the legitimate supply of xylazine that’s needed for veterinary medicine.”
- Conduct research. “We need an approved xylazine antidote and to determine the best possible treatment for it,” Gupta said.

**What’s next:** The White House has 90 days to publish its response plan.

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<b>To:</b> (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=9424ce352ba14c278bd21a84fe92e45c-Sullivan, R <Rose.Sullivan@hhs.gov>
<b>Subject:</b> FW: Week 4: the Final Table
<b>Date:</b> 2022/08/07 17:15:39
<b>Priority:</b> Normal
<b>Type:</b> Note

**From:** Simmons, Maalik (Durbin)  
**Sent:** Sunday, August 7, 2022 5:14:45 PM (UTC-05:00) Eastern Time (US & Canada)  
**To:** D-321FLOORLSIT@LISTS.SENATE.GOV  
**Subject:** Week 4: the Final Table

Good Afternoon,

H.R.5376, the Inflation Reduction Act was passed by a roll call vote of 50-50, with the Vice President voting in the affirmative.

Looking ahead, the Senate will hold pro-forma sessions with no business conducted on the following dates and times:

Tuesday, August 9th at 9:00 a.m.;  
Friday, August 12th at 9:00 a.m.;  
Tuesday, August 16th at 8:00 a.m.;  
Friday, August 19th at 2:30 p.m.;  
Tuesday, August 23rd at 10:30 a.m.;  
Friday, August 26th at 10:00 a.m.;  
Tuesday, August 30th at 10:00 a.m.; and  
Friday, September 2nd at 9:00 a.m.

Cloture has been filed on the following nominations:

1. John Z. Lee to be United States Circuit Judge for the Seventh Circuit
2. Andre B. Mathis to be United States Circuit Judge for the Sixth Circuit

The Senate will next be in full session at 3pm on Tuesday September 6<sup>th</sup>.

At approximately 5:30pm, the Senate will vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the Lee nomination.

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**From:** Simmons, Maalik (Durbin) <Maalik\_Simmons@durbin.senate.gov>  
**Sent:** Sunday, August 7, 2022 8:20 AM

**To:** Simmons, Maalik (Durbin) <Maalik\_Simmons@durbin.senate.gov>

**Subject:** RE: Week 4: the Final Table

At 8:13am, the Senate began a 10 minute roll call vote on Cruz amendment to strike the \$80,000,000,000 slush fund for the Internal Revenue Service to prevent the hiring of 87,000 new Internal Revenue Service employees that will surveil and audit the private account information and transaction data of innocent Americans and small businesses (5263).

Next expected votes:

Expected motion to waive re: Warnock amendment to make health care coverage available to lower income adults in States that have not expanded Medicaid (5262)

1. Daines amendment to strike provisions relating to the offshore oil and gas royalty rate, onshore oil and gas royalty rates, the elimination of noncompetitive leasing, and royalties on extracted methane. (5425)
2. Sanders amendment to modify the bill. (5281)
3. Ernst amendment to reduce the cost of the bill by eliminating taxpayer subsidies for slave and child labor to build luxury vehicles that largely benefit the wealthy. (5361)
4. Fischer amendment to amend the taxpayer income threshold and MSRP limitation with respect to the credit for new clean vehicles. (5360)
5. Cruz amendment to provide for certain conditions on the export to China of crude oil from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve. (5265)
6. Kennedy amendment to provide for discounted insulin for low- and middle-income Americans. (5385)
7. Motion to waive the budget with respect to Insulin.

8. Thune amendment to remove harmful small business taxes, and for other purposes. (5472)
9. Hagerty amendment to amend the International Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal the amendments made to reporting of third party network transactions by the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021. (5485)
10. Portman amendment to replace the provision regarding the Office of the Chief Readiness Support Officer with a \$500,000,000 appropriation for the detection of illegal narcotics, including opioids. (5224)
11. Hoeven motion to commit.
12. Cruz motion to commit (re: vaccines).
13. Cruz motion to commit (re: targeting parents).

#### Amendments Filed to H.R. 5376

- Wicker MTC to To Banking to establish a China Economic Data Coordination Center (1)
- Wicker MTC Finance for a tax credit for long-term investments in community development institutions (2)
- Schumer Amendment in the nature of a substitute (5194)
- Tillis MTC To Judiciary to bar aliens who fail to appear at hearing from getting immigration benefits (3)
- Tillis MTC To Judiciary to increase H-2B visa by 132,000 per fiscal year (4)
- Tillis MTC To Judiciary to require USCIS plan on reducing employment-based visa backlog(5)
- Tillis MTC To Judiciary to prohibit end to Title 42 until COVID national emergency ends (6)
- Tillis MTC To Judiciary to recapture 75,000 employment-based visas from 2020 and 2021(7)
- Tillis MTC To Judiciary to hire 2,500 ICE officers to focus on removal operations (8)

- Tillis MTC To Judiciary to hire 2,500 ICE officers for removal of sex offenders, rapists, child molesters (9)
- Tillis MTC To Judiciary to hire 2,500 ICE officers for removal of identify theft, benefit fraud, unlawful employment (10)
- Tillis MTC To Judiciary to hire 2,500 ICE officers for removal of gang, felony, drunk driving (11)
- Tillis MTC To Judiciary to hire magistrate and district judges and increase illegal crossing prosecutions (12)
- Tillis MTC To Judiciary to amend standard for frivolous asylum claim to "willfully blind" (13)
- Tillis MTC To Finance to prohibit IRS from targeting religious nonprofits & protect their tax-exempt status (14)
- Sasse MTC To Finance to ensure children born alive during an abortion receive same level of care (15)
- Sasse MTC To Finance to prohibit clean tech manufacturing tax credit from being used in China (16)
- Rubio MTC To HELP for Pregnant Students Rights Act (17)
- Rubio MTC To HELP to define pregnancy (18)
- Rubio MTC To ENR for permitting reform; prioritize Mountain Valley & Northern Lights Expansion Pipelines (19)
- Rubio MTC To Judiciary for pre-trial detention of dangerous criminals (20)
- Rubio MTC To Finance to support domestic IP and supply chain for pharmaceuticals against China (21)
- Tillis MTC To Banking to expedite distribution of CDBG disaster recovery funds by state grantees (22)
- Tillis MTC To Ag to limit CCC funds to only direct support to producers and ag processors (23)
- Tillis MTC To HELP to allow livestock producers to use H-2A visas (24)
- Tillis MTC To HELP for private and charter schools (25)
- Tillis MTC To HELP to protect state's jurisdiction to authorize charter school openings (26)
- Tillis MTC To Finance to increase the dependent care assistance program limitation (27)
- Tillis MTC To Finance to allow equal access to child care options, including family and faith-based (28)
- Tillis MTC To VA to help address staffing shortages at VA health care facilities (29)
- Tillis MTC To Finance to extend the life of the Federal Hospital Insurance Trust Fund (30)
- Tillis MTC To Finance to protect long-term investments in medical research (31)
- Tillis MTC To HELP to ensure that people who like their health insurance can keep it (32)
- Tillis MTC To Finance to waive 15% minimum tax for companies building in US/reshoring supply chain (33)
- Tillis MTC To Banking to place limitations on who can serve as acting chair of the FDIC (34)

- Tillis MTC To Finance to pair increased funding to IRS with increased penalties for leaking information (35)
- Thune MTC To Indian Affairs to move tribal climate resiliency funds to tribal public safety and justice (36)
- Thune MTC To Finance to prevent tax increase on incomes of \$400,000 or less (37)
- Thune MTC To Finance to reallocate \$80 billion in IRS funds to provide tax relief (38)
- Thune MTC To HELP to prevent the president from forgiving student loans for high-income people (39)
- Thune MTC To Finance to reallocate \$43 billion in tax enforcement funds to USCBP (40)
- Rubio MTC To Judiciary to ensure prosecutors and law enforcement are addressing violent crime (41)
- Ernst MTC To EPW to prevent methane permitting requirements on farmers and ranchers (42)
- Ernst MTC To HELP to waive the FDA application fee for regular, routine oral contraceptives (43)
- Romney Amendment to Income cap on temporary increase in premium tax credit (5196)
- Cramer MTC To EPW to have GSA identify and sell unused government office space (44)
- Cramer MTC To HSGAC to fund the completion of the southern border wall between the U.S. & Mexico (45)
- Cramer MTC To Finance to strike provisions that preclude administrative/judicial review in DPNP (46)
- Lankford MTC To Finance to ensure conscience protections for health care providers (47)
- Lankford MTC To Finance to assess a user fee on electric vehicle operators and provide to Hwy. Trust Fund (48)
- Lankford MTC To ENR to increase domestic oil and gas exports to Europe (49)
- Lankford MTC To Finance to treat all energy companies equally under minimum tax provisions (50)
- Lankford MTC To Finance to prevent tax increase on domestic manufacturers (51)
- Lankford MTC to Finance to prevent business tax increases if borne by workers or consumers (52)
- Lankford MTC To Finance to incentivize new drug development (53)
- Lankford MTC To Finance for generics in Medicare part D (54)
- Lankford MTC To Finance to prevent funding for gender transition procedures on children (55)
- Lankford MTC To ENR to increase domestic oil and gas production (56)
- Lankford MTC To ENR to build pipeline infrastructure and capacity (57)
- Lankford MTC To Finance to ensure no tax benefits for forced labor in Xinjiang (58)
- Lankford MTC To Finance to ensure IRS improves privacy protections and stops illegal disclosure (59)
- Lankford MTC To HSGAC to study causes and costs of the border crisis (60)
- Lankford To Finance to ensure Medicare savings not used for non-Medicare spending (61)

- Cruz To HSGAC to ensure no covid vaccine mandate in DC schools (62)
- Cruz MTC To Finance for no IRS funds to target religious nonprofits (63)
- Cruz MTC To Judiciary to prevent DOJ from directing fines to parties other than parties to the case or the U.S. (64)
- Cruz MTC To Finance for tax credit for remediation of covid learning loss (65)
- Cruz MTC To Judiciary to prevent DOJ targeting parents as "domestic terrorists" (66)
- Cruz MTC To HELP to physically secure elementary and secondary schools (67)
- Cruz MTC To Finance to repeal Title I if inflation is above 1.4% in one year (68)
- Cruz MTC To Finance to ensure no tax increases for people making \$400,000 or less (69)
- Cornyn MTC To HSGAC to achieve full operational control of the southern border (70)
- Cornyn MTC To HELP to require background checks for all members in UAC placement households (71)
- Moran MTC To Finance to reduce inflation and create economic growth (72)
- Lankford Amendment To require the United States Postal Service to conduct a publicly available cost-benefit analysis to analyze costs versus savings of the purchase of electric delivery vehicles compared to internal combustion engine delivery vehicles, and to ensure that the purchased electric delivery vehicles are placed in areas and o routes that make the most economic sense. (5197)
- Lankford Amendment to limit the procurement of drugs manufactured with waived intellectual property rights unless the President certifies that the United States will not support any measure that weakens any provisions of the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights relating to a pharmaceutical, therapeutic, diagnostic, or other biotechnology commodity produced in the United States. (5198)
- Lankford Amendment to suspend the distribution of funds appropriated under this Act until all Afghan nationals living in the United States who appear on the biometrics-enabled watchlist have been apprehended. (5199)
- Lankford Amendment to prohibit the provision of support and incentives under provisions relating to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry to certain foreign persons. (5200)
- Lankford Amendment to strike the repeal of the prescription drug rebate rule. (5201)
- Lankford Amendment to require qualified manufacturers to certify that no forced labor was utilized in the production of specified property (5202)
- Lankford Amendment to strike section 60107 (regarding the low emissions electricity program). (5203)
- Lankford Amendment To strike the provision on the high-efficiency electric home rebate program (5204)
- Lankford Amendment To strike provisions relating to the offshore oil and gas royalty rate, Mineral Leasing Act modernization, royalties extracted on all extracted methane, and a methane emissions reduction program (5205)
- Lankford Amendment to limit the obligation or expenditure of amounts provided under the bill until other funds previously made available are expended. (5206)
- Paul Amendment To amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to increase the contribution limitations with respect to a health savings account, and for other purposes (5207)

- Sanders Amendment To extend the special rules for the child tax credit that applied for 2021 and to increase the corporate tax rate (5208)
- Sanders Amendment to establish a Civilian Climate Corps. (5209)
- Sanders Amendment to Cap costs for prescription Drugs under Medicare parts B and D (5210)
- Sanders Amendment to Cover dental, hearing, and vision under Medicare (5211)
- Hagerty Amendment To modify the amount appropriated to the Office of Inspector General of the Department of Energy (5212)
- Hagerty Amendment To modify the prohibition on the use of increased Internal Revenue Service funding for tax increases (5213)
- Hagerty Amendment To reallocate funding from the Office of the Chief Readiness Support Officer for enforcement, detention, and removal operations relating to illegal aliens who have committed homicide offenses in the United States (5214)
- Hagerty Amendment To reallocate funding from the Office of the Chief Readiness Support Officer for enforcement, detention, and removal operations relating to illegal aliens who have committed felony rape offenses in the United States (5215)
- Hagerty Amendment To reallocate funding from the Office of the Chief Readiness Officer for enforcement, detention, and removal operations relating to illegal aliens who have committed sexual offenses involving minors in the United States (5216)
- Hagerty Amendment To prohibit vehicles with batteries that include critical minerals that include critical minerals that were extracted or processed in certain counties from qualifying for the new clean vehicle credit (5217)
- Hagerty Amendment To reallocate funding from the United States Postal Service clean fleets to use for the enforcement, detention, and removal operations relating to illegal aliens who have committed felony criminal offenses in the United States (5218)
- Hagerty Amendment To increase funding for the detection of drugs and contraband entering the United States and for enforcement, detention, and removal operations relating to illegal aliens who have committed felony criminal offenses in the United States, and to decrease the additional funding to be provided for United States Postal Service clean fleets (5219)
- Hagerty Amendment To increase funding for the detection of drugs and contraband entering the United States and to decrease the additional funding to be provided for United States Postal Service clean fleets (5220)
- Hagerty Amendment To authorize FEMA to provide financial assistance for border wall construction and detention facilities for illegal aliens (5221)
- Hagerty MTC To EPW to prioritize domestic oil and gas production (73)
- Hagerty MTC To ENR to prioritize increasing domestic oil and gas production (74)
- Hagerty MTC To EPW reduce domestic regulation of oil and gas (75)
- Hagerty MTC To Ag to preclude states from regulating products more than federal government (76)
- Hagerty MTC To Ag to maintain pesticide and herbicide registrations (77)
- Hagerty MTC To Judiciary to provide sufficient resources to ICE (78)
- Hagerty MTC To HSGAC to provide sufficient resources to ICE (79)
- Hagerty MTC To Finance to ensure price controls do not reduce supply chain of medicines (80)

- Hagerty MTC To Finance to ensure U.S. not lose role as leader in biomedical innovation to China (81)
- Hagerty MTC To Banking to ensure no tax hikes for people earning under \$400,000 (82)
- Hagerty MTC To ENR to protect investment in oil and gas (83)
- Hagerty MTC To VA to ensure no tax hikes for people earning less than \$400,000 (84)
- Hagerty MTC To Judiciary to fund rape kits (85)
- Hagerty MTC To HELP to ensure no tax hikes for people earning under \$400,000 (86)
- Hagerty MTC To ENR to provide \$258 million for DOE IG (87)
- Hagerty MTC To Indian Affairs to ensure no tax hikes for earners under \$400,000 (88)
- Hagerty MTC To Commerce to ensure no tax hike under \$400k (89)
- Hagerty MTC To EPW no tax hikes under \$400k (90)
- Hagerty MTC To ENR no tax hikes under \$400k (91)
- Hagerty MTC To Ag no tax hikes under \$400k (92)
- Hagerty MTC To HSGAC no tax hikes under \$400k (93)
- Hagerty MTC To Small Business no tax hikes under \$400k (94)
- Hagerty MTC To Judiciary to compensate victims of crimes by illegal aliens (95)
- Hagerty MTC To HSGAC to combat import of opioids (96)
- Hagerty MTC To HSGAC to combat trafficking of fentanyl across Mexico border (97)
- Hagerty MTC To Finance to cut additional IRS funding and extend life of HI trust fund (98)
- Hagerty MTC To ENR to prohibit climate change policies (99)
- Hagerty MTC To ENR to prevent climate change emergency declaration (100)
- Hagerty MTC To Judiciary to fund law enforcement (101)
- Hagerty MTC To HSGAC to fund removal of illegal aliens (102)
- Hagerty MTC To HSGAC to fund ICE to remove illegal aliens (103)
- Hagerty MTC To Finance to cut extension of increased percentages for premium assistance tax credit (104)
- Hagerty MTC To Finance no tax hikes under \$400k (105)
- Hagerty MTC To HSGAC funds ICE to deport illegal aliens for sexual offenses (106)
- Hagerty MTC To Judiciary funds ICE to deport illegal aliens for sexual offenses (107)
- Hagerty MTC To HSGAC funds ICE to deport illegal aliens for violent rape (108)
- Hagerty MTC To Judiciary funds ICE to deport illegal aliens for violent rape (109)
- Hagerty MTC To HSGAC funds ICE to deport illegal aliens for homicide (110)
- Hagerty MTC To Judiciary funds ICE to deport illegal aliens for homicide (111)
- Hagerty MTC To EPW for exemptions for small refineries (112)
- Marshall MTC To EPW to prohibit EPA & DOT from issuing rules to compel companies to sell electric cars (113)
- Tuberville Amendment To express the sense of the Senate regarding the importance of the energy independence of the United States (5222)
- Portman Amendment To decrease the amount appropriated for Office of Management and Budget oversight and make the amount of the decrease available to develop a uniform application process for Federal grants that requires disclosure of foreign affiliations and support by potential grant recipients (5223)

- Portman Amendment Purpose: To replace the provision regarding the Office of the Chief Readiness Support Officer with a \$500,000,000 appropriation for the detection of illegal narcotics, including opioids (5224)
- Daines MTC To Finance for support for pregnant mothers (114)
- Ernst MTC To Judiciary for Sarah's Law (115)
- Grassley MTC To Judiciary to extend scheduling of fentanyl analogues for 5 years (116)
- Cotton MTC To Judiciary to require inmates housed according to biological sex (117)
- Cotton MTC To Finance to prohibit funding for nonemergency health care for illegal aliens (118)
- Cotton MTC To Finance to prohibit federal funding through Medicaid for gender transition to minors (119)
- Risch Amendment To provide for a method by which the economic costs of significant regulatory actions may be offset by the repeal of other regulatory actions (5225)
- Risch Amendment To require the Comptroller General of the United States to conduct a review of the inflationary impact of the bill on taxpayers with an annual income of not more than \$400,000 in the States located in the Mountain division of the West region of the United States, as designated by the Bureau of Labor Statistics (5226)
- Risch Amendment To improve this bill (5227)
- Risch Amendment To prohibit the use of funds from blocking already permitted and approved energy projects (5228)
- Risch Amendment To strike a provision relating to fossil fuel resources (5229)
- Risch Amendment To strike a provision relating to fossil fuel resources (5230)
- Risch Amendment To strike a provision relating to fossil fuel resources (5231)
- Scott (SC) Amendment To exclude income received under sexual abuse and trafficking awards, to modify the educator expense deduction, and for other purposes (5232)
- Scott (SC) Amendment To provide for a plan to eliminate racial, political, regional, and socioeconomic discrepancies in audit rates of the Internal Revenue Service (5233)
- Scott (FL) Amendment To provide further requirements on reporting by qualified manufacturers for purposes of the new clean vehicle credit (5234)
- Marshall Amendment To strike section 30001, related to enhanced use of the Defense Production Act of 1950 (5235)
- Young MTC To Finance to suspend drug price negotiation program if discourages drug manufacturers (120)
- Young MTC To Finance to suspend drug price negotiation if public health emergency (121)
- Young MTC To Finance re reliance on China for drug ingredients (122)
- Young MTC To Finance to exempt antibiotics from drug price negotiation (123)
- Young MTC To Finance to suspend drug negotiation if China increases drug market share (124)
- Young MTC Finance for no tax increase <\$400k (125)
- Young MTC To VA to provide additional resources for veterans' mental health care (126)
- Tuberville MTC To HELP to prohibit funding for institutions that host a Confucius Institute (127)

- Tuberville MTC To HELP to prohibit funding for schools that teach critical race theory (128)
- Tuberville MTC To HELP to prohibit funding for colleges that allow transgender athletes not in biological sex (129)
- Tuberville MTC To SASC to expand size of Navy by commissioning 100 new ships (130)
- Tuberville MTC To HSGAC to prohibit Thrift Savings Fund from being invested in China (131)
- Tuberville MTC To ENR to prohibit bill from taking effect until gas is less than \$2.39 a gallon for 30 days (132)
- Tuberville MTC To ENR to prohibit bill from taking effect until lease sales are completed (133)
- Tuberville MTC To ENR to require DOI to prioritize offshore lease sales (134)
- Tuberville MTC To ENR to prohibit funding/tax credits from bill until all pending pipelines are approved (135)
- Tuberville MTC To Finance to abolish Federal estate and gift taxes (136)
- Tuberville MTC To Finance to preserve existing step-up in basis rules (137)
- Tuberville MTC To Finance to prohibit tax hikes on family farms (138)
- Tuberville MTC To Finance to establish 20% tax credit for domestic semiconductors (139)
- Tuberville MTC To Finance to establish 20% tax credit for domestic PPE (140)
- Tuberville MTC To Finance to establish 20% tax credit for domestic medical manufacturing (141)
- Tuberville MTC To Finance for tax credit for mining critical minerals (142)
- Tuberville MTC To Finance to make tax cuts permanent (143)
- Tuberville MTC To Finance for tax credit for domestic pharmaceutical ingredients (144)
- Tuberville MTC To Finance to enforce insurance fraud (145)
- Tuberville MTC To Finance to prohibit benefits to people convicted of UI fraud (146)
- Braun Amendment to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to deny tax benefits for organizations that perform or finance abortions (5236)
- Braun Amendment to strike a provision relating to the neighborhood access and equity grant program. (5237)
- Braun Amendment to strike funding for consumer-related education and partnerships with respect to reductions in green-house gas emissions that result from domestic electricity generation and use. (5238)
- Braun Amendment to prohibit the President from declaring certain emergencies or disasters for the purpose of confiscating guns or magazines, or prohibiting or otherwise regulating the possession, manufacture, sale , or transfer of guns or magazines. (5239)
- Braun Amendment to limit the use of taxpayer funded union time for employees of the Internal Revenue Service. (5240)
- Braun Amendment to strike funding for using authorities of the Clean Air Act to ensure reductions in greenhouse gas emissions from domestic electricity generation and use. (5241)
- Braun Amendment to include Industry- Recognized Apprentice Programs for purposes of any applicable apprenticeship requirements. (5242)

- Marshall Amendment to prohibit the use of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals in developing or administering certain programs under the jurisdiction of the Committee on environment and Public Works. (5243)
- Marshall Amendment to prohibit the use of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals in developing or administering certain programs under the jurisdiction of the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition , and Forestry.( 5244)
- Ernst Amendment to reduce the unnecessary spending by \$18,000,000,000 by improvement the management of waste clean up in Washington by the Department of Energy. (5245)
- Ernst Amendment to require the United States Postal Service to raise revenue by selling non-political advertisement space on delivery vehicles purchased using amounts appropriated by the bill. (5246)
- Ernst Amendment to strike a provision relating to a priority on the use of funds for the environmental quality incentives program. (5247)
- Tuberville MTC to EPW to enact CEQ rule. (147)
- Tuberville MTC To Judiciary to prohibit race-based grants. (148)
- Tuberville MTC To HELP to prohibit race-based standards. (149)
- Tuberville MTC To EPW to cute greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund. (150)
- Tuberville MTC To Judiciary to prohibit legal assistance to illegal aliens. (151)
- Tuberville MTC To Finance to prohibit financial holdings in China or Russia. (152)
- Tuberville MTC To Commerce to prohibit funds for Chinese biomedical research. (153)
- Tuberville MTC To HSGAC to enforce immigration laws. (154)
- Tuberville MTC To HSGAC to fund southern border wall. (155)
- Tuberville MTC To HSGAC for ICE to conduct worksite enforcement. (156)
- Tuberville MTC To HSGAC to prohibit sharing genetic information with China. (157)
- Tuberville MTC To Judiciary to delegate immigration enforcement to state and local law enforcement. (158)
- Tuberville MTC To Judiciary to fund state and local law enforcement. (159)
- Tuberville MTC To establish tax on international remittances to fund border wall. (160)
- Tuberville MTC To ENR for FERC to approve pipelines. (161)
- Tuberville MTC To Banking to prohibit Chinese software. (162)
- Tuberville MTC To Banking to require federal research grant applications disclose foreign funding. (163)
- Tuberville MTC To Finance to prohibit Huawei from importing goods into the U.S. (164)
- Tuberville MTC To Finance to recognize China uses forced labor. (165)
- Tuberville MTC To Banking for CFIUS to review foreign control of ag businesses. (166)
- Tuberville MTC To Ag to remove all agriculture provisions. (167)
- Tuberville MTC To Banking to preservice Economic Growth, Regulatory Relief, Consumer Protection Act of 2018. (168)
- Tuberville MTC To Banking establish Fair Access to Financial Services rule. (169)
- Tuberville MTC To Banking to prohibit financial regulatory agencies from addressing climate change. (170)
- Tuberville MTC To Judiciary to make fentanyl a sched. 1 controlled substance. (171)

- Tuberville MTC To HELP to prohibit retirement funds from investing in China (172)
- Tuberville MTC To HELP to investigate origins of covid-19. (173)
- Tuberville MTC To HELP to require retirement funds to consider only financial considerations. (174)
- Tuberville MTC To HELP to require retirement plans act in the interest of participants. (175)
- Tuberville MTC To Finance to extend any temporary TCJA provisions for 5 more years. (176)
- Scott(S.C) MTC To Finance eliminate IRS enforcement funding and establish a child opportunity tax credit(177)
- Scott (S.C) MTC to Finance to eliminate inflationary spending and lower cost of everyday goods. (178)
- Scott( S.C) MTC to Finance to mitigate prescription drug shortages (179)
- Scott (S.C) MTC To Finance to eliminate prevailing wage requirements. (180)
- Scott( S.C) MTC To Small Business to prohibit SBA from engaging in direct lending. (181)
- Scott (S.C) MTC To Finance to bar new tax increase until inflation is below 4.5%. (182)
- Scott(S.C) MTC To Finance to prohibit Treasury from requiring reports on retirement accounts. (183)
- Daines MTC To Finance make deduction for qualified business income permanent. (184)
- Inhofe MTC To HELP to expand medical education for primary care in underserved areas. (185)
- Inhofe MTC To EPW to ensure China, India, and Russia meet greenhouse gas targets. (186)
- Inhofe MTC To ENR to authorize states to take over federal oil and gas leasing. (187)
- Inhofe MTC To HELP to ensure patents with prenatal diagnosis of chromosomal conditions get accurate information. (188)
- Inhofe MTC To ENR to give states authority over fracking. (189)
- Inhofe MTC To ENR to provide a fee on electric vehicle battery disposal and recycling. (190)
- Thune Amendment to strike a provision relating to the neighborhood access and equity grant program. (5248)
- Thune Amendment to prevent double dipping between tax credits and grants or loans for clean vehicle manufactures. (5249)
- Thune Amendment To strike the \$80,000,000,000 in additional funding provided to the Internal Revenue Service. (5250)
- Thune Amendment To prohibit the Environmental Protection Agency from monitoring methane emissions from livestock. ( 5251)
- Thune Amendment To amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exclude health plans covering elective abortions from the premium tax credit. (5252)
- Thune Amendment To provide for commercial motor vehicle parking capacity. (5253)
- Inhofe Amendment To amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to permanently extend the depreciation rules for property used predominantly within an Indian reservation. (5254)

- Daines Amendment To amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the credit for production of refined coal. (5255)
- Daines Amendment To permanently extend the limitation on the deduction for State and local taxes and dedicate the savings to deficit reduction. (5256)
- Daines Amendment To permanently extend the limitation on the deduction for State and local taxes and to extend the deduction for qualified business income. (5257)
- Daines Amendment To permanently extend the limitation on the deduction for State and local taxes and to eliminate the additional Internal Revenue Service funding for enforcement. (5258)
- Ernst Amendment To require a report on the delinquent taxes of Federal employees. (5259)
- Ernst Amendment To address delinquent tax debts of Federal employees. (5260)
- Ernst Amendment To preserve tax benefits for bonus depreciation and research and development under the corporate minimum tax. (5261)
- Warnock Amendment To make health care coverage available to low-income adults in States that have not expanded Medicaid. (5262)
- Cruz Amendment To strike the \$80,000,000,000 slush fund for the Internal Revenue Service to prevent the hiring of 87,000 new Internal Revenue Service employees that will surveil and audit the private account information and transaction data of innocent Americans and small businesses. (5263)
- Cruz Amendment To prevent Democrat's 15 percent minimum book tax's disproportionate burden on American manufacturing that will be borne by working families in the form of higher prices, fewer jobs, and lower wages. (5264)
- Cruz Amendment To provide for certain conditions on the export to China of crude oil from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve. (5265)
- Daines Amendment To strike provisions relating to the offshore oil and gas royalty rate and Mineral Leasing Act modernization. (5266)
- Daines Amendment To provide funding for the rehabilitation of public land that has experienced a natural disaster. (5267)
- Daines Amendment To condition the availability of certain funds on the completion of a report detailing the job losses and the impacts on consumer energy costs resulting from the revocation of the permit for the Keystone XL pipe-line. (5268)
- Daines Amendment To strike certain provisions relating to the offshore oil and gas royalty rate, the modernization of the Mineral Leasing Act, and royalties on extracted methane. (5269)
- Daines Amendment To reallocate funding for Internal Revenue Service enforcement to taxpayer services. (5270)
- Boozman To restore work requirements for able-bodied adults without dependents to pre-pandemic status. (5271)
- Capito MTC To Finance to ensure drug pricing program doesn't have a reduction in Alzheimer's treatment. (191)
- Scott (S.C) Amendment To provide a plan to eliminate racial, political, regional, and socioeconomic discrepancies in audit rates of the Internal Revenue Service. (5272)
- Thune Amendment To strike section 60103 (regarding the greenhouse gas reduction fund) (5273)

- Johnson MTC To VA to prohibit funds from being used to enforce COVID-19 vaccine mandate in VA. (192)
- Johnson MTC To HELP to prohibit federal funds for a COVID-19 vaccine mandate. (193)
- Johnson MTC To HSGAC to prohibit canceling any border wall construction/ contract. (194)
- Johnson MTC To Judiciary to require reporting on pretrial release for felony offenses. (195)
- Ernst Amendment To modify the provisions establishing emissions rates for purposes of the clean fuel production credit. (5274)
- Cruz Amendment To modify the requirements applicable to foreign entities of concern for purposes of the new clean vehicle credit. (5275)
- Cruz Amendment To prohibit weakening the requirements applicable to foreign entities of concern for purposes of the new clean vehicle credit. (5276)
- Kennedy Amendment To require the Director of the Office of Management and Budget to finalize the rule to implement the requirement that contractors and grantees certify that they are in compliance with tax laws. (5277)
- Kennedy Amendment To prevent fraud and abuse in connection with the increased premium tax credit. (5278)
- Wicker Amendment To improve Coast Guard housing, medical, and child care facilities. (5279)
- Wicker Amendment To appropriate additional amounts to the Federal Communications Commission to carry out the Secure and Trusted Communications Networks Act of 2019. (5280)
- Sanders Amendment To modify the bill. (5281)
- Blackburn MTC To Finance to prohibit IRS from collecting biometric data. (196)
- Blackburn MTC To Finance to lower prescription drug prices without violating 1860D-11(i) of SSA (197)
- Blackburn MTC To Finance to remove any provision that reinstates any excise tax. (198)
- Blackburn MTC To HELP to disrupt Chinese influence on colleges. (199)
- Blackburn MTC To Ag to prohibit funding from being used by nonresident aliens, affiliated with China. (200)
- Blackburn MTC To Finance to prohibit tax increase on small businesses. (201)
- Blackburn MTC To Finance to reduce IRS user fees by 95% for people with income less than \$5M. (202)
- Kennedy MTC To Finance to prohibit telework at IRS before 2020 backlog is eliminated. (203)
- Kennedy MTC To EPW prohibit executive climate actions from taking effect until India/China reduce GHGs. (204)
- Kennedy MTC To HELP to repurpose COVID funds to study mental health impacts of remote learning. (205)
- Kennedy MTC To HELP to suspend federal funds for hospitals not in compliance w/ price transparency rule (206)
- Kennedy MTC To HELP prohibit funding for colleges with Confucius Institute. (207)

- Kennedy MTC To Prohibit Provider Relief funding from hospitals not following price transparency. (208)
- Kennedy MTC To HELP repurpose COVID funds for school vouchers. (209)
- Kennedy MTC To HELP to require HHS to provide report on new drugs coming to market. (210)
- Kennedy MTC To HELP reduce insulin costs without increasing health insurance premiums. (211)
- Kennedy MTC To Finance to ensure do not compromise US superiority to China in biopharmaceutical innovation. (212)
- Kennedy MTC To Judiciary to improve information sharing between CBP and intelligence community. (213)
- Kennedy MTC To Judiciary to prohibit purchase of Chinese Drones. (214)
- Tillis Amendment To Safeguard patient access to cutting- edge therapies by protecting small businesses from onerous permanent mandates and catastrophic penalties under the new Federal program. (5282)
- Tillis Amendment To exempt genetically targeted technologies from negotiation under the Drug Price Negotiation Program. (5283)
- Tillis Amendment To equalize the negotiation period between small-molecule and biologic candidates under the Drug Price Negotiation Program. (5284)
- Cruz Amendment To prohibit the Environmental Protection Agency from enforcing provisions of the Clean Air Act that erode the effect of the Supreme Court of the United States decision of West Virginia v. Environmental Protection Agency. (5285)
- Cruz Amendment To prohibit the Environmental Protection Agency from banning hydraulic fracturing under the methane emission reduction program. (5286)
- Cruz Amendment To eliminate certain new tax hikes on middle class gasoline and energy bills. (5287)
- Blackburn Amendment To Strike certain provisions relating to the offshore oil and gas royalty rate and the Modernization of the Mineral Leasing Act. (5288)
- Blackburn Amendment To modify the prohibition on the use of increased Internal Revenue Service funding for tax increases. (5289)
- Blackburn Amendment To exempt grants received under the Coronavirus Economic Relief for Transportation Services. (CERTS) Act from Federal taxation. (5290)
- Merkley Amendment To modify the requirements with respect to excluded entities for purposes of the new clean vehicle credit. (5291)
- Merkley Amendment To establish a summer electronic benefit transfer for children program. (5292)
- Merkley Amendment To increase the appropriation for United States Postal Service Clean fleets. (5293)
- Merkley Amendment To extend the credit for qualified 2- or 3- wheeled plug-in electric vehicles. (5294)
- Merkley Amendment To require the withdrawal of certain areas offered for lease under the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act on request of certain States and territories. (5295)
- Merkley Amendment To strike certain provisions relating to certain required outer Continental Shelf lease sales. (5296)
- Merkley Amendment To appropriate amounts for housing. (5297)

- Merkley Amendment To create grants for tuition- free community college. (5298)
- Merkley Amendment To eliminate certain subsidies for fossil-fuel production. (5299)
- Merkley Amendment To expand access to free, high quality preschool. (5300)
- Graham Amendment To strike a tax increase that would result in higher consumer prices for gasoline, heating oil, and other energy sources for Americans earning less than \$400,000 per year.(5301)
- Fischer Amendment To direct amounts appropriated for the use of Defense Production Act of 1950 authorities to be used to improve the munitions production infrastructure of the United States. (5302)
- Fischer Amendment To prohibit tax benefits from being claimed with respect to any renewable product or component which is produced by a covered foreign country (5303).
- Fischer Amendment To prohibit funds made available for greenhouse gas corporate reporting from being used to require reporting of emissions from small businesses, farms, and ranches. (5304)
- Young MTC To HELP for newborn safety devices are fire houses. (215)
- Young MTC To Finance to eliminate tax changes that subsidize Chinese materials. (216)
- Young MTC To Finance for IRS enforcement of clean vehicle tax credit fraud. (217)
- Young MTC To Commerce for icebreakers for the Great Lakes. (218)
- Young MTC To Finance to block prescription drug price negotiation if U.S not competitive with China. (219)
- Young MTC To Commerce To provide PreCheck to disabled veterans. (220)
- Young MTC To Commerce To extend spectrum auction authority. (221)
- Sullivan MTC To EPW to require environmental review document be completed within 2 years. (222)
- Sullivan MTC To ENR to ensure development of domestic supply chain for critical minerals. (223)
- Sullivan MTC To ENR suspend any changes in royalty rates until gas falls below \$2.39 (224)
- Sullivan MTC To ENR to require additional OCS lease sales until gas below \$2.39 per gallon. (225)
- Sullivan MTC To ENR certify no conflict of interest with DOI employees and grants. (226)
- Cornyn Amendment To Help middle-class families by extending the \$2,000 child tax credit through 2027, protecting small businesses and farmers from Internal Revenue Service harassment and limiting for an additional two years a tax loophole for blue- state millionaires and billionaires by extending the \$10,000 limitation on the deduction for State and local taxes. (5305)
- Cornyn Amendment To Help middle-class families by extending the \$2,000 child tax credit through 2027, protecting small businesses and farmers from Internal Revenue Service harassment and limiting for an additional two years a tax loophole for blue- state millionaires and billionaires by extending the \$10,000 limitation on the deduction for State and local taxes. (5306)
- Lee Amendment To Amend the Countermeasure Injury Compensation Program with respect to COVID-19 vaccines. (5307)

- Lee Amendment To strike the provisions providing tax incentives relating to clean vehicles. (5308)
- Lee Amendment To strike section 60201( regarding environmental and climate justice block grants. (5309)
- Lee Amendment To provide funding for categorical exclusions to expedite wildfire prevention activities. (5310)
- Lee Amendment To provide funding to the Secretary of the Interior for certain search and rescue activities. (5311)
- Toomey MTC To Banking to prevent SEC rule on climate-related disclosures (227)
- To Banking to ensure public transit systems enforce fare evasion (228)
- Lee Amendment to Strike provision on outer continental shelf lease sales (5312)
- Lee Amendment to Strike oil and gas royalty rate (5313)
- Lee Amendment to Strike residential electrification and efficiency rebates(5314)
- Lee Amendment to Eliminate Superfund taxes (5315)
- Lee Amendment to Reduce home energy rebates (5316)
- Lee Amendment to End duties on steel and aluminum (5317)
- Lee Amendment to Rescind unobligated small business covid funds (5318)
- Lee Amendment to Rescind unobligated HELP covid funds (5319)
- Lee Amendment to Rescind unobligated Finance covid funds (5320)
- Lee Amendment to Rescind unobligated Banking covid funds (5321)
- Lee Amendment to rescind unobligated balances under the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 and the CARES Act relating to matters within the jurisdiction of the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation (5322)
- Lee Amendment to rescind unobligated balances under the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 and the CARES Act relating to matters within the jurisdiction of the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry. (5323)
- Lee Amendment to insert a provision requiring the Council on Environmental Quality to implement certain procedural rules. (5324)
- Lee Amendment to include dredging projects in certain National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration funding. (5325)
- Lee Amendment to define the term "timely review" for certain permitting and approval processes. (5326)
- Lee Amendment to modify the investment threshold of certain covered projects under title XLI of the Fast Act. (5327)
- Lummis Amendment to provide funding for the superfund program, with offsets. (5328)
- Cruz Amendment to require submission of a Social Security Number and exclude non-lawfully present aliens for purposes of new clean vehicle credit. (5329)
- Romney Amendment to limit enrollees whose annual salary is over \$100,000 from receiving the premium tax credit. (5330)
- Lee Amendment to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to establish an excise tax on content provided by online pornographic services, and for other purposes. (5333)
- Lee Amendment to provide for temporary exemptions from infant formula requirements (5334)
- Lee Amendment to establish a regulatory sandbox program under which agencies may provide waivers of agency rules and guidance (5335)

- Lee Amendment to require the National Marine Fisheries Service to take immediate action to increase energy production. (5336)
- Lee Amendment to establish a goal for the completion of permitting and approval processes conducted by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. (5337)
- Lee Amendment to provide funding to the Council on Environmental Quality to collect information relating to the impacts of the process required under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 across Federal agencies. (5340)
- Lee Amendment to provide for environmental reviews and authorizations under the Department of Energy to be completed not later than 2 years after commencement.(5341)
- Lee Amendment to provide bonus depreciation for qualified cargo handling property. (5345)
- Lee Amendment to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide an immediate deduction for amounts paid for licenses for the electromagnetic spectrum. (5346)
- Lee amendment to improve the bill. (5348)
- Toomey Amendment to strike the new clean vehicle credit and the credit for previously-owned clean vehicles. (5349)
- Toomey Amendment to strike the provisions relating to Affordable Car Act subsidies and certain energy tax incentives, to provide for permanent bonus depreciation, and for other purposes. (5350)
- Toomey amendment to prohibit rapists and dangerous sex offenders from admission to federally assisted housing. (5351)
- Toomey Amendment to Recission of American Rescue Plan Act funding (5352)
- Toomey Amendment to Change to eligible recipient under US Housing Act of 1937 (5353)
- Toomey Amendment to Reporting greenhouse gas emissions (5354)
- Toomey Amendment to Fund projects that improve security, prevent crime, and increase resident safety (5355)
- Rubio Amendment to Change to definition of new clean vehicle to not include batteries with certain minerals (5356)
- Rubio Amendment to CVV requirement for online contributions to political organizations (5357)
- Hoeven MTC to Finance to prohibit implementation of bill until inflation lower for gas/groceries/housing (229)
- Hoeven MTC to Ag to review and evaluate the importance of crop protection products (230)
- Hoeven MTC to Finance to allow 45Q to apply to facilities where construction has begun (231)
- Hoeven MTC to VA to improve access to veterans to community care (232)
- Hoeven MTC to ENR to prohibit title V if DOI determines an increase in reliance on Russian oil (233)
- Scott (SC) MTC to Finance to extend SALT and to establish a child opportunity tax credit (234)
- Collins Amendment to Limitation relating to in-person employees (5358)
- Collins Amendment to Extending telehealth flexibilities under Medicare (5359)

- Lee MTC To HELP to provide improved health plan coverage of telehealth services (235)
- Lee MTC To HELP to provide temporary exemptions from infant formula requirements (236)
- Lee MTC To Banking to prohibit SEC from issuing rules on environment, social, governance standards (237)
- Lee MTC To EPW to allow for preservation of saline lakes in western States (238)
- Fischer Amendment to Price limit for clean vehicle tax credit (5360)
- Ernst Amendment to No clean vehicle credit for cars produced using slave labor (5361)
- Cramer Amendment to Prevent regulations to limit use of electricity (5362)
- Cramer Amendment to Critical minerals in motors of clean vehicles (5363)
- Cramer Amendment to Change income limits for used clean vehicle credit (5364)
- Cramer Amendment To modify the limitations with respect to modified adjusted gross income for purposes of the new clean vehicle credit. (5365)
- Cramer Amendment To prohibit the use of certain funds to acquire or otherwise support the availability of uranium or other nuclear fuel sourced from the Russian Federation. (5366)
- Cramer Amendment To require the Secretary of the Interior, the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, and the Chief of the Forest Service to streamline certain permitting and review processes relating to domestic hardrock mineral production. (5367)
- Cramer Amendment To modify the requirements relating to critical minerals that are extracted, processed, or recycled by a foreign entity of concern for purposes of the new clean vehicle credit. (5368)
- Cramer Amendment To strike section 60111 (regarding greenhouse gas corporate reporting). (5369)
- Cramer Amendment to strike provisions relating to the Council on Environmental Quality. (5370)
- Cramer Amendment To remove funding for State and private forestry conservation programs and provide funding for the Forest Service maintenance. (5371)
- Cramer Amendment To strike provisions that preclude administrative or judicial review (5372)
- Cramer Amendment To strike the funding for the Internal Revenue Service task force to design an IRS-run free "Direct eFile" tax return systems and to reallocate the funding to reducing the backlog in processing income tax returns for 2020 and 2021. (5373)
- Cramer Amendment To prohibit the Internal Revenue Service from spending the additional funding until the return processing backlog has been eliminated. (5374)
- Cramer Amendment To direct the use of Defense Production Act of 1950 funds and authorities to increase oil refinery capacity in the United States. (5375)
- Cramer Amendment To establish the royalty rate for onshore wind and solar energy production. (5376)
- Cramer Amendment To establish the royalty rate for offshore wind. (5377)
- Cramer Amendment To provide for retention of recreation fees by the Corps of Engineers. (5378)

- Cramer Amendment To provide funding for the Administrator of General Services to identify underutilized Federal buildings managed by the General Services administration. (5379)
- Scott (FL) MTC Retrieving data. Wait a few seconds and try to cut or copy again. (239)
- Braun Amendment to eliminate billions in wasteful spending on a new woke highways program. (5380)
- Braun Amendment to prevent the use of additional internal revenue service's funds from being used to target citizens of the United States for exercising any right guaranteed under the First Amendment to the Constitution of the United States. (5381)
- Capito Amendment to strike provisions concerning funding for certain activities under the Clean Air Act. (5382)
- Capito Amendment to expedite consideration of permits and provide regulatory certainty for infrastructure and energy projects. (5383)
- Lankford Amendment to provide additional funding for implementation of title 42. (5384)
- Rubio MTC to Expand Child Tax Credit (240)
- Barrasso MTC To Finance to extend tax cuts and cap on SALT deduction (241)
- Barrasso MTC To Finance to remove provisions discriminating against non-union workers (242)
- Kennedy Amendment to provide for discounted insulin for low- and middle-income Americans. (5385)
- Cotton Amendment to replace the provision regarding the Office of the Chief Readiness Support Officer with a \$400,000,000 appropriation to U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement for the detention of criminal aliens. (5386)
- Kennedy Amendment to require oil and gas lease sales in the outer Continental Shelf. (5387)
- Scott Amendment to improve public safety for affordable housing. (5388)
- Marshall Amendment to protect patient access to current and future treatments for a range of serious conditions, such as cancer, Alzheimer's disease, HIV/AIDS, Parkinson's disease, and sickle cell disease, among numerous others. (5389)
- Marshall Amendment to require the Secretary of Health and Human Services to consult with other agencies. (5390)
- Marshall Amendment to add a consultation requirement under the Drug Price Negotiation Program. (5391)
- Hoeven Amendment to strike a provision relating to the community climate incentive grant program. (5394)
- Hoeven Amendment to prohibit the Securities and Exchange Commission from implementing a greenhouse gas reporting requirement that would place a reporting burden on agricultural producers in the United States. (5395)
- Hoeven Amendment to eliminate the extension and modification of the renewable electricity production credit. (5396)
- Hoeven Amendment to strike provisions relating to national service and workforce development in support of climate resilience and mitigation. (5397)
- Hoeven Amendment to require the Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection to restore pre-pandemic hours of operation at all northern border ports of entry. (5398)

- Hoeven Amendment to require the Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection to allocate additional resources to enhance border security along the international border between Canada and the United States. (5399)
- Hoeven Amendment to strike a provision relating to an increase in the onshore oil and gas royalty rates and other fee increases. (5400)
- Hoeven Amendment to strike the methane fee and certain other provisions related to new spending on climate under the jurisdiction of the Committee on Environment and Public Works. (5401)
- Hoeven Amendment to strike a provision relating to the offshore oil and gas royalty rate. (5402)
- Hagerty Amendment to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal the amendments made to reporting of third party network transactions by the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021. (5406)
- Barrasso Amendment to require certain additional onshore oil and gas lease sales in certain states. (5409)
- Murkowski MTC To HELP to support assisted living facilities and senior living facilities (243)
- Barrasso Amendment to provide funds to address deferred maintenance in the National Park System. (5410)
- Barrasso Amendment to lower energy costs and preserve jobs in the energy and mining sector by protecting them from new taxes. (5411)
- Barrasso Amendment to ensure quality-adjusted life year (QALY) measures are not used in consideration of the maximum fair price under the Drug Price Negotiation Program. (5413)
- Lee Amendment to improve the bill (5413)
- Lee Amendment to expand access to telehealth services. (5415)
- Lee Amendment to prohibit abuse of the authority of the Secretary of Education under the HEROES Act in connection with the COVID-19 national emergency declaration and to clarify the limitations of authority under Part B or D of title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965. (5416)
- Lee Amendment to provide an income limitation for the expansion of the premium tax credit and to permit dietary supplements to be treated as medical expenses. (5417)
- Shelby Amendment to end the President's War on Coal through the approval of coal leases. (5418)
- Rounds Amendment to prevent fraud by eliminating wasteful environmental and climate justice block grants. (5419)
- Graham MTC To HELP to require standards for student athletes regarding female classification/eligibility (244)
- Graham MTC To HSGAC to establish procedures/consequences in event appropriations are not passed (245)
- Graham MTC To Judiciary for Remain in Mexico (246)
- Graham MTC To Judiciary for resources to achieve operational control of the border (247)
- Grassley Amendment to include an employment verification requirement for certain energy tax credits, and for other purposes. (5420)

- Grassley Amendment to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify the maximum capital gains tax rate, to provide a partial exclusion for interest received by individuals, to provide inflation adjustments for certain tax benefits, and for other purposes. (5421)
- Hoeven Amendment to eliminate the requirement applicable to certain facilities to capture not less than 75 percent by mass of the carbon oxide for the credit for carbon oxide sequestration. (5422)
- Blackburn Amendment to delay selection and negotiation of biologics for biosimilar market entry. (5423)
- Moran Amendment to promote water, air, and soil conservation. (5424)
- Daines Amendment to strike provisions relating to the offshore oil and gas royalty rate, onshore oil and gas royalty rates, the elimination of noncompetitive leasing, and royalties on extracted methane. (5425)
- Crapo Amendment to strike an unprecedented, nearly \$80,000,000,000, infusion of taxpayer funds into the Internal Revenue Service that would otherwise raise tax revenue from low- and middle-income Americans with taxable incomes below \$400,000 and to repurpose the use of those taxpayer resources to bolster the nearly-exhausted Medicare Hospital Insurance Trust Fund. (5426)
- Crapo Amendment to strike provision of an unconstrained and unaccountable slush fund for the Departmental Offices of the Department of the Treasury. (5429).
- Crapo Amendment to strike provision of an unconstrained and unaccountable slush fund for the Office of Tax Policy of the Department of Treasury. (5430)
- Cotton MTC To Finance to prohibit clean vehicle tax credits to illegal aliens (248)
- Cotton MTC To Judiciary to make fentanyl analogue scheduling permanent (249)
- Portman MTC To Finance to exempt dividends from the corporate alternative minimum tax (250)
- Crapo Amendment to strike an unprecedented, nearly \$80,000,000,000 inflation of taxpayer funds into the Internal Revenue Service that would otherwise raise tax revenue from low- and middle-income Americans with taxable incomes below \$400,000 in order to protect taxpayer privacy, and prevent an army of new Internal Revenue Service auditors in the midst of ongoing stag-flation. (5431)
- Crapo Amendment to provide for the use of Internal Revenue Service funds for privacy protections against leaks of private, legally protected taxpayer data outside of the Internal Revenue Service, and for establishment of universal audit trails to track the utilization and access of personal taxpayer data. (5432)
- Crapo Amendment to strike provision of an unconstrained and unaccountable slush fund for the Office of Tax Policy of the Department of the Treasury and redirect those taxpayer resources to the Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration for oversight to help promote taxpayer services and protect taxpayer rights and privacy. (5433)
- Van Hollen Amendment to In the nature of substitute to recognize the significant contributions to the United States of citizens of Hellenic heritage (5434)
- Sullivan Amendment to replace the funding for the Office of the Chief Readiness Support Officer with a \$500,000,000 appropriation for the construction or improvement of primary pedestrian fencing and barriers along the southwest border. (5435)

- Young Amendment to prevent more Solyndra-like bankruptcies by eliminating \$27,000,000,000 in green bank funding. (5436)
- Sullivan Amendment to strike section 60111 (regarding greenhouse as corporate reporting). (5437)
- Kennedy Amendment to require unused benefits on EBT cards under the supplemental nutrition assistance program to revert to the Department of the Treasury. (5438)
- Kennedy Amendment to require users of EBT cards under the supplemental nutrition assistance program to show photographic identification when purchasing items with program benefits. (5439)
- Kennedy Amendment to ensure that employees of the Internal Revenue Service are brought back to their offices until the backlog of 2020 tax returns has been eliminated. (5440)
- Kennedy Amendment to allocate funds for certain natural disasters. (5441)
- Kennedy Amendment to extend the deduction for qualified business income. (5442)
- Kennedy Amendment to ensure that employees of the Internal Revenue Service are brought back to their offices until the backlog of 2020 tax returns have been eliminated. (5443)
- Kennedy Amendment to extend the deduction for qualified business income and the limitation on the deduction for State and local taxes. (5445)
- Kennedy Amendment to include a provision relating to the disposition of qualified outer Continental Shelf revenues. (5446)
- Kennedy Amendment to establish a task force to reform the Bureau of Prisons Inmate Trust Fund Accounts (5449)
- Kennedy Amendment to amend title 28, United States Code, to allow claims against foreign states for unlawful computer intrusion.(5450)
- Murkowski Amendment to reduce funding for assistance for latest and zero building energy code adoption and to provide funding for Bureau of Land Management permitting activities. (5454)
- Murkowski Amendment to allow the clean electricity investment credit to be claimed for qualified interconnection property in connection with certain qualified facilities which exclusively serve communities which are not interconnected to the United States continental grid. (5455)
- Murkowski Amendment to remove funding to protect old-growth forests on national Forest System land and provide funding for good neighbor agreements. (5457)
- Murkowski Amendment To provide funding for wildfire resilience and for Mexico border security activities (5458)
- Murkowski Amendment To treat activities related to fishers in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands areas as related to an expert purpose (5459)
- Murkowski Amendment To remove funding from the Forest Legacy Program and provide funding for good neighbor agreements (5460)
- Murkowski Amendment To provide funding for tribal public safety (5461)
- Murkowski Amendment To provide funding to carry out the Federal Indian Boarding School Initiative of the Department of the Interior (5462)
- Graham Amendment To strike a provision relating to a greenhouse gas reduction fund and provide funding for certain activities of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (5463)

- Cassidy Amendment To exempt oral cancer drugs from negotiation under the Drug Price Negotiation Program (5464)
- Cassidy Amendment To make appropriations for the charter school program (5465)
- Cassidy Amendment To allow committees of jurisdiction access to information submitted by pharmacy benefit managers for legislative purposes (5466)
- Cassidy Amendment To protect Medicare beneficiaries' access to health care providers (5467)
- Daines Amendment To require annual timber harvests to be equal to at least 75 percent of allowable sale quantity (5468)
- Hassan Amendment To eliminate the reinstatement of Superfund taxes (5469)
- Portman Amendment To impose requirements relating to the origin of critical minerals and components contained in the batteries of zero-emission delivery vehicles purchased by the United States Postal Service (5470)
- Lee Amendment To auction spectrum and to authorize the Federal Communications Commission to borrow funds from the Treasury, to be repaid out of auction proceeds, to ensure rural communications provider have the resources to replace communications equipment and services to protect their networks from Chinese Communist Party espionage (5471)
- Crapo MTC To Finance to prohibit audits >\$400k; monitor private transactions; target taxpayers (251)
- Thune Amendment To remove harmful small business taxes, and for other purposes (5472)
- Kennedy Amendment To prevent funds made available for purchasing zero-emission delivery vehicles for the United States Postal Service from being used to replace vehicles that have less than 100,000 miles on them (5473)
- Marshall MTC To Finance to protect Medicare and address solvency issues (252)
- Marshall Amendment To establish a floor for the maximum fair price under the Drug Price Negotiation Program (5474)
- Marshall Amendment To strike the continued delay of the Prescription Drug Rebate Rule (5475)
- Young Amendment To amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the expensing of research and experimental expenditures (5476)
- Young Amendment To amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the expensing of research and experimental expenditures (5477)
- Young Amendment To amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the expensing of research and experimental expenditures (5478)
- Crapo Amendment To lower prescription drug costs and improve access to innovative treatments and cures (5479)
- Tester Amendment To establish a procedure for terminating a determination by Surgeon General to suspend certain entries and imports from designated places (5480)
- Barrasso Amendment To provide for a rebate by manufacturers for selected drugs and biological subject to maximum fair price negotiation. (5481)
- Grassley Amendment To establish requirements relating to the fiduciary duty of pharmacy benefit managers under Medicare part D. (5482)

- Collins MTC To Finance to provide no funds to hire new IRS employees until 90% working in person. (253)
- Grassley Amendment To improve the bill by amending titles XI, XVIII, and XIX of the Social Security Act to lower prescription drug prices in the Medicare and Medicaid programs, to improve transparency related to pharmaceutical prices and transactions, to lower patients' out-of-pocket costs, and to ensure accountability to taxpayers. (5483)
- Grassley Amendment To improve the bill by amending titles XI, XVIII, and XIX of the Social Security Act to lower prescription drug prices in the Medicare and Medicaid programs, to improve transparency related to pharmaceutical prices and transactions, to lower patients' out-of-pocket costs, and to ensure accountability to taxpayers. (5484)
- Hagerty Amendment To amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal the amendments made to reporting of third party network transactions by the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021. (5485)

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**From:** Simmons, Maalik (Durbin) <Maalik\_Simmons@durbin.senate.gov>  
**Sent:** Sunday, August 7, 2022 3:23 AM  
**To:** Simmons, Maalik (Durbin) <Maalik\_Simmons@durbin.senate.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: Week 4: the Final Table

At 3:17am, the Senate began a 15 minute roll call vote on the Scott (FL) motion to commit the bill to Finance.

Expected next amdt votes (subject to change):

1. 5389 – Marshall: To protect patient access to current and future treatments for a range of serious conditions, such as cancer, Alzheimer's disease, HIV/AIDS, Parkinson's disease, and sickle cell disease, among numerous others
2. 5383 – Capito: To expedite consideration of permits and provide regulatory certainty for infrastructure and energy projects.
3. 5421 -- Grassley Amendment to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify the maximum capital gains tax rate, to provide a partial exclusion for interest received by individuals, to provide inflation adjustments for certain tax benefits, and for other purposes.

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**From:** Simmons, Maalik (Durbin) <Maalik\_Simmons@durbin.senate.gov>  
**Sent:** Sunday, August 7, 2022 12:38 AM  
**To:** Simmons, Maalik (Durbin) <Maalik\_Simmons@durbin.senate.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: Week 4: the Final Table

Sen. Hassan called up the Hassan amendment to eliminate the reinstatement of Superfund taxes #5469. Sen. Sanders raised a point of order against the amendment. Sen. Hassan moved to waive all point of orders against the amendment and the Senate is voting on the motion to waive.

Expected next Republican amdt votes (subject to change):

1. Barraso to require certain additional onshore oil and gas lease sales in certain states. (5409)
2. Capito amendment to strike provisions concerning funding for certain activities under the Clean Air Act. (5382)
3. Lankford amendment to provide additional funding for implementation of title 42. (5384)
4. Crapo amendment to prevent the use of additional Internal Revenue Service funds from being used for audits of taxpayers with taxable incomes below \$400,000 in order to protect low- and middle-income earning American taxpayers from an onslaught of audits from any army of new Internal Revenue Service auditors funded by an unprecedented, nearly \$80,000,000,000, infusion of new funds. (5404)

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**From:** Simmons, Maalik (Durbin) <Maalik\_Simmons@durbin.senate.gov>

**Sent:** Saturday, August 6, 2022 11:35 PM

**To:** Simmons, Maalik (Durbin) <Maalik\_Simmons@durbin.senate.gov>

**Subject:** RE: Week 4: the Final Table

By unanimous consent, all remaining time on the bill was yielded back. There will be 2 minutes for debate equally divided prior to each vote with respect to the reconciliation bill.

At 11:31pm, the Senate began a 15 minute roll call vote on the motion to waive the point of order with respect to Sanders amendment #5210.

Expected next Republican amdt votes (subject to change):

1. Graham amendment to strike a tax increase that would result in higher consumer prices for gasoline, heating oil, and other energy sources for Americans earning less than \$400,000 per year. (5301)
2. Barraso to require certain additional onshore oil and gas lease sales in certain states. (5409)
3. Capito amendment to strike provisions concerning funding for certain activities under the Clean Air Act. (5382)
4. Lankford amendment to provide additional funding for implementation of title 42. (5384)
5. Crapo amendment to prevent the use of additional Internal Revenue Service funds from being used for audits of taxpayers with taxable incomes below \$400,000 in order to

protect low- and middle-income earning American taxpayers from an onslaught of audits from any army of new Internal Revenue Service auditors funded by an unprecedented, nearly \$80,000,000,000, infusion of new funds. (5404)

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**From:** Simmons, Maalik (Durbin) <Maalik\_Simmons@durbin.senate.gov>

**Sent:** Saturday, August 6, 2022 9:48 PM

**To:** Simmons, Maalik (Durbin) <Maalik\_Simmons@durbin.senate.gov>

**Subject:** RE: Week 4: the Final Table

We continue to burn debate time. We hope to be able to yield back time and begin the votearama this evening.

#### Amendments Filed to H.R. 5376

- Wicker MTC to Banking to establish a China Economic Data Coordination Center (1)
- Wicker MTC Finance for a tax credit for long-term investments in community development institutions (2)
- Schumer Amendment in the nature of a substitute (5194)
- Tillis MTC To Judiciary to bar aliens who fail to appear at hearing from getting immigration benefits (3)
- Tillis MTC To Judiciary to increase H-2B visa by 132,000 per fiscal year (4)
- Tillis MTC To Judiciary to require USCIS plan on reducing employment-based visa backlog(5)
- Tillis MTC To Judiciary to prohibit end to Title 42 until COVID national emergency ends (6)
- Tillis MTC To Judiciary to recapture 75,000 employment-based visas from 2020 and 2021(7)
- Tillis MTC To Judiciary to hire 2,500 ICE officers to focus on removal operations (8)
- Tillis MTC To Judiciary to hire 2,500 ICE officers for removal of sex offenders, rapists, child molesters (9)
- Tillis MTC To Judiciary to hire 2,500 ICE officers for removal of identity theft, benefit fraud, unlawful employment (10)
- Tillis MTC To Judiciary to hire 2,500 ICE officers for removal of gang, felony, drunk driving (11)
- Tillis MTC To Judiciary to hire magistrate and district judges and increase illegal crossing prosecutions (12)
- Tillis MTC To Judiciary to amend standard for frivolous asylum claim to "willfully blind" (13)
- Tillis MTC To Finance to prohibit IRS from targeting religious nonprofits & protect their tax-exempt status (14)
- Sasse MTC To Finance to ensure children born alive during an abortion receive same level of care (15)
- Sasse MTC To Finance to prohibit clean tech manufacturing tax credit from being used in China (16)

- Rubio MTC To HELP for Pregnant Students Rights Act (17)
- Rubio MTC To HELP to define pregnancy (18)
- Rubio MTC To ENR for permitting reform; prioritize Mountain Valley & Northern Lights Expansion Pipelines (19)
- Rubio MTC To Judiciary for pre-trial detention of dangerous criminals (20)
- Rubio MTC To Finance to support domestic IP and supply chain for pharmaceuticals against China (21)
- Tillis MTC To Banking to expedite distribution of CDBG disaster recovery funds by state grantees (22)
- Tillis MTC To Ag to limit CCC funds to only direct support to producers and ag processors (23)
- Tillis MTC To HELP to allow livestock producers to use H-2A visas (24)
- Tillis MTC To HELP for private and charter schools (25)
- Tillis MTC To HELP to protect state's jurisdiction to authorize charter school openings (26)
- Tillis MTC To Finance to increase the dependent care assistance program limitation (27)
- Tillis MTC To Finance to allow equal access to child care options, including family and faith-based (28)
- Tillis MTC To VA to help address staffing shortages at VA health care facilities (29)
- Tillis MTC To Finance to extend the life of the Federal Hospital Insurance Trust Fund (30)
- Tillis MTC To Finance to protect long-term investments in medical research (31)
- Tillis MTC To HELP to ensure that people who like their health insurance can keep it (32)
- Tillis MTC To Finance to waive 15% minimum tax for companies building in US/reshoring supply chain (33)
- Tillis MTC To Banking to place limitations on who can serve as acting chair of the FDIC (34)
- Tillis MTC To Finance to pair increased funding to IRS with increased penalties for leaking information (35)
- Thune MTC To Indian Affairs to move tribal climate resiliency funds to tribal public safety and justice (36)
- Thune MTC To Finance to prevent tax increase on incomes of \$400,000 or less (37)
- Thune MTC To Finance to reallocate \$80 billion in IRS funds to provide tax relief (38)
- Thune MTC To HELP to prevent the president from forgiving student loans for high-income people (39)
- Thune MTC To Finance to reallocate \$43 billion in tax enforcement funds to USCBP (40)
- Rubio MTC To Judiciary to ensure prosecutors and law enforcement are addressing violent crime (41)
- Ernst MTC To EPW to prevent methane permitting requirements on farmers and ranchers (42)
- Ernst MTC To HELP to waive the FDA application fee for regular, routine oral contraceptives (43)
- Romney Amendment to Income cap on temporary increase in premium tax credit (5196)

- Cramer MTC To EPW to have GSA identify and sell unused government office space (44)
- Cramer MTC To HSGAC to fund the completion of the southern border wall between the U.S. & Mexico (45)
- Cramer MTC To Finance to strike provisions that preclude administrative/judicial review in DPNP (46)
- Lankford MTC To Finance to ensure conscience protections for health care providers (47)
- Lankford MTC To Finance to assess a user fee on electric vehicle operators and provide to Hwy. Trust Fund (48)
- Lankford MTC To ENR to increase domestic oil and gas exports to Europe (49)
- Lankford MTC To Finance to treat all energy companies equally under minimum tax provisions (50)
- Lankford MTC To Finance to prevent tax increase on domestic manufacturers (51)
- Lankford MTC to Finance to prevent business tax increases if borne by workers or consumers (52)
- Lankford MTC To Finance to incentivize new drug development (53)
- Lankford MTC To Finance for generics in Medicare part D (54)
- Lankford MTC To Finance to prevent funding for gender transition procedures on children (55)
- Lankford MTC To ENR to increase domestic oil and gas production (56)
- Lankford MTC To ENR to build pipeline infrastructure and capacity (57)
- Lankford MTC To Finance to ensure no tax benefits for forced labor in Xinjiang (58)
- Lankford MTC To Finance to ensure IRS improves privacy protections and stops illegal disclosure (59)
- Lankford MTC To HSGAC to study causes and costs of the border crisis (60)
- Lankford To Finance to ensure Medicare savings not used for non-Medicare spending (61)
- Cruz To HSGAC to ensure no covid vaccine mandate in DC schools (62)
- Cruz MTC To Finance for no IRS funds to target religious nonprofits (63)
- Cruz MTC To Judiciary to prevent DOJ from directing fines to parties other than parties to the case or the U.S. (64)
- Cruz MTC To Finance for tax credit for remediation of covid learning loss (65)
- Cruz MTC To Judiciary to prevent DOJ targeting parents as "domestic terrorists" (66)
- Cruz MTC To HELP to physically secure elementary and secondary schools (67)
- Cruz MTC To Finance to repeal Title I if inflation is above 1.4% in one year (68)
- Cruz MTC To Finance to ensure no tax increases for people making \$400,000 or less (69)
- Cornyn MTC To HSGAC to achieve full operational control of the southern border (70)
- Cornyn MTC To HELP to require background checks for all members in UAC placement households (71)
- Moran MTC To Finance to reduce inflation and create economic growth (72)
- Lankford Amendment To require the United States Postal Service to conduct a publicly available cost-benefit analysis to analyze costs versus savings of the purchase of electric

delivery vehicles compared to internal combustion engine delivery vehicles, and to ensure that the purchased electric delivery vehicles are placed in areas and o routes that make the most economic sense. (5197)

- Lankford Amendment to limit the procurement of drugs manufactured with waived intellectual property rights unless the President certifies that the United States will not support any measure that weakens any provisions of the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights relating to a pharmaceutical, therapeutic, diagnostic, or other biotechnology commodity produced in the United States. (5198)
- Lankford Amendment to suspend the distribution of funds appropriated under this Act until all Afghan nationals living in the United States who appear on the biometrics-enabled watchlist have been apprehended. (5199)
- Lankford Amendment to prohibit the provision of support and incentives under provisions relating to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry to certain foreign persons. (5200)
- Lankford Amendment to strike the repeal of the prescription drug rebate rule. (5201)
- Lankford Amendment to require qualified manufacturers to certify that no forced labor was utilized in the production of specified property (5202)
- Lankford Amendment to strike section 60107 (regarding the low emissions electricity program). (5203)
- Lankford Amendment To strike the provision on the high-efficiency electric home rebate program (5204)
- Lankford Amendment To strike provisions relating to the offshore oil and gas royalty rate, Mineral Leasing Act modernization, royalties extracted on all extracted methane, and a methane emissions reduction program (5205)
- Lankford Amendment to limit the obligation or expenditure of amounts provided under the bill until other funds previously made available are expended. (5206)
- Paul Amendment To amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to increase the contribution limitations with respect to a health savings account, and for other purposes (5207)
- Sanders Amendment To extend the special rules for the child tax credit that applied for 2021 and to increase the corporate tax rate (5208)
- Sanders Amendment to establish a Civilian Climate Corps. (5209)
- Sanders Amendment to Cap costs for prescription Drugs under Medicare parts B and D (5210)
- Sanders Amendment to Cover dental, hearing, and vision under Medicare (5211)
- Hagerty Amendment To modify the amount appropriated to the Office of Inspector General of the Department of Energy (5212)
- Hagerty Amendment To modify the prohibition on the use of increased Internal Revenue Service funding for tax increases (5213)
- Hagerty Amendment To reallocate funding from the Office of the Chief Readiness Support Officer for enforcement, detention, and removal operations relating to illegal aliens who have committed homicide offenses in the United States (5214)
- Hagerty Amendment To reallocate funding from the Office of the Chief Readiness Support Officer for enforcement, detention, and removal operations relating to illegal aliens who have committed felony rape offenses in the United States (5215)

- Hagerty Amendment To reallocate funding from the Office of the Chief Readiness Officer for enforcement, detention, and removal operations relating to illegal aliens who have committed sexual offenses involving minors in the United States (5216)
- Hagerty Amendment To prohibit vehicles with batteries that include critical minerals that include critical minerals that were extracted or processed in certain counties from qualifying for the new clean vehicle credit (5217)
- Hagerty Amendment To reallocate funding from the United States Postal Service clean fleets to use for the enforcement, detention, and removal operations relating to illegal aliens who have committed felony criminal offenses in the United States (5218)
- Hagerty Amendment To increase funding for the detection of drugs and contraband entering the United States and for enforcement, detention, and removal operations relating to illegal aliens who have committed felony criminal offenses in the United States, and to decrease the additional funding to be provided for United States Postal Service clean fleets (5219)
- Hagerty Amendment To increase funding for the detection of drugs and contraband entering the United States and to decrease the additional funding to be provided for United States Postal Service clean fleets (5220)
- Hagerty Amendment To authorize FEMA to provide financial assistance for border wall construction and detention facilities for illegal aliens (5221)
- Hagerty MTC To EPW to prioritize domestic oil and gas production (73)
- Hagerty MTC To ENR to prioritize increasing domestic oil and gas production (74)
- Hagerty MTC To EPW reduce domestic regulation of oil and gas (75)
- Hagerty MTC To Ag to preclude states from regulating products more than federal government (76)
- Hagerty MTC To Ag to maintain pesticide and herbicide registrations (77)
- Hagerty MTC To Judiciary to provide sufficient resources to ICE (78)
- Hagerty MTC To HSGAC to provide sufficient resources to ICE (79)
- Hagerty MTC To Finance to ensure price controls do not reduce supply chain of medicines (80)
- Hagerty MTC To Finance to ensure U.S. not lose role as leader in biomedical innovation to China (81)
- Hagerty MTC To Banking to ensure no tax hikes for people earning under \$400,000 (82)
- Hagerty MTC To ENR to protect investment in oil and gas (83)
- Hagerty MTC To VA to ensure no tax hikes for people earning less than \$400,000 (84)
- Hagerty MTC To Judiciary to fund rape kits (85)
- Hagerty MTC To HELP to ensure no tax hikes for people earning under \$400,000 (86)
- Hagerty MTC To ENR to provide \$258 million for DOE IG (87)
- Hagerty MTC To Indian Affairs to ensure no tax hikes for earners under \$400,000 (88)
- Hagerty MTC To Commerce to ensure no tax hike under \$400k (89)
- Hagerty MTC To EPW no tax hikes under \$400k (90)
- Hagerty MTC To ENR no tax hikes under \$400k (91)
- Hagerty MTC To Ag no tax hikes under \$400k (92)
- Hagerty MTC To HSGAC no tax hikes under \$400k (93)
- Hagerty MTC To Small Business no tax hikes under \$400k (94)
- Hagerty MTC To Judiciary to compensate victims of crimes by illegal aliens (95)

- Hagerty MTC To HSGAC to combat import of opioids (96)
- Hagerty MTC To HSGAC to combat trafficking of fentanyl across Mexico border (97)
- Hagerty MTC To Finance to cut additional IRS funding and extend life of HI trust fund (98)
- Hagerty MTC To ENR to prohibit climate change policies (99)
- Hagerty MTC To ENR to prevent climate change emergency declaration (100)
- Hagerty MTC To Judiciary to fund law enforcement (101)
- Hagerty MTC To HSGAC to fund removal of illegal aliens (102)
- Hagerty MTC To HSGAC to fund ICE to remove illegal aliens (103)
- Hagerty MTC To Finance to cut extension of increased percentages for premium assistance tax credit (104)
- Hagerty MTC To Finance no tax hikes under \$400k (105)
- Hagerty MTC To HSGAC funds ICE to deport illegal aliens for sexual offenses (106)
- Hagerty MTC To Judiciary funds ICE to deport illegal aliens for sexual offenses (107)
- Hagerty MTC To HSGAC funds ICE to deport illegal aliens for violent rape (108)
- Hagerty MTC To Judiciary funds ICE to deport illegal aliens for violent rape (109)
- Hagerty MTC To HSGAC funds ICE to deport illegal aliens for homicide (110)
- Hagerty MTC To Judiciary funds ICE to deport illegal aliens for homicide (111)
- Hagerty MTC To EPW for exemptions for small refineries (112)
- Marshall MTC To EPW to prohibit EPA & DOT from issuing rules to compel companies to sell electric cars (113)
- Tuberville Amendment To express the sense of the Senate regarding the importance of the energy independence of the United States (5222)
- Portman Amendment To decrease the amount appropriated for Office of Management and Budget oversight and make the amount of the decrease available to develop a uniform application process for Federal grants that requires disclosure of foreign affiliations and support by potential grant recipients (5223)
- Portman Amendment Purpose: To replace the provision regarding the Office of the Chief Readiness Support Officer with a \$500,000,000 appropriation for the detection of illegal narcotics, including opioids (5224)
- Daines MTC To Finance for support for pregnant mothers (114)
- Ernst MTC To Judiciary for Sarah's Law (115)
- Grassley MTC To Judiciary to extend scheduling of fentanyl analogues for 5 years (116)
- Cotton MTC To Judiciary to require inmates housed according to biological sex (117)
- Cotton MTC To Finance to prohibit funding for nonemergency health care for illegal aliens (118)
- Cotton MTC To Finance to prohibit federal funding through Medicaid for gender transition to minors (119)
- Risch Amendment To provide for a method by which the economic costs of significant regulatory actions may be offset by the repeal of other regulatory actions (5225)
- Risch Amendment To require the Comptroller General of the United States to conduct a review of the inflationary impact of the bill on taxpayers with an annual income of not more than \$400,000 in the States located in the Mountain division of the West region of the United States, as designated by the Bureau of Labor Statistics (5226)

- Risch Amendment To improve this bill (5227)
- Risch Amendment To prohibit the use of funds from blocking already permitted and approved energy projects (5228)
- Risch Amendment To strike a provision relating to fossil fuel resources (5229)
- Risch Amendment To strike a provision relating to fossil fuel resources (5230)
- Risch Amendment To strike a provision relating to fossil fuel resources (5231)
- Scott (SC) Amendment To exclude income received under sexual abuse and trafficking awards, to modify the educator expense deduction, and for other purposes (5232)
- Scott (SC) Amendment To provide for a plan to eliminate racial, political, regional, and socioeconomic discrepancies in audit rates of the Internal Revenue Service (5233)
- Scott (FL) Amendment To provide further requirements on reporting by qualified manufacturers for purposes of the new clean vehicle credit (5234)
- Marshall Amendment To strike section 30001, related to enhanced use of the Defense Production Act of 1950 (5235)
- Young MTC To Finance to suspend drug price negotiation program if discourages drug manufacturers (120)
- Young MTC To Finance to suspend drug price negotiation if public health emergency (121)
- Young MTC To Finance re reliance on China for drug ingredients (122)
- Young MTC To Finance to exempt antibiotics from drug price negotiation (123)
- Young MTC To Finance to suspend drug negotiation if China increases drug market share (124)
- Young MTC Finance for no tax increase <\$400k (125)
- Young MTC To VA to provide additional resources for veterans' mental health care (126)
- Tuberville MTC To HELP to prohibit funding for institutions that host a Confucius Institute (127)
- Tuberville MTC To HELP to prohibit funding for schools that teach critical race theory (128)
- Tuberville MTC To HELP to prohibit funding for colleges that allow transgender athletes not in biological sex (129)
- Tuberville MTC To SASC to expand size of Navy by commissioning 100 new ships (130)
- Tuberville MTC To HSGAC to prohibit Thrift Savings Fund from being invested in China (131)
- Tuberville MTC To ENR to prohibit bill from taking effect until gas is less than \$2.39 a gallon for 30 days (132)
- Tuberville MTC To ENR to prohibit bill from taking effect until lease sales are completed (133)
- Tuberville MTC To ENR to require DOI to prioritize offshore lease sales (134)
- Tuberville MTC To ENR to prohibit funding/tax credits from bill until all pending pipelines are approved (135)
- Tuberville MTC To Finance to abolish Federal estate and gift taxes (136)
- Tuberville MTC To Finance to preserve existing step-up in basis rules (137)
- Tuberville MTC To Finance to prohibit tax hikes on family farms (138)

- Tuberville MTC To Finance to establish 20% tax credit for domestic semiconductors (139)
- Tuberville MTC To Finance to establish 20% tax credit for domestic PPE (140)
- Tuberville MTC To Finance to establish 20% tax credit for domestic medical manufacturing (141)
- Tuberville MTC To Finance for tax credit for mining critical minerals (142)
- Tuberville MTC To Finance to make tax cuts permanent (143)
- Tuberville MTC To Finance for tax credit for domestic pharmaceutical ingredients (144)
- Tuberville MTC To Finance to enforce insurance fraud (145)
- Tuberville MTC To Finance to prohibit benefits to people convicted of UI fraud (146)
- Braun Amendment to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to deny tax benefits for organizations that perform or finance abortions (5236)
- Schumer Amendment to strike a provision relating to the neighborhood access and equity grant program. (5237)
- Braun Amendment to strike funding for consumer-related education and partnerships with respect to reductions in green-house gas emissions that result from domestic electricity generation and use. (5238)
- Braun Amendment to prohibit the President from declaring certain emergencies or disasters for the purpose of confiscating guns or magazines, or prohibiting or otherwise regulating the possession, manufacture, sale , or transfer of guns or magazines. (5239)
- Braun Amendment to limit the use of taxpayer funded union time for employees of the Internal Revenue Service. (5240)
- Braun Amendment to strike funding for using authorities of the Clean Air Act to ensure reductions in greenhouse gas emissions from domestic electricity generation and use. (5241)
- Braun Amendment to include Industry- Recognized Apprentices Programs for purposes of any applicable apprenticeship requirements. (5242)
- Marshall Amendment to prohibit the use of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals in developing or administering certain programs under the jurisdiction of the Committee on environment and Public Works. (5243)
- Marshall Amendment to prohibit the use of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals in developing or administering certain programs under the jurisdiction of the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition , and Forestry.( 5244)
- Ernst Amendment to reduce the unnecessary spending by \$18,000,000,000 by improvement the management of waste cleanup in Washington by the Department of Energy. (5245)
- Ernst Amendment to require the United States Postal Service to raise revenue by selling non-political advertisement space on delivery vehicles purchased using amounts appropriated by the bill. (5246)
- Ernst Amendment to strike a provision relating to a priority on the use of funds for the environmental quality incentives program. (5247)
- Tuberville MTC to EPW to enact CEQ rule. (147)
- Tuberville MTC To Judiciary to prohibit race-based grants. (148)
- Tuberville MTC To HELP to prohibit race-based standards. (149)
- Tuberville MTC To EPW to cute greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund. (150)

- Tuberville MTC To Judiciary to prohibit legal assistance to illegal aliens. (151)
- Tuberville MTC To Finance to prohibit financial holdings in China or Russia. (152)
- Tuberville MTC To Commerce to prohibit funds for Chinese biomedical research. (153)
- Tuberville MTC To HSGAC to enforce immigration laws. (154)
- Tuberville MTC To HSGAC to fund southern border wall. (155)
- Tuberville MTC To HSGAC for ICE to conduct worksite enforcement. (156)
- Tuberville MTC To HSGAC to prohibit sharing genetic information with China. (157)
- Tuberville MTC To Judiciary to delegate immigration enforcement to state and local law enforcement. (158)
- Tuberville MTC To Judiciary to fund state and local law enforcement. (159)
- Tuberville MTC To establish tax on international remittances to fund border wall. (160)
- Tuberville MTC To ENR for FERC to approve pipelines. (161)
- Tuberville MTC To Banking to prohibit Chinese software. (162)
- Tuberville MTC To Banking to require federal research grant applications disclose foreign funding. (163)
- Tuberville MTC To Finance to prohibit Huawei from importing goods into the U.S. (164)
- Tuberville MTC To Finance to recognize China uses forced labor. (165)
- Tuberville MTC To Banking for CFIUS to review foreign control of ag businesses. (166)
- Tuberville MTC To Ag to remove all agriculture provisions. (167)
- Tuberville MTC To Banking to preservice Economic Growth, Regulatory Relief, Consumer Protection Act of 2018. (168)
- Tuberville MTC To Banking establish Fair Access to Financial Services rule. (169)
- Tuberville MTC To Banking to prohibit financial regulatory agencies from addressing climate change. (170)
- Tuberville MTC To Judiciary to make fentanyl a sched. 1 controlled substance. (171)
- Tuberville MTC To HELP to prohibit retirement funds from investing in China (172)
- Tuberville MTC To HELP to investigate origins of covid-19. (173)
- Tuberville MTC To HELP to require retirement funds to consider only financial considerations. (174)
- Tuberville MTC To HELP to require retirement plans act in the interest of participants. (175)
- Tuberville MTC To Finance to extend any temporary TCJA provisions for 5 more years. (176)
- Scott(S.C) MTC To Finance eliminate IRS enforcement funding and establish a child opportunity tax credit(177)
- Scott (S.C) MTC to Finance to eliminate inflationary spending and lower cost of everyday goods. (178)
- Scott( S.C) MTC to Finance to mitigate prescription drug shortages (179)
- Scott (S.C) MTC To Finance to eliminate prevailing wage requirements. (180)
- Scott( S.C) MTC To Small Business to prohibit SBA from engaging in direct lending. (181)
- Scott (S.C) MTC To Finance to bar new tax increase until inflation is below 4.5%. (182)

- Scott(S.C) MTC To Finance to prohibit Treasury from requiring reports on retirement accounts. (183)
- Daines MTC To Finance make deduction for qualified business income permanent. (184)
- Inhofe MTC To HELP to expand medical education for primary care in underserved areas. (185)
- Inhofe MTC To EPW to ensure China, India, and Russia meet greenhouse gas targets. (186)
- Inhofe MTC To ENR to authorize states to take over federal oil and gas leasing. (187)
- Inhofe MTC To HELP to ensure patents with prenatal diagnosis of chromosomal conditions get accurate information. (188)
- Inhofe MTC To ENR to give states authority over fracking. (189)
- Inhofe MTC To ENR to provide a fee on electric vehicle battery disposal and recycling. (190)
- Thune Amendment to strike a provision relating to the neighborhood access and equity grant program. (5248)
- Thune Amendment to prevent double dipping between tax credits and grants or loans for clean vehicle manufactures. (5249)
- Thune Amendment To strike the \$80,000,000,000 in additional funding provided to the Internal Revenue Service. (5250)
- Thune Amendment To prohibit the Environmental Protection Agency from monitoring methane emissions from livestock. ( 5251)
- Thune Amendment To amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exclude health plans covering elective abortions from the premium tax credit. (5252)
- Thune Amendment To provide for commercial motor vehicle parking capacity. (5253)
- Inhofe Amendment To amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to permanently extend the depreciation rules for property used predominantly within an Indian reservation. (5254)
- Daines Amendment To amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the credit for production of refined coal. (5255)
- Daines Amendment To permanently extend the limitation on the deduction for State and local taxes and dedicate the savings to deficit reduction. (5256)
- Daines Amendment To permanently extend the limitation on the deduction for State and local taxes and to extend the deduction for qualified business income. (5257)
- Daines Amendment To permanently extend the limitation on the deduction for State and local taxes and to eliminate the additional Internal Revenue Service funding for enforcement. (5258)
- Ernst Amendment To require a report on the delinquent taxes of Federal employees. (5259)
- Ernst Amendment To address delinquent tax debts of Federal employees. (5260)
- Ernst Amendment To preserve tax benefits for bonus depreciation and research and development under the corporate minimum tax. (5261)
- Warnock Amendment To make health care coverage available to low-income adults in States that have not expanded Medicaid. (5262)

- Cruz Amendment To strike the \$80,000,000,000 slush fund for the Internal Revenue Service to prevent the hiring of 87,000 new Internal Revenue Service employees that will surveil and audit the private account information and transaction data of innocent Americans and small businesses. (5263)
- Cruz Amendment to prevent Democrat's 15 percent minimum book tax's disproportionate burden on American manufacturing that will be borne by working families in the form of higher prices, fewer jobs, and lower wages. (5264)
- Cruz Amendment To provide for certain conditions on the export to China of crude oil from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve. (5265)
- Daines Amendment To strike provisions relating to the offshore oil and gas royalty rate and Mineral Leasing Act modernization. (5266)
- Daines Amendment To provide funding for the rehabilitation of public land that has experienced a natural disaster. (5267)
- Daines Amendment To condition the availability of certain funds on the completion of a report detailing the job losses and the impacts on consumer energy costs resulting from the revocation of the permit for the Keystone XL pipe-line. (5268)
- Daines Amendment To strike certain provisions relating to the offshore oil and gas royalty rate, the modernization of the Mineral Leasing Act, and royalties on extracted methane. (5269)
- Daines Amendment To reallocate funding for Internal Revenue Service enforcement to taxpayer services. (5270)
- Boozman To restore work requirements for able-bodied adults without dependents to pre-pandemic status. (5271)
- Capito MTC To Finance to ensure drug pricing program doesn't have a reduction in Alzheimer's treatment. (191)
- Scott (S.C) Amendment To provide a plan to eliminate racial, political, regional, and socioeconomic discrepancies in audit rates of the Internal Revenue Service. (5272)
- Thune Amendment To strike section 60103 (regarding the greenhouse gas reduction fund) (5273)
- Johnson MTC To VA to prohibit funds from being used to enforce COVID-19 vaccine mandate in VA. (192)
- Johnson MTC To HELP to prohibit federal funds for a COVID-19 vaccine mandate. (193)
- Johnson MTC To HSGAC to prohibit canceling any border wall construction/ contract. (194)
- Johnson MTC To Judiciary to require reporting on pretrial release for felony offenses. (195)
- Ernst Amendment To modify the provisions establishing emissions rates for purposes of the clean fuel production credit. (5274)
- Cruz Amendment To modify the requirements applicable to foreign entities of concern for purposes of the new clean vehicle credit. (5275)
- Cruz Amendment To prohibit weakening the requirements applicable to foreign entities of concern for purposes of the new clean vehicle credit. (5276)

- Kennedy Amendment To require the Director of the Office of Management and Budget to finalize the rule to implement the requirement that contractors and grantees certify that they are in compliance with tax laws. (5277)
- Kennedy Amendment To prevent fraud and abuse in connection with the increased premium tax credit. (5278)
- Wicker Amendment To improve Coast Guard housing, medical, and child care facilities. ( 5279)
- Wicker Amendment To appropriate additional amounts to the Federal Communications Commission to carry out the Secure and Trusted Communications Networks Act of 2019. (5280)
- Sanders Amendment To modify the bill. (5281)
- Blackburn MTC To Finance to prohibit IRS from collecting biometric data. (196)
- Blackburn MTC To Finance to lower prescription drug prices without violating 1860D-11(i) of SSA (197)
- Blackburn MTC To Finance to remove any provision that reinstates any excise tax. (198)
- Blackburn MTC To HELP to disrupt Chinese influence on colleges. (199)
- Blackburn MTC To Ag to prohibit funding from being used by nonresident aliens, affiliated with China. (200)
- Blackburn MTC To Finance to prohibit tax increase on small businesses. (201)
- Blackburn MTC To Finance to reduce IRS user fees by 95% for people with income less than \$5M. (202)
- Kennedy MTC To Finance to prohibit telework at IRS before 2020 backlog is eliminated. (203)
- Kennedy MTC To EPW prohibit executive climate actions from taking effect until India/China reduce GHGs. (204)
- Kennedy MTC To HELP to repurpose COIVD funds to study mental health impacts of remote learning. (205)
- Kennedy MTC To HELP to suspend federal funds for hospitals not in compliance w/ price transparency rule (206)
- Kennedy MTC To HELP prohibit funding for colleges with Confucius Institute. (207)
- Kennedy MTC To Prohibit Provider Relief funding from hospitals not following price transparency. (208)
- Kennedy MTC To HELP repurpose COVID funds for school vouchers. (209)
- Kennedy MTC To HELP to require HHS to provide report on new drugs coming to market. (210)
- Kennedy MTC To HELP reduce insulin costs without increasing health insurance premiums. (211)
- Kennedy MTC To Finance to ensure do not compromise US superiority to China in bipharmaceutical innovation. (212)
- Kennedy MTC To Judiciary to improve information sharing between CBP and intelligence community. (213)
- Kennedy MTC To Judiciary to prohibit purchase of Chinese Drones. (214)
- Tillis Amendment To Safeguard patient access to cutting- edge therapies by protecting small businesses from onerous permanent mandates and catastrophic penalties under the new Federal program. (5282)

- Tillis Amendment To exempt genetically targeted technologies from negotiation under the Drug Price Negotiation Program. (5283)
- Tillis Amendment To equalize the negotiation period between small-molecule and biologic candidates under the Drug Price Negotiation Program. (5284)
- Cruz Amendment To prohibit the Environmental Protection Agency from enforcing provisions of the Clean Air Act that erode the effect of the Supreme Court of the United States decision of West Virginia v. Environmental Protection Agency. (5285)
- Cruz Amendment To prohibit the Environmental Protection Agency from banning hydraulic fracturing under the methane emission reduction program. (5286)
- Cruz Amendment To eliminate certain new tax hikes on middle class gasoline and energy bills. (5287)
- Blackburn Amendment To Strike certain provisions relating to the offshore oil and gas royalty rate and the Modernization of the Mineral Leasing Act. (5288)
- Blackburn Amendment To modify the prohibition on the use of increased Internal Revenue Service funding for tax increases. (5289)
- Blackburn Amendment To exempt grants received under the Coronavirus Economic Relief for Transportation Services. (CERTS) Act from Federal taxation. (5290)
- Merkley Amendment To modify the requirements with respect to excluded entities for purposes of the new clean vehicle credit. (5291)
- Merkley Amendment to establish a summer electronic benefit transfer for children program. (5292)
- Merkley Amendment to increase the appropriation for United States Postal Service Clean fleets. (5293)
- Merkley Amendment to extend the credit for qualified 2- or 3- wheeled plug-in electric vehicles. (5294)
- Merkley Amendment to require the withdrawal of certain areas offered for lease under the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act on request of certain States and territories. (5295)
- Merkley Amendment to strike certain provisions relating to certain required outer Continental Shelf lease sales. (5296)
- Merkley Amendment to appropriate amounts for housing. (5297)
- Merkley Amendment to create grants for tuition- free community college. (5298)
- Merkley Amendment to eliminate certain subsidies for fossil-fuel production. (5299)
- Merkley Amendment to expand access to free, high quality preschool. (5300)
- Graham Amendment to strike a tax increase that would result in higher consumer prices for gasoline, heating oil, and other energy sources for Americans earning less than \$400,000 per year.(5301)
- Fischer Amendment to direct amounts appropriated for the use of Defense Production Act of 1950 authorities to be used to improve the munitions production infrastructure of the United States. (5302)
- Fischer Amendment to prohibit tax benefits from being claimed with respect to any renewable product or component which is produced by a covered foreign country (5303).
- Fischer Amendment to prohibit funds made available for greenhouse gas corporate reporting from being used to require reporting of emissions from small businesses, farms, and ranches. (5304)
- Young MTC to HELP for newborn safety devices are fire houses. (215)

- Young MTC to Finance to eliminate tax changes that subsidize Chinese materials. (216)
- Young MTC to Finance for IRS enforcement of clean vehicle tax credit fraud. (217)
- Young MTC to Commerce for icebreakers for the Great Lakes. (218)
- Young MTC to Finance to block prescription drug price negotiation if U.S not competitive with China. (219)
- Young MTC to Commerce To provide PreCheck to disabled veterans. (220)
- Young MTC to Commerce To extend spectrum auction authority. (221)
- Sullivan MTC To EPW to require environmental review document be completed within 2 years. (222)
- Sullivan MTC To ENR to ensure development of domestic supply chain for critical minerals. (223)
- Sullivan MTC To ENR suspend any changes in royalty rates until gas falls below \$2.39 (224)
- Sullivan MTC To ENR to require additional OCS lease sales until gas below \$2.39 per gallon. (225)
- Sullivan MTC To ENR certify no conflict of interest with DOI employees and grants. (226)
- Cornyn Amendment to help middle-class families by extending the \$2,000 child tax credit through 2027, protecting small businesses and farmers from Internal Revenue Service harassment and limiting for an additional two years a tax loophole for blue- state millionaires and billionaires by extending the \$10,000 limitation on the deduction for State and local taxes. (5305)
- Cornyn Amendment to help middle-class families by extending the \$2,000 child tax credit through 2027, protecting small businesses and farmers from Internal Revenue Service harassment and limiting for an additional two years a tax loophole for blue- state millionaires and billionaires by extending the \$10,000 limitation on the deduction for State and local taxes. (5306)
- Lee Amendment to Amend the Countermeasure Injury Compensation Program with respect to COVID-19 vaccines. (5307)
- Lee Amendment to strike the provisions providing tax incentives relating to clean vehicles. (5308)
- Lee Amendment to strike section 60201( regarding environmental and climate justice block grants. (5309)
- Lee Amendment to provide funding for categorical exclusions to expedite wildfire prevention activities. (5310)
- Lee Amendment to provide funding to the Secretary of the Interior for certain search and rescue activities. (5311)
- Toomey MTC To Banking to prevent SEC rule on climate-related disclosures (227)
- To Banking to ensure public transit systems enforce fare evasion (228)
- Lee Amendment to strike provision on outer continental shelf lease sales (5312)
- Lee Amendment to strike oil and gas royalty rate (5313)
- Lee Amendment to strike residential electrification and efficiency rebates(5314)
- Lee Amendment to eliminate Superfund taxes (5315)
- Lee Amendment to reduce home energy rebates (5316)
- Lee Amendment to end duties on steel and aluminum (5317)

- Lee Amendment to rescind unobligated small business covid funds (5318)
- Lee Amendment to rescind unobligated HELP covid funds (5319)
- Lee Amendment to rescind unobligated Finance covid funds (5320)
- Lee Amendment to rescind unobligated Banking covid funds (5321)
- Lee Amendment to rescind unobligated balances under the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 and the CARES Act relating to matters within the jurisdiction of the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation (5322)
- Lee Amendment to rescind unobligated balances under the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 and the CARES Act relating to matters within the jurisdiction of the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry. (5323)
- Lee Amendment to insert a provision requiring the Council on Environmental Quality to implement certain procedural rules. (5324)
- Lee Amendment to include dredging projects in certain National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration funding. (5325)
- Lee Amendment to define the term "timely review" for certain permitting and approval processes. (5326)
- Lee Amendment to modify the investment threshold of certain covered projects under title XLI of the Fast Act. (5327)
- Lummis Amendment to provide funding for the superfund program, with offsets. (5328)
- Cruz Amendment to require submission of a Social Security Number and exclude non-lawfully present aliens for purposes of new clean vehicle credit. (5329)
- Romney Amendment to limit enrollees whose annual salary is over \$100,000 from receiving the premium tax credit. (5330)
- Lee Amendment to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to establish an excise tax on content provided by online pornographic services, and for other purposes. (5333)
- Lee Amendment to provide for temporary exemptions from infant formula requirements (5334)
- Lee Amendment to establish a regulatory sandbox program under which agencies may provide waivers of agency rules and guidance (5335)
- Lee Amendment to require the National Marine Fisheries Service to take immediate action to increase energy production. (5336)
- Lee Amendment to establish a goal for the completion of permitting and approval processes conducted by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. (5337)
- Lee Amendment to provide funding to the Council on Environmental Quality to collect information relating to the impacts of the process required under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 across Federal agencies. (5340)
- Lee Amendment to provide for environmental reviews and authorizations under the Department of Energy to be completed not later than 2 years after commencement.(5341)
- Lee Amendment to provide bonus depreciation for qualified cargo handling property. (5345)
- Lee Amendment to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide an immediate deduction for amounts paid for licenses for the electromagnetic spectrum. (5346)
- Lee amendment to improve the bill. (5348)
- Toomey Amendment to strike the new clean vehicle credit and the credit for previously-owned clean vehicles. (5349)

- Toomey Amendment to strike the provisions relating to Affordable Car Act subsidies and certain energy tax incentives, to provide for permanent bonus depreciation, and for other purposes. (5350)
- Toomey amendment to prohibit rapists and dangerous sex offenders from admission to federally assisted housing. (5351)

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**From:** Simmons, Maalik (Durbin) <Maalik\_Simmons@durbin.senate.gov>

**Sent:** Saturday, August 6, 2022 8:14 PM

**To:** Simmons, Maalik (Durbin) <Maalik\_Simmons@durbin.senate.gov>

**Subject:** RE: Week 4: the Final Table

The Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to the Inflation Reduction Act by a vote of 50-50 with the Vice President voting in the affirmative,

Then, Senator Schumer offered substitute amendment #5194 as modified (Inflation Reduction Act). Senator Sanders offered Sanders amendment #5210 (re: cap on costs for covered prescription drugs under Medicare parts B and D).

There are up to 20 hours of debate equally divided. The goal is to yield time back and begin the votearama tonight.

#### Amendments Filed to H.R. 5376

- Wicker MTC to Banking to establish a China Economic Data Coordination Center (1)
- Wicker MTC to Finance for a tax credit for long-term investments in community development institutions (2)
- Schumer Amendment in the nature of a substitute (5194)
- Tillis MTC To Judiciary to bar aliens who fail to appear at hearing from getting immigration benefits (3)
- Tillis MTC To Judiciary to increase H-2B visa by 132,000 per fiscal year (4)
- Tillis MTC To Judiciary to require USCIS plan on reducing employment-based visa backlog(5)
- Tillis MTC To Judiciary to prohibit end to Title 42 until COVID national emergency ends (6)
- Tillis MTC To Judiciary to recapture 75,000 employment-based visas from 2020 and 2021(7)
- Tillis MTC To Judiciary to hire 2,500 ICE officers to focus on removal operations (8)
- Tillis MTC To Judiciary to hire 2,500 ICE officers for removal of sex offenders, rapists, child molesters (9)
- Tillis MTC To Judiciary to hire 2,500 ICE officers for removal of identify theft, benefit fraud, unlawful employment (10)

- Tillis MTC To Judiciary to hire 2,500 ICE officers for removal of gang, felony, drunk driving (11)
- Tillis MTC To Judiciary to hire magistrate and district judges and increase illegal crossing prosecutions (12)
- Tillis MTC To Judiciary to amend standard for frivolous asylum claim to "willfully blind" (13)
- Tillis MTC To Finance to prohibit IRS from targeting religious nonprofits & protect their tax-exempt status (14)
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- Cruz MTC To Finance for no IRS funds to target religious nonprofits (63)
- Cruz MTC To Judiciary to prevent DOJ from directing fines to parties other than parties to the case or the U.S. (64)
- Cruz MTC To Finance for tax credit for remediation of covid learning loss (65)

- Cruz MTC To Judiciary to prevent DOJ targeting parents as "domestic terrorists" (66)
- Cruz MTC To HELP to physically secure elementary and secondary schools (67)
- Cruz MTC To Finance to repeal Title I if inflation is above 1.4% in one year (68)
- Cruz MTC To Finance to ensure no tax increases for people making \$400,000 or less (69)
- Cornyn MTC To HSGAC to achieve full operational control of the southern border (70)
- Cornyn MTC To HELP to require background checks for all members in UAC placement households (71)
- Moran MTC To Finance to reduce inflation and create economic growth (72)
- Lankford Amendment To require the United States Postal Service to conduct a publicly available cost-benefit analysis to analyze costs versus savings of the purchase of electric delivery vehicles compared to internal combustion engine delivery vehicles, and to ensure that the purchased electric delivery vehicles are placed in areas and on routes that make the most economic sense. (5197)
- Lankford Amendment To limit the procurement of drugs manufactured with waived intellectual property rights unless the President certifies that the United States will not support any measure that weakens any provisions of the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights relating to a pharmaceutical, therapeutic, diagnostic, or other biotechnology commodity produced in the United States. (5198)
- Lankford Amendment to suspend the distribution of funds appropriated under this Act until all Afghan nationals living in the United States who appear on the biometrics-enabled watchlist have been apprehended. (5199)
- Lankford Amendment to prohibit the provision of support and incentives under provisions relating to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry to certain foreign persons. (5200)
- Lankford Amendment to strike the repeal of the prescription drug rebate rule. (5201)
- Lankford Amendment to require qualified manufacturers to certify that no forced labor was utilized in the production of specified property (5202)
- Lankford Amendment to strike section 60107 (regarding the low emissions electricity program). (5203)
- Lankford Amendment To strike the provision on the high-efficiency electric home rebate program (5204)
- Lankford Amendment To strike provisions relating to the offshore oil and gas royalty rate, Mineral Leasing Act modernization, royalties extracted on all extracted methane, and a methane emissions reduction program (5205)
- Lankford Amendment to limit the obligation or expenditure of amounts provided under the bill until other funds previously made available are expended. (5206)
- Paul Amendment To amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to increase the contribution limitations with respect to a health savings account, and for other purposes (5207)
- Sanders Amendment To extend the special rules for the child tax credit that applied for 2021 and to increase the corporate tax rate (5208)
- Sanders Amendment to establish a Civilian Climate Corps. (5209)
- Sanders Amendment to Cap costs for prescription Drugs under Medicare parts B and D (5210)
- Sanders Amendment to Cover dental, hearing, and vision under Medicare (5211)

- Hagerty Amendment To modify the amount appropriated to the Office of Inspector General of the Department of Energy (5212)
- Hagerty Amendment To modify the prohibition on the use of increased Internal Revenue Service funding for tax increases (5213)
- Hagerty Amendment To reallocate funding from the Office of the Chief Readiness Support Officer for enforcement, detention, and removal operations relating to illegal aliens who have committed homicide offenses in the United States (5214)
- Hagerty Amendment To reallocate funding from the Office of the Chief Readiness Support Officer for enforcement, detention, and removal operations relating to illegal aliens who have committed felony rape offenses in the United States (5215)
- Hagerty Amendment To reallocate funding from the Office of the Chief Readiness Officer for enforcement, detention, and removal operations relating to illegal aliens who have committed sexual offenses involving minors in the United States (5216)
- Hagerty Amendment To prohibit vehicles with batteries that include critical minerals that include critical minerals that were extracted or processed in certain counties from qualifying for the new clean vehicle credit (5217)
- Hagerty Amendment To reallocate funding from the United States Postal Service clean fleets to use for the enforcement, detention, and removal operations relating to illegal aliens who have committed felony criminal offenses in the United States (5218)
- Hagerty Amendment To increase funding for the detection of drugs and contraband entering the United States and for enforcement, detention, and removal operations relating to illegal aliens who have committed felony criminal offenses in the United States, and to decrease the additional funding to be provided for United States Postal Service clean fleets (5219)
- Hagerty Amendment To increase funding for the detection of drugs and contraband entering the United States and to decrease the additional funding to be provided for United States Postal Service clean fleets (5220)
- Hagerty Amendment To authorize FEMA to provide financial assistance for border wall construction and detention facilities for illegal aliens (5221)
- Hagerty MTC To EPW to prioritize domestic oil and gas production (73)
- Hagerty MTC To ENR to prioritize increasing domestic oil and gas production (74)
- Hagerty MTC To EPW reduce domestic regulation of oil and gas (75)
- Hagerty MTC To Ag to preclude states from regulating products more than federal government (76)
- Hagerty MTC To Ag to maintain pesticide and herbicide registrations (77)
- Hagerty MTC To Judiciary to provide sufficient resources to ICE (78)
- Hagerty MTC To HSGAC to provide sufficient resources to ICE (79)
- Hagerty MTC To Finance to ensure price controls do not reduce supply chain of medicines (80)
- Hagerty MTC To Finance to ensure U.S. not lose role as leader in biomedical innovation to China (81)
- Hagerty MTC To Banking to ensure no tax hikes for people earning under \$400,000 (82)
- Hagerty MTC To ENR to protect investment in oil and gas (83)
- Hagerty MTC To VA to ensure no tax hikes for people earning less than \$400,000 (84)
- Hagerty MTC To Judiciary to fund rape kits (85)

- Hagerty MTC To HELP to ensure no tax hikes for people earning under \$400,000 (86)
- Hagerty MTC To ENR to provide \$258 million for DOE IG (87)
- Hagerty MTC To Indian Affairs to ensure no tax hikes for earners under \$400,000 (88)
- Hagerty MTC To Commerce to ensure no tax hike under \$400k (89)
- Hagerty MTC To EPW no tax hikes under \$400k (90)
- Hagerty MTC To ENR no tax hikes under \$400k (91)
- Hagerty MTC To Ag no tax hikes under \$400k (92)
- Hagerty MTC To HSGAC no tax hikes under \$400k (93)
- Hagerty MTC To Small Business no tax hikes under \$400k (94)
- Hagerty MTC To Judiciary to compensate victims of crimes by illegal aliens (95)
- Hagerty MTC To HSGAC to combat import of opioids (96)
- Hagerty MTC To HSGAC to combat trafficking of fentanyl across Mexico border (97)
- Hagerty MTC To Finance to cut additional IRS funding and extend life of HI trust fund (98)
- Hagerty MTC To ENR to prohibit climate change policies (99)
- Hagerty MTC To ENR to prevent climate change emergency declaration (100)
- Hagerty MTC To Judiciary to fund law enforcement (101)
- Hagerty MTC To HSGAC to fund removal of illegal aliens (102)
- Hagerty MTC To HSGAC to fund ICE to remove illegal aliens (103)
- Hagerty MTC To Finance to cut extension of increased percentages for premium assistance tax credit (104)
- Hagerty MTC To Finance no tax hikes under \$400k (105)
- Hagerty MTC To HSGAC funds ICE to deport illegal aliens for sexual offenses (106)
- Hagerty MTC To Judiciary funds ICE to deport illegal aliens for sexual offenses (107)
- Hagerty MTC To HSGAC funds ICE to deport illegal aliens for violent rape (108)
- Hagerty MTC To Judiciary funds ICE to deport illegal aliens for violent rape (109)
- Hagerty MTC To HSGAC funds ICE to deport illegal aliens for homicide (110)
- Hagerty MTC To Judiciary funds ICE to deport illegal aliens for homicide (111)
- Hagerty MTC To EPW for exemptions for small refineries (112)
- Marshall MTC To EPW to prohibit EPA & DOT from issuing rules to compel companies to sell electric cars (113)
- Tuberville Amendment To express the sense of the Senate regarding the importance of the energy independence of the United States (5222)
- Portman Amendment To decrease the amount appropriated for Office of Management and Budget oversight and make the amount of the decrease available to develop a uniform application process for Federal grants that requires disclosure of foreign affiliations and support by potential grant recipients (5223)
- Portman Amendment Purpose: To replace the provision regarding the Office of the Chief Readiness Support Officer with a \$500,000,000 appropriation for the detection of illegal narcotics, including opioids (5224)
- Daines MTC To Finance for support for pregnant mothers (114)
- Ernst MTC To Judiciary for Sarah's Law (115)
- Grassley MTC To Judiciary to extend scheduling of fentanyl analogues for 5 years (116)
- Cotton MTC To Judiciary to require inmates housed according to biological sex (117)

- Cotton MTC To Finance to prohibit funding for nonemergency health care for illegal aliens (118)
- Cotton MTC To Finance to prohibit federal funding through Medicaid for gender transition to minors (119)
- Risch Amendment To provide for a method by which the economic costs of significant regulatory actions may be offset by the repeal of other regulatory actions (5225)
- Risch Amendment To require the Comptroller General of the United States to conduct a review of the inflationary impact of the bill on taxpayers with an annual income of not more than \$400,000 in the States located in the Mountain division of the West region of the United States, as designated by the Bureau of Labor Statistics (5226)
- Risch Amendment To improve this bill (5227)
- Risch Amendment To prohibit the use of funds from blocking already permitted and approved energy projects (5228)
- Risch Amendment To strike a provision relating to fossil fuel resources (5229)
- Risch Amendment To strike a provision relating to fossil fuel resources (5230)
- Risch Amendment To strike a provision relating to fossil fuel resources (5231)
- Scott (SC) Amendment To exclude income received under sexual abuse and trafficking awards, to modify the educator expense deduction, and for other purposes (5232)
- Scott (SC) Amendment To provide for a plan to eliminate racial, political, regional, and socioeconomic discrepancies in audit rates of the Internal Revenue Service (5233)
- Scott (FL) Amendment To provide further requirements on reporting by qualified manufacturers for purposes of the new clean vehicle credit (5234)
- Marshall Amendment To strike section 30001, related to enhanced use of the Defense Production Act of 1950 (5235)
- Young MTC To Finance to suspend drug price negotiation program if discourages drug manufacturers (120)
- Young MTC To Finance to suspend drug price negotiation if public health emergency (121)
- Young MTC To Finance re reliance on China for drug ingredients (122)
- Young MTC To Finance to exempt antibiotics from drug price negotiation (123)
- Young MTC To Finance to suspend drug negotiation if China increases drug market share (124)
- Young MTC Finance for no tax increase <\$400k (125)
- Young MTC To VA to provide additional resources for veterans' mental health care (126)
- Tuberville MTC To HELP to prohibit funding for institutions that host a Confucius Institute (127)
- Tuberville MTC To HELP to prohibit funding for schools that teach critical race theory (128)
- Tuberville MTC To HELP to prohibit funding for colleges that allow transgender athletes not in biological sex (129)
- Tuberville MTC To SASC to expand size of Navy by commissioning 100 new ships (130)
- Tuberville MTC To HSGAC to prohibit Thrift Savings Fund from being invested in China (131)

- Tuberville MTC To ENR to prohibit bill from taking effect until gas is less than \$2.39 a gallon for 30 days (132)
- Tuberville MTC To ENR to prohibit bill from taking effect until lease sales are completed (133)
- Tuberville MTC To ENR to require DOI to prioritize offshore lease sales (134)
- Tuberville MTC To ENR to prohibit funding/tax credits from bill until all pending pipelines are approved (135)
- Tuberville MTC To Finance to abolish Federal estate and gift taxes (136)
- Tuberville MTC To Finance to preserve existing step-up in basis rules (137)
- Tuberville MTC To Finance to prohibit tax hikes on family farms (138)
- Tuberville MTC To Finance to establish 20% tax credit for domestic semiconductors (139)
- Tuberville MTC To Finance to establish 20% tax credit for domestic PPE (140)
- Tuberville MTC To Finance to establish 20% tax credit for domestic medical manufacturing (141)
- Tuberville MTC To Finance for tax credit for mining critical minerals (142)
- Tuberville MTC To Finance to make tax cuts permanent (143)
- Tuberville MTC To Finance for tax credit for domestic pharmaceutical ingredients (144)
- Tuberville MTC To Finance to enforce insurance fraud (145)
- Tuberville MTC To Finance to prohibit benefits to people convicted of UI fraud (146)
- Braun Amendment to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to deny tax benefits for organizations that perform or finance abortions (5236)
- Schumer Amendment to strike a provision relating to the neighborhood access and equity grant program. (5237)
- Braun Amendment to strike funding for consumer-related education and partnerships with respect to reductions in green-house gas emissions that result from domestic electricity generation and use. (5238)
- Braun Amendment to prohibit the President from declaring certain emergencies or disasters for the purpose of confiscating guns or magazines, or prohibiting or otherwise regulating the possession, manufacture, sale , or transfer of guns or magazines. (5239)
- Braun Amendment to limit the use of taxpayer funded union time for employees of the Internal Revenue Service. (5240)
- Braun Amendment to strike funding for using authorities of the Clean Air Act to ensure reductions in greenhouse gas emissions from domestic electricity generation and use. (5241)
- Braun Amendment to include Industry- Recognized Apprentices Programs for purposes of any applicable apprenticeship requirements. (5242)
- Marshall Amendment to prohibit the use of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals in developing or administering certain programs under the jurisdiction of the Committee on environment and Public Works. (5243)
- Marshall Amendment to prohibit the use of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals in developing or administering certain programs under the jurisdiction of the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition , and Forestry.( 5244)

- Ernst Amendment to reduce the unnecessary spending by \$18,000,000,000 by improvement the management of waste clean up in Washington by the Department of Energy. (5245)
- Ernst Amendment to require the United States Postal Service to raise revenue by selling non-political advertisement space on delivery vehicles purchased using amounts appropriated by the bill. (5246)
- Ernst Amendment to strike a provision relating to a priority on the use of funds for the environmental quality incentives program. (5247)
- Tuberville MTC to EPW to enact CEQ rule. (147)
- Tuberville MTC To Judiciary to prohibit race-based grants. (148)
- Tuberville MTC To HELP to prohibit race-based standards. (149)
- Tuberville MTC To EPW to cute greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund. (150)
- Tuberville MTC To Judiciary to prohibit legal assistance to illegal aliens. (151)
- Tuberville MTC To Finance to prohibit financial holdings in China or Russia. (152)
- Tuberville MTC To Commerce to prohibit funds for Chinese biomedical research. (153)
- Tuberville MTC To HSGAC to enforce immigration laws. (154)
- Tuberville MTC To HSGAC to fund southern border wall. (155)
- Tuberville MTC To HSGAC for ICE to conduct worksite enforcement. (156)
- Tuberville MTC To HSGAC to prohibit sharing genetic information with China. (157)
- Tuberville MTC To Judiciary to delegate immigration enforcement to state and local law enforcement. (158)
- Tuberville MTC To Judiciary to fund state and local law enforcement. (159)
- Tuberville MTC To establish tax on international remittances to fund border wall. (160)
- Tuberville MTC To ENR for FERC to approve pipelines. (161)
- Tuberville MTC To Banking to prohibit Chinese software. (162)
- Tuberville MTC To Banking to require federal research grant applications disclose foreign funding. (163)
- Tuberville MTC To Finance to prohibit Huawei from importing goods into the U.S. (164)
- Tuberville MTC To Finance to recognize China uses forced labor. (165)
- Tuberville MTC To Banking for CFIUS to review foreign control of ag businesses. (166)
- Tuberville MTC To Ag to remove all agriculture provisions. (167)
- Tuberville MTC To Banking to preservice Economic Growth, Regulatory Relief, Consumer Protection Act of 2018. (168)
- Tuberville MTC To Banking establish Fair Access to Financial Services rule. (169)
- Tuberville MTC To Banking to prohibit financial regulatory agencies from addressing climate change. (170)
- Tuberville MTC To Judiciary to make fentanyl a sched. 1 controlled substance. (171)
- Tuberville MTC To HELP to prohibit retirement funds from investing in China (172)
- Tuberville MTC To HELP to investigate origins of covid-19. (173)
- Tuberville MTC To HELP to require retirement funds to consdier only financial considerations. (174)
- Tuberville MTC To HELP to require retirement plans act in the interest of participants. (175)

- Tuberville MTC To Finance to extend any temporary TCJA provisions for 5 more years. (176)
- Scott(S.C) MTC To Finance eliminate IRS enforcement funding and establish a child opportunity tax credit(177)
- Scott (S.C) MTC to To Finance to eliminate inflationary spending and lower cost of everyday goods. (178)
- Scott( S.C) MTC to To Finance to mitigate prescription drug shortages (179)
- Scott (S.C) MTC To Finance to eliminate prevailing wage requirements. (180)
- Scott( S.C) MTC To Small Business to prohibit SBA from engaging in direct lending. (181)
- Scott (S.C) MTC To Finance to bar new tax increase until inflation is below 4.5%. (182)
- Scott(S.C) MTC To Finance to prohibit Treasury from requiring reports on retirement accounts. (183)
- Daines MTC To Finance make deduction for qualified business income permanent. (184)
- Inhofe MTC To HELP to expand medical education for primary care in underserved areas. (185)
- Inhofe MTC To EPW to ensure China, India, and Russia meet greenhouse gas targets. (186)
- Inhofe MTC To ENR to authorize states to take over federal oil and gas leasing. (187)
- Inhofe MTC To HELP to ensure patents with prenatal diagnosis of chromosomal conditions get accurate information. (188)
- Inhofe MTC To ENR to give states authority over fracking. (189)
- Inhofe MTC To ENR to provide a fee on electric vehicle battery disposal and recycling. (190)
- Thune Amendment to strike a provision relating to the neighborhood access and equity grant program. (5248)
- Thune Amendment to prevent double dipping between tax credits and grants or loans for clean vehicle manufactures. (5249)
- Thune Amendment To strike the \$80,000,000,000 in additional funding provided to the Internal Revenue Service. (5250)
- Thune Amendment To prohibit the Environmental Protection Agency from monitoring methane emissions from livestock. ( 5251)
- Thune Amendment To amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exclude health plans covering elective abortions from the premium tax credit. (5252)
- Thune Amendment To provide for commercial motor vehicle parking capacity. (5253)
- Inhofe Amendment To amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to permanently extend the depreciation rules for property used predominantly within an Indian reservation. (5254)
- Daines Amendment To amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the credit for production of refined coal. (5255)
- Daines Amendment To permanently extend the limitation on the deduction for State and local taxes and dedicate the savings to deficit reduction. (5256)
- Daines Amendment To permanently extend the limitation on the deduction for State and local taxes and to extend the deduction for qualified business income. (5257)

- Daines Amendment To permanently extend the limitation on the deduction for State and local taxes and to eliminate the additional Internal Revenue Service funding for enforcement. (5258)
- Ernst Amendment To require a report on the delinquent taxes of Federal employees. (5259)
- Ernst Amendment To address delinquent tax debts of Federal employees. (5260)
- Ernst Amendment To preserve tax benefits for bonus depreciation and research and development under the corporate minimum tax. (5261)
- Warnock Amendment To make health care coverage available to low-income adults in States that have not expanded Medicaid. (5262)
- Cruz Amendment To strike the \$80,000,000,000 slush fund for the Internal Revenue Service to prevent the hiring of 87,000 new Internal Revenue Service employees that will surveil and audit the private account information and transaction data of innocent Americans and small businesses. (5263)
- Cruz Amendment To prevent Democrat;s 15 percent minimum book tax's disproportionate burden on American manufacturing that will be borne by working families in the form of higher prices, fewer jobs, and lower wages. (5264)
- Cruz Amendment To provide for certain conditions on the export to China of crude oil from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve. (5265)
- Daines Amendment To strike provisions relating to the offshore oil and gas royalty rate and Mineral Leasing Act modernization. (5266)
- Daines Amendment To provide funding for the rehabilitation of public land that has experienced a natural disaster. (5267)

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**From:** Simmons, Maalik (Durbin) <Maalik\_Simmons@durbin.senate.gov>  
**Sent:** Saturday, August 6, 2022 5:20 PM  
**To:** Simmons, Maalik (Durbin) <Maalik\_Simmons@durbin.senate.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: Week 4: the Final Table

The Senate is currently voting on the motion to proceed to H.R.5376.

#### Amendments Filed to H.R. 5376

- Wicker MTC to To Banking to establish a China Economic Data Coordination Center (1)
- Wicker MTC Finance for a tax credit for long-term investments in community development institutions (2)
- Schumer Amendment in the nature of a substitute (5194)

- Tillis MTC To Judiciary to bar aliens who fail to appear at hearing from getting immigration benefits (3)
- Tillis MTC To Judiciary to increase H-2B visa by 132,000 per fiscal year (4)
- Tillis MTC To Judiciary to require USCIS plan on reducing employment-based visa backlog(5)
- Tillis MTC To Judiciary to prohibit end to Title 42 until COVID national emergency ends (6)
- Tillis MTC To Judiciary to recapture 75,000 employment-based visas from 2020 and 2021(7)
- Tillis MTC To Judiciary to hire 2,500 ICE officers to focus on removal operations (8)
- Tillis MTC To Judiciary to hire 2,500 ICE officers for removal of sex offenders, rapists, child molesters (9)
- Tillis MTC To Judiciary to hire 2,500 ICE officers for removal of identify theft, benefit fraud, unlawful employment (10)
- Tillis MTC To Judiciary to hire 2,500 ICE officers for removal of gang, felony, drunk driving (11)
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- Lankford Amendment To require the United States Postal Service to conduct a publicly available cost-benefit analysis to analyze costs versus savings of the purchase of electric delivery vehicles compared to internal combustion engine delivery vehicles, and to ensure that the purchased electric delivery vehicles are placed in areas and routes that make the most economic sense. (5197)
- Lankford Amendment to limit the procurement of drugs manufactured with waived intellectual property rights unless the President certifies that the United States will not support any measure that weakens any provisions of the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights relating to a pharmaceutical, therapeutic, diagnostic, or other biotechnology commodity produced in the United States. (5198)
- Lankford Amendment to suspend the distribution of funds appropriated under this Act until all Afghan nationals living in the United States who appear on the biometrics-enabled watchlist have been apprehended. (5199)
- Lankford Amendment to prohibit the provision of support and incentives under provisions relating to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry to certain foreign persons. (5200)
- Lankford Amendment to strike the repeal of the prescription drug rebate rule. (5201)
- Lankford Amendment to require qualified manufacturers to certify that no forced labor was utilized in the production of specified property (5202)
- Lankford Amendment to strike section 60107 (regarding the low emissions electricity program). (5203)

- Lankford Amendment To strike the provision on the high-efficiency electric home rebate program (5204)
- Lankford Amendment To strike provisions relating to the offshore oil and gas royalty rate, Mineral Leasing Act modernization, royalties extracted on all extracted methane, and a methane emissions reduction program (5205)
- Lankford Amendment to limit the obligation or expenditure of amounts provided under the bill until other funds previously made available are expended. (5206)
- Paul Amendment To amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to increase the contribution limitations with respect to a health savings account, and for other purposes (5207)
- Sanders Amendment To extend the special rules for the child tax credit that applied for 2021 and to increase the corporate tax rate (5208)
- Sanders Amendment to establish a Civilian Climate Corps. (5209)
- Sanders Amendment to Cap costs for prescription Drugs under Medicare parts B and D (5210)
- Sanders Amendment to Cover dental, hearing, and vision under Medicare (5211)
- Hagerty Amendment To modify the amount appropriated to the Office of Inspector General of the Department of Energy (5212)
- Hagerty Amendment To modify the prohibition on the use of increased Internal Revenue Service funding for tax increases (5213)
- Hagerty Amendment To reallocate funding from the Office of the Chief Readiness Support Officer for enforcement, detention, and removal operations relating to illegal aliens who have committed homicide offenses in the United States (5214)
- Hagerty Amendment To reallocate funding from the Office of the Chief Readiness Support Officer for enforcement, detention, and removal operations relating to illegal aliens who have committed felony rape offenses in the United States (5215)
- Hagerty Amendment To reallocate funding from the Office of the Chief Readiness Officer for enforcement, detention, and removal operations relating to illegal aliens who have committed sexual offenses involving minors in the United States (5216)
- Hagerty Amendment To prohibit vehicles with batteries that include critical minerals that include critical minerals that were extracted or processed in certain counties from qualifying for the new clean vehicle credit (5217)
- Hagerty Amendment To reallocate funding from the United States Postal Service clean fleets to use for the enforcement, detention, and removal operations relating to illegal aliens who have committed felony criminal offenses in the United States (5218)
- Hagerty Amendment To increase funding for the detection of drugs and contraband entering the United States and for enforcement, detention, and removal operations relating to illegal aliens who have committed felony criminal offenses in the United States, and to decrease the additional funding to be provided for United States Postal Service clean fleets (5219)
- Hagerty Amendment To increase funding for the detection of drugs and contraband entering the United States and to decrease the additional funding to be provided for United States Postal Service clean fleets (5220)
- Hagerty Amendment To authorize FEMA to provide financial assistance for border wall construction and detention facilities for illegal aliens (5221)

- Hagerty MTC To EPW to prioritize domestic oil and gas production (73)
- Hagerty MTC To ENR to prioritize increasing domestic oil and gas production (74)
- Hagerty MTC To EPW reduce domestic regulation of oil and gas (75)
- Hagerty MTC To Ag to preclude states from regulating products more than federal government (76)
- Hagerty MTC To Ag to maintain pesticide and herbicide registrations (77)
- Hagerty MTC To Judiciary to provide sufficient resources to ICE (78)
- Hagerty MTC To HSGAC to provide sufficient resources to ICE (79)
- Hagerty MTC To Finance to ensure price controls do not reduce supply chain of medicines (80)
- Hagerty MTC To Finance to ensure U.S. not lose role as leader in biomedical innovation to China (81)
- Hagerty MTC To Banking to ensure no tax hikes for people earning under \$400,000 (82)
- Hagerty MTC To ENR to protect investment in oil and gas (83)
- Hagerty MTC To VA to ensure no tax hikes for people earning less than \$400,000 (84)
- Hagerty MTC To Judiciary to fund rape kits (85)
- Hagerty MTC To HELP to ensure no tax hikes for people earning under \$400,000 (86)
- Hagerty MTC To ENR to provide \$258 million for DOE IG (87)
- Hagerty MTC To Indian Affairs to ensure no tax hikes for earners under \$400,000 (88)
- Hagerty MTC To Commerce to ensure no tax hike under \$400k (89)
- Hagerty MTC To EPW no tax hikes under \$400k (90)
- Hagerty MTC To ENR no tax hikes under \$400k (91)
- Hagerty MTC To Ag no tax hikes under \$400k (92)
- Hagerty MTC To HSGAC no tax hikes under \$400k (93)
- Hagerty MTC To Small Business no tax hikes under \$400k (94)
- Hagerty MTC To Judiciary to compensate victims of crimes by illegal aliens (95)
- Hagerty MTC To HSGAC to combat import of opioids (96)
- Hagerty MTC To HSGAC to combat trafficking of fentanyl across Mexico border (97)
- Hagerty MTC To Finance to cut additional IRS funding and extend life of HI trust fund (98)
- Hagerty MTC To ENR to prohibit climate change policies (99)
- Hagerty MTC To ENR to prevent climate change emergency declaration (100)
- Hagerty MTC To Judiciary to fund law enforcement (101)
- Hagerty MTC To HSGAC to fund removal of illegal aliens (102)
- Hagerty MTC To HSGAC to fund ICE to remove illegal aliens (103)
- Hagerty MTC To Finance to cut extension of increased percentages for premium assistance tax credit (104)
- Hagerty MTC To Finance no tax hikes under \$400k (105)
- Hagerty MTC To HSGAC funds ICE to deport illegal aliens for sexual offenses (106)
- Hagerty MTC To Judiciary funds ICE to deport illegal aliens for sexual offenses (107)
- Hagerty MTC To HSGAC funds ICE to deport illegal aliens for violent rape (108)
- Hagerty MTC To Judiciary funds ICE to deport illegal aliens for violent rape (109)
- Hagerty MTC To HSGAC funds ICE to deport illegal aliens for homicide (110)
- Hagerty MTC To Judiciary funds ICE to deport illegal aliens for homicide (111)

- Hagerty MTC To EPW for exemptions for small refineries (112)
- Marshall MTC To EPW to prohibit EPA & DOT from issuing rules to compel companies to sell electric cars (113)
- Tuberville Amendment To express the sense of the Senate regarding the importance of the energy independence of the United States (5222)
- Portman Amendment To decrease the amount appropriated for Office of Management and Budget oversight and make the amount of the decrease available to develop a uniform application process for Federal grants that requires disclosure of foreign affiliations and support by potential grant recipients (5223)
- Portman Amendment Purpose: To replace the provision regarding the Office of the Chief Readiness Support Officer with a \$500,000,000 appropriation for the detection of illegal narcotics, including opioids (5224)
- Daines MTC To Finance for support for pregnant mothers (114)
- Ernst MTC To Judiciary for Sarah's Law (115)
- Grassley MTC To Judiciary to extend scheduling of fentanyl analogues for 5 years (116)
- Cotton MTC To Judiciary to require inmates housed according to biological sex (117)
- Cotton MTC To Finance to prohibit funding for nonemergency health care for illegal aliens (118)
- Cotton MTC To Finance to prohibit federal funding through Medicaid for gender transition to minors (119)
- Risch Amendment To provide for a method by which the economic costs of significant regulatory actions may be offset by the repeal of other regulatory actions (5225)
- Risch Amendment To require the Comptroller General of the United States to conduct a review of the inflationary impact of the bill on taxpayers with an annual income of not more than \$400,000 in the States located in the Mountain division of the West region of the United States, as designated by the Bureau of Labor Statistics (5226)
- Risch Amendment To improve this bill (5227)
- Risch Amendment To prohibit the use of funds from blocking already permitted and approved energy projects (5228)
- Risch Amendment To strike a provision relating to fossil fuel resources (5229)
- Risch Amendment To strike a provision relating to fossil fuel resources (5230)
- Risch Amendment To strike a provision relating to fossil fuel resources (5231)

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**From:** Simmons, Maalik (Durbin) <Maalik\_Simmons@durbin.senate.gov>

**Sent:** Saturday, August 6, 2022 4:07 PM

**To:** Simmons, Maalik (Durbin) <Maalik\_Simmons@durbin.senate.gov>

**Subject:** RE: Week 4: the Final Table

We locked in morning business until 4:15pm a few moments ago

Sen. Carper: I ASK UNANIMOUS CONSENT THAT THERE BE A PERIOD OF MORNING BUSINESS FOR DEBATE ONLY UNTIL 4:15 P.M. WITH SENATORS TO SPEAK THEREIN FOR UP TO TEN MINUTES EACH AND SENATOR SCHUMER BE RECOGNIZED AT 4:15 P.M.

### Amendments Filed to H.R. 5376

Pending amendments are in bold and processed amendments are in italics

- **Wicker MTC to To Banking to establish a China Economic Data Coordination Center (1)**
- **Wicker MTC Finance for a tax credit for long-term investments in community development institutions (2)**
- **Schumer Amendment in the nature of a substitute (5194)**
- **Tillis MTC To Judiciary to bar aliens who fail to appear at hearing from getting immigration benefits (3)**
- **Tillis MTC To Judiciary to increase H-2B visa by 132,000 per fiscal year (4)**
- **Tillis MTC To Judiciary to require USCIS plan on reducing employment-based visa backlog(5)**
- **Tillis MTC To Judiciary to prohibit end to Title 42 until COVID national emergency ends (6)**
- **Tillis MTC To Judiciary to recapture 75,000 employment-based visas from 2020 and 2021(7)**
- **Tillis MTC To Judiciary to hire 2,500 ICE officers to focus on removal operations (8)**
- **Tillis MTC To Judiciary to hire 2,500 ICE officers for removal of sex offenders, rapists, child molesters (9)**
- **Tillis MTC To Judiciary to hire 2,500 ICE officers for removal of identify theft, benefit fraud, unlawful employment (10)**
- **Tillis MTC To Judiciary to hire 2,500 ICE officers for removal of gang, felony, drunk driving (11)**
- **Tillis MTC To Judiciary to hire magistrate and district judges and increase illegal crossing prosecutions (12)**
- **Tillis MTC To Judiciary to amend standard for frivolous asylum claim to "willfully blind" (13)**
- **Tillis MTC To Finance to prohibit IRS from targeting religious nonprofits & protect their tax-exempt status (14)**
- **Sasse MTC To Finance to ensure children born alive during an abortion receive same level of care (15)**
- **Sasse MTC To Finance to prohibit clean tech manufacturing tax credit from being used in China (16)**
- **Rubio MTC To HELP for Pregnant Students Rights Act (17)**
- **Rubio MTC To HELP to define pregnancy (18)**
- **Rubio MTC To ENR for permitting reform; prioritize Mountain Valley & Northern Lights Expansion Pipelines (19)**
- **Rubio MTC To Judiciary for pre-trial detention of dangerous criminals (20)**
- **Rubio MTC To Finance to support domestic IP and supply chain for pharmaceuticals against China (21)**
- **Tillis MTC To Banking to expedite distribution of CDBG disaster recovery funds by state grantees (22)**

- Tillis MTC To Ag to limit CCC funds to only direct support to producers and ag processors (23)
- Tillis MTC To HELP to allow livestock producers to use H-2A visas (24)
- Tillis MTC To HELP for private and charter schools (25)
- Tillis MTC To HELP to protect state's jurisdiction to authorize charter school openings (26)
- Tillis MTC To Finance to increase the dependant care assistance program limitation (27)
- Tillis MTC To Finance to allow equal access to child care options, including family and faith-based (28)
- Tillis MTC To VA to help address staffing shortages at VA health care facilities (29)
- Tillis MTC To Finance to extend the life of the Federal Hospital Insurance Trust Fund (30)
- Tillis MTC To Finance to protect long-term investments in medical research (31)
- Tillis MTC To HELP to ensure that people who like their health insurance can keep it (32)
- Tillis MTC To Finance to waive 15% minimum tax for companies building in US/reshoring supply chain (33)
- Tillis MTC To Banking to place limitations on who can serve as acting chair of the FDIC (34)
- Tillis MTC To Finance to pair increased funding to IRS with increased penalties for leaking information (35)
- Thune MTC To Indian Affairs to move tribal climate resiliency funds to tribal public safety and justice (36)
- Thune MTC To Finance to prevent tax increase on incomes of \$400,000 or less (37)
- Thune MTC To Finance to reallocate \$80 billion in IRS funds to provide tax relief (38)
- Thune MTC To HELP to prevent the president from forgiving student loans for high-income people (39)
- Thune MTC To Finance to reallocate \$43 billion in tax enforcement funds to USCBP (40)
- Rubio MTC To Judiciary to ensure prosecutors and law enforcement are addressing violent crime (41)
- Ernst MTC To EPW to prevent methane permitting requirements on farmers and ranchers (42)
- Ernst MTC To HELP to waive the FDA application fee for regular, routine oral contraceptives (43)
- Romney Amendment to Income cap on temporary increase in premium tax credit (5196)
- Cramer MTC To EPW to have GSA identify and sell unused government office space (44)
- Cramer MTC To HSGAC to fund the completion of the southern border wall between the U.S. & Mexico (45)
- Cramer MTC To Finance to strike provisions that preclude administrative/judicial review in DPNP (46)
- Lankford MTC To Finance to ensure conscience protections for health care providers (47)

- Lankford MTC To Finance to assess a user fee on electric vehicle operators and provide to Hwy. Trust Fund (48)
- Lankford MTC To ENR to increase domestic oil and gas exports to Europe (49)
- Lankford MTC To Finance to treat all energy companies equally under minimum tax provisions (50)
- Lankford MTC To Finance to prevent tax increase on domestic manufacturers (51)
- Lankford MTC to To Finance to prevent business tax increases if borne by workers or consumers (52)
- Lankford MTC To Finance to incentivize new drug development (53)
- Lankford MTC To Finance for generics in Medicare part D (54)
- Lankford MTC To Finance to prevent funding for gender transition procedures on children (55)
- Lankford MTC To ENR to increase domestic oil and gas production (56)
- Lankford MTC To ENR to build pipeline infrastructure and capacity (57)
- Lankford MTC To Finance to ensure no tax benefits for forced labor in Xinjiang (58)
- Lankford MTC To Finance to ensure IRS improves privacy protections and stops illegal disclosure (59)
- Lankford MTC To HSGAC to study causes and costs of the border crisis (60)
- Lankford To Finance to ensure Medicare savings not used for non-Medicare spending (61)
- Cruz To HSGAC to ensure no covid vaccine mandate in DC schools (62)
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- Sanders Amendment to establish a Civilian Climate Corps. (5209)
- Sanders Amendment to Cap costs for prescription Drugs under Medicare parts B and D (5210)
- Sanders Amendment to Cover dental, hearing, and vision under Medicare. (5211)

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**From:** Simmons, Maalik (Durbin) <[Maalik\\_Simmons@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Maalik_Simmons@durbin.senate.gov)>

**Sent:** Saturday, August 6, 2022 12:22 PM

**To:** Simmons, Maalik (Durbin) <[Maalik\\_Simmons@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Maalik_Simmons@durbin.senate.gov)>

**Subject:** Week 4: the Final Table

Happy Saturday,

The Senate is back in session. We will have two votes at approximately 12:30pm.

Approx. 12:30pm – 2 roll call votes:

1. Motion to discharge the nomination of David M. Uhlmann to be an Assistant Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency
2. Confirmation of Constance J. Milstein to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Malta.

Please see Sen. Schumer's remarks about the Inflation Reduction Act:

**Senator Schumer Floor Remarks**

**August 6<sup>th</sup>, 2022**

We approach the culmination of one of the most productive stretches in recent Senate memory. It began almost two months ago, when in the wake of unimaginable bloodshed in Buffalo and Uvalde, the Senate came together and passed the first gun safety law in nearly thirty years.

A few weeks later, in the face of a damaging semiconductor shortage, the Senate approved the largest investment in American manufacturing and scientific research in decades.

This week, we finally told American veterans with cancer, lung disease, and other terrible ailments that their wait for their benefits was over, by passing PACT Act.

And a few days ago, as Russian aggression towards Ukraine continues, we swiftly approved the accession of Sweden and Finland to the NATO alliance.

Gun Safety, Chips, veterans, NATO, all of this we got done in under six weeks, and now we have one more groundbreaking item left: the Inflation Reduction Act. Passing any one of these bills in a summer would be significant, but we are on the verge of getting all of them done before the August state work period.

In a few hours, we will formally begin the process of passing the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022 by voting on the motion to proceed.

Our meetings with the parliamentarian have now largely concluded, and we have a bill before us that can win the support of all fifty Democrats.

I am happy to report to my colleagues that the bill we presented to the parliamentarian remains largely intact. The bill, when passed, will meet all of our goals: fighting climate change, lowering health care costs, closing tax loopholes abused by the wealthy, and reduce the deficit. This is a major win for the American people and a sad commentary on the Republican Party as they actively fight provisions that lower costs for families.

As the Inflation Reduction Act works its way through the floor, the American people are going to learn an unmistakable truth about our package: it was written, first and foremost, with them in mind.

For seniors who've faced the indignity of rationing medications or skipping them altogether, the Inflation Reduction Act will lower prescription drug costs and finally cap out of pocket expenses.

For families that have fallen behind on the electric bill while trying to stay cool through a heat wave, this bill will lower energy costs and provide the largest investment in clean energy in American history.

For every child deprived of clean air and a neighborhood where they can play safely outside—away from smog and exhaust fumes—this bill will help reverse air pollution and help clean up communities that have endured under the shadow of congested highway and industrial sites. And

as the most significant action on climate change in decades, it will help deliver our children and grandchildren the planet they deserve.

The Inflation Reduction Act was written with the American people in mind: families struggling to pay the bills, kids who struggle with asthma and pollution, seniors who can't afford lifesaving medications. This bill is for them.

For years, many in Washington have promised to address some of the biggest challenges facing our nation, only to fall short. Many have talked about the need to act on climate change, and the need to hold drug companies accountable, and make the tax code fairer.

But where previous efforts have fallen short, this Senate Democratic majority on the verge of succeeding.

After years of trying, we will finally empower Medicare to negotiate the prices of prescription drug costs.

After years of trying, we will finally cap out of pocket expenses and make vaccines free for our seniors on Medicare.

And after years of trying—after years of Americans calling for action—Congress will pass the largest clean energy package ever.

We'll cut emissions by roughly 40% by 2030, helping us avert the worst consequences of a warming planet.

We'll prevent nearly 4,000 deaths and 100,000 asthma attacks a year by reducing air pollution.

We'll save Americans money on their utility bill by making it easier for them to tap into clean energy, and expand incentives for utility companies to explore cleaner ways to generate power. We will make it easier to finally usher in the era of greater solar and wind power, battery storage and EVs, and bring manufacturing of this technology back to America.

We will restore our coastlines, regenerate our forests, and shield communities everywhere from the dangers of droughts and sweltering heat waves.

Through it all, we will create more than 9 million jobs over the next decade—an average of nearly 1 million each year.

From the moment Democrats announced the Inflation Reduction Act, Senate Republicans have fruitlessly tried every approach under the sun to lay a glove on our bill.

First, they said our bill will make inflation worse, only to give up on that once everyone from Larry Summers to Hank Paulson said it would do the opposite.

Then they tried calling our bill a taxes hike on the middle class, before changing their minds and admitting our bill actually contains no tax rate increases at all for the middle class.

And at every turn they've resorted to that decades-old talking point of calling our bill nothing but wasteful spending, conveniently ignoring that our bill in fact lowers the deficit and is completely paid for.

I will grant my Republican colleagues their task is not easy: by one measure over 65% of Americans support the policies in the Inflation Reduction Act, and other polls reflect the same. Republicans haven't been able to get around the fact that Americans like that we are letting Medicare negotiate the price of prescription drugs.

They like that we will close tax loopholes that allow billion dollar companies pay zero in taxes.

And voices across the country--from Nobel-winning economists to former Treasury Secretaries to even Republican movie star ex-governors--have all praised the Inflation Reduction Act as an inflation-fighting, climate-saving, job-creating piece of legislation.

At a time of seemingly impenetrable gridlock, the Inflation Reduction Act will show the American people that when the moment demands it, Congress is still capable of taking big steps to solve big challenges.

We will show the American people that, yes, we are capable of passing a historic climate package, and rein in drug companies, and make our tax code fairer. We are able to make big promises and work hard to keeping them as well.

We all know that Republicans will continue their mightiest to try and smear our work before this bill is passed. This isn't our first time going through the reconciliation process, and nobody is going to be surprised when the other side comes up with wild, misleading, and wholly partisan amendments that have nothing to do with our bill.

Those efforts will not deter us. No matter how long it takes, the Senate is going to stay in session to finish the bill.

This is one of the most comprehensive and far-reaching pieces of legislation that has come before the Congress in decades. It will help just about every citizen in this country and make America a better place.

We are not leaving until the job is done. The American people deserve nothing less, so let us get to work today.

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**From:** Simmons, Maalik (Durbin) <Maalik\_Simmons@durbin.senate.gov>

**Sent:** Thursday, August 4, 2022 3:26 PM

**To:** Simmons, Maalik (Durbin) <Maalik\_Simmons@durbin.senate.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: Week 4: the Final Table

Good Afternoon,

S.J.Res.55 passed by a vote of 50-47. The nomination of Roopali H. Desai to be United States Circuit Judge for the Ninth Circuit was confirmed by a vote of 67-29.

Leader Schumer announced that the Senate will convene next on Saturday at noon. He then moved to discharge the nomination of David Uhlmann to be Assistant Administrator for Enforcement and Compliance Assurance, Environmental Protection Agency. We expect to vote on the motion to proceed to the Inflation Reduction Act on Saturday afternoon.

Rough transcript below:

MR. SCHUMER: MADAM PRESIDENT, FOR THE INFORMATION OF SENATORS,  
THE SENATE WILL NEXT CONVENE ON SATURDAY AT NOON. THE NEXT VOTE  
WILL BE AT 12:30 P.M. ON SATURDAY ON A MOTION TO DISCHARGE A  
NOMINATION.  
WE EXPECT TO VOTE ON THE MOTION TO PROCEED TO THE  
RECONCILIATION LEGISLATION ON SATURDAY AFTERNOON.

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**From:** Simmons, Maalik (Durbin) <Maalik\_Simmons@durbin.senate.gov>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 3, 2022 9:33 PM  
**To:** Simmons, Maalik (Durbin) <Maalik\_Simmons@durbin.senate.gov>  
**Subject:** Week 4: the Final Table

Good evening,

The Senate will come back into session at 12pm tomorrow.

At approximately 1:45pm, the Senate will proceed to two roll call votes:

1. Passage of S.J.Res.55, providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Council on Environmental Quality relating to "National Environmental Policy Act Implementing Regulations Revisions".
2. Confirmation of Roopali H. Desai to be United States Circuit Judge for the Ninth Circuit.

We could see additional roll call votes during Thursday's session of the Senate.

The votes on confirmation of the following nominations will occur at times to be determined by the Majority Leader in consultation with the Republican Leader:

1. Cathy Ann Harris to be Chairman of the Merit Systems Protection Board.
2. Constance J. Milstein to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Malta.

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**From:** Simmons, Maalik (Durbin) <Maalik\_Simmons@durbin.senate.gov>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 2, 2022 8:26 PM  
**To:** Simmons, Maalik (Durbin) <Maalik\_Simmons@durbin.senate.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: Week 4: the Final Table

The Senate agreed to the motion to concur (passage of the PACT Act) by a vote of 86-11.

At 1:30pm tomorrow, the Senate will proceed to Executive Session to consider Calendar Number 5 treaty document 117-3. The treaties will be considered as having advanced through the various parliamentary stages up to and including the presentation of the resolution of advice and consent to ratification. There will be 3 hours for debate, equally divided between the two Leaders, or their designees, on the treaties and resolution of advice and consent to ratification. The only amendments in order to the resolution of advice and consent to ratification are the following:

1. Sullivan #5192 (re: spending benchmark)
2. Paul #5191 (re: declaration of war)

Following debate, the Senate will vote in relation to the amendments in the order listed. Upon disposition of the amendments, any committee conditions, declarations, or reservations will be agreed to as applicable, and the Senate will vote on the resolution of advice and consent to ratification, as amended, if amended, with no intervening action or debate. If the resolution of advice and consent to ratification is agreed to, the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table, and the President will be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

Wednesday, August 3<sup>rd</sup> at approx. 4:30pm – up to 3 roll call votes:

1. Sullivan amendment #5192 (re: spending benchmark) (*possible voice vote*)
2. Paul amendment #5191 (re: declaration of war)
3. Adoption of the resolution of ratification with respect to Calendar Number 5 treaty document 117-3 (NATO).

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**From:** Simmons, Maalik (Durbin) <Maalik\_Simmons@durbin.senate.gov>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 2, 2022 3:40 PM  
**To:** Simmons, Maalik (Durbin) <Maalik\_Simmons@durbin.senate.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: Week 4: the Final Table

Good Afternoon,

Earlier today, the Senate confirmed the nomination of Elizabeth Hanes to be a Judge for the Eastern District of Virginia by a vote of 59-37.

Senator Schumer just locked in the following agreement to complete consideration of the PACT Act:

At approximately 5pm, the Senate will proceed to the following votes {all set at a 60 vote threshold}:

1. Paul motion to concur with amendment #5184 (60 Vote Threshold)
2. Toomey motion to concur with amendment #5186 (60 Vote Threshold)
3. Blackburn motion to concur with amendment #5185 (60 Vote Threshold)
4. Motion to concur in the House amendment to S. 3373 {Passage} (60 Vote Threshold)

Rough transcript below:

MR. SCHUMER: I HAVE GOOD NEWS. THE MINORITY LEADER AND I HAVE COME TO AN AGREEMENT TO VOTE ON THE PACT ACT THIS EVENING. THERE WILL BE THREE AMENDMENT VOTES, A 60-VOTE MARGIN ON THE TOOMEY AMENDMENT, ON THE PAUL AMENDMENT, AND A THE BLACKBURN AMENDMENT AND 60 VOTES FOR THE BILL. I'M VERY OPTIMISTIC THAT THIS BILL WILL PASS. SO OUR VETERANS ACROSS AMERICA CAN BREATHE A SIGH OF RELIEF. THE TREATMENT THAT THEY DESERVE AND HAVE NEEDED BUT HAVE BEEN DENIED BY THE V.A. BECAUSE OF ALL KINDS OF LEGAL BARRIERS AND PRESUMPTIONS WILL NOW BE GONE. VETERANS WHO WERE EXPOSED TO THE TOXIC FUMES OF BURN PITS WILL BE TREATED BY THE V.A. LIKE THEY SHOULD HAVE BEEN FROM THE VERY BEGINNING. SO THIS IS GOOD NEWS. IT TOOK US A WHILE TO GET HERE, BUT I'M GRATEFUL FOR THE BIPARTISAN COOPERATION AND SUPPORT THAT WILL ALLOW US TO MOVE FORWARD TODAY. AND A LITTLE BIT MORE OF GOOD NEWS. THE FACT THAT WE CAN FINISH PACT TODAY GIVES US A REAL OPPORTUNITY TO DO THE TREATIES THAT WILL ALLOW FINLAND AND SWEDEN TO JOIN NATO. AND THAT CAN HAPPEN TOMORROW IF WE CAN COME TO A TIME AGREEMENT. I'M VERY HOPEFUL THAT THAT CAN HAPPEN AS WELL.

SO I ASK UNANIMOUS CONSENT THAT AT 4:00 P.M. TODAY, THE SENATE PROCEED TO LEGISLATIVE SESSION AND RESUME CONSIDERATION OF THE HOUSE MESSAGE TO ACCOMPANY S. 3373 WITH THE TIME UNTIL 5:00 P.M. EQUALLY DIVIDED. FURTHER, THAT IT BE IN ORDER TO CONSIDER AND VOTE IN RELATION TO A PAUL MOTION TO CONCUR WITH AMENDMENT NUMBERED 5184, TOOMEY MOTION TO CONCUR WITH AMENDMENT 5186, AND A BLACKBURN MOTION TO CONCUR WITH AMENDMENT 5185.

THAT AT 5:00 P.M., THE SENATE VOTE IN RELATION TO THE MOTIONS IN THE ORDER LISTED, THAT FOLLOWING DISPOSITION OF THE MOTIONS TO CONCUR WITH AMENDMENTS NUMBERED 5184, 5186, AND 5185, THE MOTION TO REFER AND THE AMENDMENTS PENDING THERETO AND THE MOTION TO CONCUR WITH AMENDMENT 5148 AND THE AMENDMENT PENDING THERETO BE WITHDRAWN AND THE SENATE VOTE ON THE MOTION TO CONCUR IN THE HOUSE AMENDMENT TO S. 3373. THAT THE PAUL, TOOMEY, AND BLACKBURN MOTIONS AND THE MOTION TO CONCUR BE SUBJECT TO A 60-VOTE AFFIRMATIVE THRESHOLD WITH TWO MINUTES FOR DEBATE EQUALLY DIVIDED PRIOR TO EACH VOTE. AND THAT ALL VOTES AFTER THE FIRST VOTE BE TEN-MINUTE VOTES, ALL WITHOUT INTERVENING ACTION OR DEBATE.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER: IS THERE OBJECTION?  
WITHOUT OBJECTION.

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**From:** Simmons, Maalik (Durbin) <Maalik\_Simmons@durbin.senate.gov>

**Sent:** Monday, August 1, 2022 8:22 PM

**To:** Simmons, Maalik (Durbin) <Maalik\_Simmons@durbin.senate.gov>

**Subject:** Week 4: the Final Table

Good Evening,

The Senate will return to session at 12p tomorrow.

The Senate will recess from 12:30pm until 2:15pm to allow for the weekly caucus luncheons.

At approximately 2:15pm, the Senate will vote on confirmation of the nomination of Elizabeth Hanes to be a Judge for the Eastern District of Virginia.

We could see additional roll call votes on Tuesday.

Discussions continue regarding several pieces of legislation that could see floor time this week including but not limited to: the Pact Act, NATO Treaty, Kigali Treaty, Sullivan CRA on NEPA Regulations (SJRes55), etc.

By unanimous consent, the Senate will proceed to a roll call vote on confirmation of the following nomination at time to be determined by the Majority Leader in consultation with the Republican Leader:

- Cathy Ann Harris to be Chairman of the Merit Systems Protection Board.
- Constance J. Milstein to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Malta.

Earlier today, Senator Schumer reiterated that the Senate will soon consider the Inflation Reduction Act.

The motion to proceed is nondebatable and subject to a majority vote threshold. Once the motion to proceed is adopted, we expect Sen. Schumer to offer a substitute amendment which would be the text of the Inflation Reduction Act.

Under the rules of reconciliation, there are up to 20 hours for debate equally divided and controlled between the Majority and Minority.

Time on first degree amendments is limited to 2 hours equally divided.

Time on second degree amendments and debateable motions and appeals are limited to 1 hour equally divided.

The Senate could vote in relation to amendments during the 20 hours of debate.

Upon the use or yielding back of time all time, there is no further debate, but amendments are still in order to be offered and voted upon thus beginning the votearam portion of the process. Typically we get consent for 2 minutes for debate equally divided prior to each vote in the series to give the sponsor and opponent time to explain the amendment and to advocate for their position.

When there are no further amendments, the Senate would vote on the substitute, as amended, if amended, and on passage of the bill, as amended.

Once the votearama begins, the Senate is expected to be in session and voting around the clock until passage.

We expect noon convene times during the week as long as there are Byrd Bath sessions in the mornings.

The Byrd Bath will likely continue throughout consideration of the bill and could happen in real time.

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**From:** Simmons, Maalik (Durbin) <Maalik\_Simmons@durbin.senate.gov>  
**Sent:** Monday, August 1, 2022 4:12 PM  
**To:** Simmons, Maalik (Durbin) <Maalik\_Simmons@durbin.senate.gov>  
**Subject:** Week 4: the Final Table

Good Afternoon,

Last week Senator Schumer filed cloture on the nomination of Wilson Hanes to be a Judge for the Eastern District of Virginia. At 5:30pm, the Senate will vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the Hanes nomination. If cloture is invoked, there would be up to 2 hours for debate prior to a vote on confirmation. If cloture is invoked, the confirmation vote will likely take place on Tuesday.

Please see Leader Schumer's remarks about the week's agenda.

**CES Floor Remarks  
August 1, 2022**

The Senate gavel in for what will be a consequential week for this chamber and for our country. Later today, we will vote on the nomination of Elizabeth Hanes to serve as a District Judge for the Eastern District of Virginia. If confirmed she will be the 75<sup>th</sup> judge that this Senate Majority has confirmed since the start of President Biden's term.

In the coming days the Senate will also finish its work passing the PACT Act, the largest expansion of veteran health care benefits in decades, and a piece of legislation that should sail through this chamber with overwhelming bipartisan support.

Over the past few days, the Capitol steps have been the site of something we should never see in this country: dozens of veterans, braving heat and heavy rain, protesting through the night demanding that the Senate take action on their health care benefits. They are there right now, as we speak. No veteran who has sacrificed for our country should ever have to resort to spending the night on the Capitol steps to secure their benefits, but sadly in this case they have.

It is unfortunate that our Republican colleagues chose to block quick passage of this bill last week, even though this is the exact same piece of legislation many of them supported in June, with one small technical fix.

In the coming days, we are going to give Senate Republicans another chance to do the right thing, to work with us so we can send this bill to the President's desk A-S-A-P.

Since 9/11, nearly three and a half million veterans have been exposed to toxic burn pits in the line of duty, leading to complications like cancer, lung disease, and other illnesses.

But instead of getting the care they need without delay, many veterans have had to hire lawyers and jump through hoops just to prove to the VA that they are truly sick. They have wasted years fighting the VA just to get the care they need, when they should have spent that time treating their illnesses. It's equal parts tragic and infuriating.

Our veterans have already given it their all to defend our nation from threats abroad; they shouldn't have to fight a second war here at home just to get the health care benefits they rightfully deserve.

These brave Americans sacrificed everything—they risked life and limb—and the very least we can do as a country is ensure they receive top care.

I urge both sides to work together to pass the PACT Act so we can send it to the President's desk ASAP.

This week, Senate Democrats will take action on a groundbreaking piece of legislation: the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022.

Over the coming days, both sides will continue conversations with the Parliamentarian in order to move forward with the bipartisan "Byrd Bath" process. Our timeline has not changed and I expect to bring this legislation to the Senate floor to begin voting this week.

Already, leading experts have confirmed that the Inflation reduction Act lives up to its name:

- The head of the Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget—by no means a liberal group—affirmed that “Almost every one of [this bill’s] policies, in and of itself, will fight inflation. And on net, the entire package most certainly will.”

- Former Treasury Secretary Larry Summers – recently the Republican Leader’s favorite economist said “this bill is fighting inflation” and that “this is disinflationary policy that’s also going to make the economy more efficient.”
- And Mark Zandi, Chief Economist at Moody’s—again, hardly a liberal authority, someone who actually served as an economic advisor to Senator McCain—writes that our bill will have a “material beneficial economic impact” and said that the Inflation Reduction Act “will push inflation lower.”

In short, M. President, the Inflation Reduction Act is going to be JUST what the doctor ordered for bringing costs down for American families. We are excited and eager to pass this bill through the Senate as soon as we can.

By a significant margin, our bill will also be the largest package on climate change ever passed by the US Congress. By our analysis this bill will cut greenhouse gas emissions by approximately 40% by 2030, and independent studies agree.

According to a new study by the nonpartisan group Energy Innovation, the Inflation Reduction Act could not only create at least 1.5 million new jobs by 2030, it also affirms that our bill will achieve approximately forty percent greenhouse gas reduction by the end of the decade.

Let me repeat that last part again: this independent analysis says that our bill, if enacted, could cut greenhouse gas emissions by approximately forty percent!

That is a very, very big deal. Without this bill, the US is on track to cut emissions only by about 25% by the end of the decade, far short of the president’s climate commitment.

But with this bill, we are going to put our country on track to meet the climate goals we need to preserve our planet for our children and grandchildren.

Now, cutting emissions is not just about protecting our planet’s health; it is about protecting our kids’ health too.

If we slash emissions, that means cleaner air for everyone, which in turn means fewer people will suffer health complications that arise from pollution.

It means less strain on our health care system.

It means that communities long exposed to harmful emissions can, quite literally, breathe easy at last.

-

In fact, the same study from Energy Innovation found that our bill could avoid as many as 3,900 premature deaths and 100,000 asthma attacks annually by 2030.

3,900 fewer premature deaths! 100,000 fewer asthma attacks! These are benchmarks every single one of us should aspire to, regardless of party.

Put simply, this legislation will save lives, create jobs and reduce costs.

Now, over the past few days, we've heard Republicans resort to the same timeworn attacks they use against virtually any Democratic policy.

They've sounded the alarms that this bill will raise taxes on American families, but here is the plain truth: this bill will NOT raise any taxes on families making under \$400,000 a year. Instead, it will close loopholes long exploited by the largest corporations that essentially give them lower tax rates than many nurses, firefighters, and teachers. You won't hear Republicans admit that, because they know that their tax policies are utterly toxic in the minds of the American people.

Republicans should have learned after 2017 that the American people don't trust them when it comes to taxes:

- They promised that their tax bill would be a "middle class miracle," and instead it became a boondoggle in favor of the ultra-rich.
- They promised their tax bill would unleash a tsunami of economic activity, but instead it led to record corporate stock buy backs.

So when Republicans talk about cutting taxes, what they really mean is cutting taxes for the richest of the rich.

Our bill, meanwhile, will close loopholes in our tax code and not touch ANYONE making under \$400,000 a year.

That, M President, is common sense.

At the end of the day, the American people want us to do a few straightforward things:

- they want us to lower the costs of daily expenses like health care
- they want us to lower energy costs and protect our planet for future generations,
- and they want us to make sure everyone plays by the same rules and that we close loopholes long exploited by powerful corporations.

That's what the Inflation Reduction Act will do, and soon Senate Democrats will take action to pass this bill and deliver on our promise to make better the lives of the American people.

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**Sent Date:** 2022/08/07 17:14:59

**Delivered Date:** 2022/08/07 17:15:39

**From:** Tesfaye, Eden (OS/IEA) /O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=49AD78BB8C214E099B5310A08394609A-TESFAYE, ED <Eden.Tesfaye@hhs.gov>

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Jones, Kamara (HHS/ASPA) /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=05cef78e341b467099676c353121c1ed-Jones, Kama <Kamara.Jones@hhs.gov>;  
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**Subject:** RE: RSVPs CCBHC Event (External and Press RSVPs)

**Date:** 2022/10/17 18:04:42

**Priority:** Normal

**Type:** Note

Hi @Sullivan, Rose (HHS/ASL) @Sibori, Gabriela (HHS/ASPA) @Lunsford, Erin (HHS/ASL) @Jones, Kamara (HHS/ASPA)

Can you all please confirm this list is good to go? Also including the new adds Gabi sent along. I am about to leave the office so going to send the last round of lists to security. Thanks!!

Additional Press RSVPs

Sheryl Gay Stolberg	The New York Times	stolberg@nytimes.com
Laura Santhanam	PBS NewsHour	lsanthanam@newshour.org
Ian Lopez	Bloomberg	ilopez@bloombergindustry.com
Amanda Seitz	Associated Press	ASeitz@ap.org
Robert King	Fierce Healthcare	rking@questex.com
Robb Harleston	C-SPAN	rharleston@c-span.org
Grace Scullion	POLITICO	gscullion@politico.com
Dorothy Mills-Gregg	Inside Health Policy	dmillsgregg@iwppnews.com
Angi Gonzalez	Spectrum News	Angi.Gonzalez@charter.com
Gershon Peaks	Reuters	gershon.peaks@thomsonreuters.com
Joanna Rosen	American Foundation for Suicide Prevention	jrosen@afsp.org
Peter Sullivan	AXIOS	peter.sullivan@axios.com
Tamara Gilkes Borr	The Economist	tamaragilkesborr@economist.com
Melinda Woolbright	NBC News	Melinda.woolbright@nbcuni.com
Basil John	Nexstar Media	BJohn@nexstar.tv
Tia Humphries	ABC News	
John Spears	ABC News	
Bob McHenry	ABC News	
Jacquelyn Martin	AP Photos	jmartin@ap.org

**From:** Tesfaye, Eden (OS/IEA)

**Sent:** Monday, October 17, 2022 4:27 PM

**To:** Sullivan, Rose (HHS/ASL) <Rose.Sullivan@hhs.gov>; Jones, Kamara (HHS/ASPA) <Kamara.Jones@hhs.gov>; Sullivan, Rose (HHS/ASL) <Rose.Sullivan@hhs.gov>; Sibori, Gabriela (HHS/ASPA) <Gabriela.Sibori@hhs.gov>; Kaplun, Brian (HHS/IOS) <Brian.Kaplun@hhs.gov>; Watkins, Ashley (OS/ASA/PSC/RLO) <Ashley.Watkins@psc.hhs.gov>; Wilker, Michael (HHS/ASPA) <Michael.Wilker@hhs.gov>; Eng, Adrian (HHS/ASPA) <Adrian.Eng@hhs.gov>;

Lunsford, Erin (HHS/ASL) <Erin.Lunsford@hhs.gov>

**Subject:** RSVPs CCBHC Event (External and Press RSVPs)

-

Hi all –

Please let me know if there are any names missing from this list. If so, please send them to me ASAP. Please add in any folks who are missing from this chain that should be included.

Thanks!

Eden

-

**External Guests RSVP**

<u>Name</u>	<u>Organization</u>
<u>Reyna Taylor</u>	<u>National Council for Mental Wellbeing</u>
<u>Kirsten Beronio</u>	<u>CMS</u>
<u>Charissa Pallas</u>	<u>SAMHSA Communications Director</u>
<u>John Michael Edward Gray</u>	<u>Treatment Advocacy Center - Director of Advocacy</u>
<u>Mark Parrino</u>	<u>American Association for the Treatment of Opioid Dependence (AATOD) - President</u>
<u>Phyllis Foxworth</u>	<u>Depression and Bipolar Support Alliance</u>
<u>Eric Scharf</u>	<u>Depression and Bipolar Support Alliance Federal Advocacy Advisor</u>
<u>Shawn Coughlin</u>	<u>NABH - President and CEO</u>
<u>Julio C Abreu</u>	<u>American Psychological Association, Senior Director of Congressional and Federal Relations</u>
<u>Kelly Michelle Corredor</u>	<u>Chief Advocacy Officer, American Society of Addiction Medicine</u>
<u>Pat Tobias</u>	<u>NCSC Principal Court Management Consultant</u>
<u>Alfonso Guida</u>	<u>Guide Consulting Services</u>
<u>Michael Matthew Linskey</u>	<u>NAMI</u>
<u>Lisa Dailey</u>	<u>Treatment Advocacy Center, Executive Director</u>
<u>Laura Wooster</u>	<u>SVP, Advocacy &amp; Practice Affairs; American College of Emergency Physicians</u>
<u>Stephanie Johanna Katz</u>	<u>National Council for Mental Wellbeing - Assistant Vice President, Policy and Advocacy</u>
<u>Brett Beckerson</u>	<u>National Council Mental Wellbeing</u>
<u>Laura Friedel</u>	<u>US Senate Appropriations Committee</u>
<u>Ashley Palmer</u>	<u>U.S. Senate Committee on Appropriations</u>

<u>Sarah Butts</u>	<u>National Association of Social Workers</u>
<u>Caitlin Wilson</u>	<u>Legislative Counsel, Senator John Cornyn</u>
<u>Brent McGinty</u>	<u>CEO/President Missouri Behavioral Health Council</u>
<u>Kathryn Boyd</u>	<u>U.S. Senator Roy Blunt, Communications Director</u>
<u>Lauren Reddington</u>	<u>Office of U.S. Senator Roy Blunt, Deputy Communications Director</u>
<u>Badiki Ebenja</u>	<u>National Governors Association, Legislative Associate</u>
<u>Paul Guaglianone</u>	<u>Sen. Roy Blunt</u>
<u>Lacy Adams</u>	<u>Adams</u>
<u>Dakota Jablon</u>	<u>SAMHSA, Mental Health Legislative Advisor</u>
<u>Lisa Dailey</u>	<u>Treatment Advocacy Center, Executive Director</u>
<u>Reyna Taylor</u>	<u>National Council for Mental Wellbeing</u>
<u>Kirsten Beronio</u>	<u>CMS</u>
<u>Charissa Pallas</u>	<u>SAMHSA Communications Director</u>
<u>John Michael Edward Gray</u>	<u>Treatment Advocacy Center - Director of Advocacy</u>
<u>Mark Parrino</u>	<u>American Association for the Treatment of Opioid Dependence (AATOD) - President</u>
<u>Phyllis Foxworth</u>	<u>Depression and Bipolar Support Alliance</u>
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<u>Brett Beckerson</u>	<u>National Council Mental Wellbeing</u>
<u>Brent McGinty</u>	<u>President &amp; CEO, Missouri Behavioral Health Council</u>
<u>Laura Friedel</u>	<u>Senate Appropriations Labor, HHS, Education Subcommittee</u>
<u>Katie Boyd</u>	<u>Senator Blunt, Communications Director</u>
<u>Ashley Palmer</u>	<u>Senate Appropriations Labor, HHS, Education Subcommittee</u>

<u>Caitlin Wilson</u>	<u>Senator Cornyn, Health LA</u>
<u>Paul Guaglianone</u>	<u>Senator Blunt</u>
<u>Jennifer Messix</u>	<u>Real Person; Clinical Director of the Behavioral Health Urgent Care Center; Arundel Lodge CCBHC</u>
<u>Sergeant Chad G. Matthews</u>	<u>Real Person</u>
<u>Michael Drummond</u>	<u>CEO of Arundel Lodge and Candice Jones</u>
<u>Rolando Santiago</u>	<u>Chief, Behavioral Health and Crisis Services, Montgomery County</u>
<u>Beth Tabachnick</u>	<u>Montgomery County</u>
<u>David De Voursney</u>	<u>SAMHSA</u>
<u>Kirsten Beronio</u>	<u>CMS</u>
<u>Anita Everett</u>	<u>SAMHSA, the Center for Mental Health Services Director</u>
<u>Amanda Peper</u>	<u>Senator Blunt</u>
<u>Joanna Rosen</u>	<u>American Foundation for Suicide Prevention</u>
<u>Robyn Bryan</u>	<u>Senator Stabenow</u>
<u>Eliza Duckworth</u>	<u>Senator Stabenow</u>
<u>Alex Graf</u>	<u>Senator Stabenow</u>
<u>Amy Brown</u>	<u>Senator Stabenow</u>
<u>Julia Johnston</u>	<u>Senator Stabenow</u>
<u>Elizabeth Whitcomb</u>	<u>Senator Stabenow</u>

**Press RSVPs**

<b><u>Full Name</u></b>	<b><u>Org</u></b>
<u>Amanda Seitz</u>	<u>AP Reporter</u>
<u>Amanda Peper</u>	<u>Senator Blunt</u>
<u>Sheryl Gay Stolberg</u>	<u>The New York Times</u>
<u>Laura Santhanam</u>	<u>PBS NewsHour</u>
<u>Ian Lopez</u>	<u>Bloomberg</u>
<u>Amanda Seitz</u>	<u>Associated Press</u>
<u>Robert King</u>	<u>Fierce Healthcare</u>
<u>Robb Harleston</u>	<u>C-SPAN</u>
<u>Grace Scullion</u>	<u>POLITICO</u>
<u>Dorothy Mills-Gregg</u>	<u>Inside Health Policy</u>
<u>Angi Gonzalez</u>	<u>Spectrum News</u>
<u>Eddie Gross</u>	<u>CNN</u>
<u>Gershon Peaks</u>	<u>Reuters</u>
<u>Amanda Seitz</u>	<u>AP Reporter</u>

Eden Tesfaye

Intergovernmental and External Affairs  
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

M (b)(6)

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Sullivan, Rose (HHS/ASL) /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=9424ce352ba14c278bd21a84fe92e45c-Sullivan, R <Rose.Sullivan@hhs.gov>;

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Watkins, Ashley (OS/ASA/PSC/RLO) /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=5b5078a41f6d49328198520d1d2414d9-Watkins, As <Ashley.Watkins@psc.hhs.gov>;

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<Rose.Sullivan@hhs.gov>

**Subject:** U.K. medicines tax forcing cheaper drugs off the market

**Date:** 2023/01/17 13:49:17

**Priority:** Normal

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# U.K. medicines tax forcing cheaper drugs off

BY HELEN COLLIS 01/17/2023 01:44 PM EST



Manufacturers of copycat versions of expensive medicines with expired patents argue that without the large profit margins enjoyed by B  
Images

LONDON — Medicines manufacturers are calling on the U.K. government to drop a new tax hike, warning of widespread market withdrawals.

One company is mulling closing all British operations after the tax rate for 2023 was set at 26.5 percent, up from 20 percent under a government contract. This is on top of existing corporation tax.

Manufacturers of copycat versions of expensive medicines with expired patents argue that without the new tax rate, their U.K. operations are no longer viable.

Such medicines drive down the National Health Service medicines bill; [data from July shows](#) they produce a net loss.

The warning comes as the U.K.'s NHS is on the brink of collapse from surging demand for winter care.

As health workers demand more pay and care providers call for greater investment, manufacturers of high-cost patent medicines — warn that the NHS will lose out on billions of pounds in savings from their products.

A recent report commissioned by the British Generic Manufacturers Association found that the major tax hike would downsize or end supplies and possibly also operations in the U.K.

“We have the largest pipeline of biosimilar medicines globally,” said Matthew Eddleston, commercial director of Sandoz U.K., which has five pipelines already in the U.K. But its pipeline of 20 biosimilars won't be launched if this tax rate comes through.

“We are looking at reducing the portfolio, reducing the products that are available to the U.K. And the loss of 30 jobs, Eddleston told POLITICO.

Sandoz, the generics and biosimilars arm of Novartis that is being divested, is cutting U.K. allocations. DiGangi Trevisan, country head and general manager of Sandoz U.K.

That's down to a “perfect storm” of surging demand for medicines in Europe and elsewhere, and the loss of funding for the overall of biosimilars,” she told POLITICO. “The industry has to make rational decisions to allocate supply.”

The current Voluntary Scheme for Branded Medicines Pricing and Access (VPAS) contract applies the current budget growth rate of 2 percent a year. The agreement between the U.K. government, NHS England, and industry aims to reduce drug costs, encourage uptake of innovation. This five-year deal finishes at the end of the year; a new deal is being negotiated.

From 2019 to 2022, the tax rate was 9.6 percent, 5.1 percent and 15 percent. The hike is due to increased spending on generics and biosimilars, said DiGangi Trevisan, compared with just 3 percent growth in spending on generics and biosimilars, said DiGangi Trevisan.

Meanwhile, manufacturers also fear that their concerns are also falling on deaf ears. Celltrion, Sandoz talks to resolve the issue.

Sandoz said letters to the Treasury, business and health departments requesting meetings had failed to be declined “due to ongoing diary commitments”; the Treasury said in October the request was still being

Only Michael Gove, Sandoz’s local MP in Surrey Heath, has agreed to meet the company at its Camberley

Meanwhile, Celltrion met with the Department of Health and Social Care in December, but it was clear that Eddleston said. Now, Celltrion’s focus is on ensuring a new drug pricing contract, to take over from next year, he said.

The company is pushing for the GBMA to be at the negotiating table for the next drug pricing contract with the British Pharmaceutical Industry, which has historically represented all of the medicines industry.

A Department of Health and Social Care spokesperson said that companies are allowed to leave the scheme

In addition, they said: “We are open to ideas about how the next scheme should operate, after the current one to engage with industry to understand the impact on companies.”

Health Minister Will Quince will be holding a roundtable with industry to discuss the impact of VPAS

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**Subject:** ASL Day Ahead - September 21st, 2022

**Date:** 2022/09/20 23:25:40

**Priority:** Normal

**Type:** Note

### Upcoming Secretary Engagement

- **Wednesday, September 21st: Calls to Senators Daines and Shelby, Representatives DeLauro and McCollum**
  - Topic: IHS Advance Appropriations
  - Memos: Submitted
  - Staffing: Rose, Maddie
  
- **September 28: White House Conference on Hunger, Nutrition & Health**
  - Topic: Hunger, Nutrition & Health
  - Memos: TBD (OASH Leading)
  - Members: Senators Booker, Braun and Congressman McGovern - (potentially more)
  
  - Staffing: TBD
  
- **TBD: Call with Congressman Llyad Doggett**
  - Topic: CICP
  - Memos: TBD
  - Staffing: Rose

### Upcoming HHS Principal Engagement with Members of Congress

- **Thursday September 22<sup>nd</sup>: Administrator Carole Jahson Meeting with Chairman Ron Wyden**
  - Topic: Intro Meeting/MIECHV
  - Memos: HRSA

- Staffing: HRSA/Leslie
- **Thursday September 22<sup>nd</sup>: Admiral Levine Call with Congresswoman Nanette Barragan**
  - Topic: Follow-up to District Visit on OCCHE/EOJ Actions
  - Memos: OASH
  - Staffing: Garrick/Leslie

#### Upcoming Secretary Travel

- **September 23 (All Day): Madison, WI**
  - Topic: Cancer Moonshot & Mental Health
  - Members Attending: Congressman Mark Pocan
  - Notecards: Yes, due Thursday September 24<sup>th</sup>
- **October 3<sup>rd</sup> (TBD): San Bernadino, CA**
  - Topic: Hispanic Heritage Month
  - Member Attending: Congressman Peter Aguilar
  - Notecards: TBD

#### Upcoming HHS Principal Travel

- **Tuesday September 20<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday September 21<sup>st</sup>**: ADM Levine Travel to Durham, NC
  - Notifications sent & invite to Price made
- **Tuesday, September 29<sup>th</sup>**: Deputy Secretary Travel to Atlanta, GA
  - Invitations will be sent to GA Senators, Reps. Johnson, Williams

#### Upcoming Hearings

- N/A

#### Nominations Updates

- N/A

#### This Week's Policy Announcements

- **ACF (TBD)**: Field Guidance
  - ASL Role: TBD
- **Secretary/HHS (Wednesday)**: Secretary Becerra participates virtually in the United States Mission to the United Nations Universal Health Coverage Meeting
  - ASL Role: None, FYI only
- **HHS/HRSA (Wednesday)**: HHS Invests \$266 Million in New Programs to Expand and Strengthen the Community Health Worker and Public Health Workforces (ARP funding.) HRSA is awarding \$225.5 million to 83 grantees as part of the Community Health Worker Training Program, which is a new, multiyear program that will support training and apprenticeship to support new community health workers. Also \$40.7 million to 29 grantees through the Public Health Scholarship Program, which will incentivize individuals to pursue training and careers in public health, including as epidemiologists and other positions critical to community public health needs.

- ASL Role: HRSA OL
- **Secretary/HHS (Thursday):** HOLD: Monkeypox Press Call with Latino Press
  - ASL Role: None
- **CMS (Thursday):** CMS approves a postpartum coverage extension state plan amendment (SPA) for state in the south.
  - ASL Role: CMS OL
- **SAMHSA (Thursday):** HHS releases WH Recovery Event grant bundle - Grants to Expand Substance Abuse Treatment Capacity in Adult and Family Treatment Drug Courts, \$7.1M - State Opioid Response Grants, \$1.440B - Tribal Opioid Response Grants, \$55M – Rural Community Opioid Response Programs, \$104 million.
  - ASL Role: SAMHSA OL
- **HRSA (Friday):** HRSA announces awards of more than \$104 million across three Rural Community Opioid Response Programs (RCORP), part of HRSA’s RCORP initiative to address the barriers to treatment for substance use disorder, including opioid use disorder, in rural communities.
  - ASL Role: HRSA OL
- **CDC (Friday):** CDC and Kaiser Health authors publish a study in *Academic Pediatrics: Association Between Aluminum Exposure from Vaccines Before Age 24 Months and Persistent Asthma at Age 24-59 Months*. Summary: In a large observational study, a positive association was found between vaccine related aluminum exposure and persistent asthma.
  - ASL Role: CDC OL
- **WH/CDC (Friday):** Twitter Spaces with Dr. Daskalakis and Dr. Mena from the CDC to talk about monkeypox
  - ASL Role: None, FYI only

#### Tomorrows Briefings

- **SAMHSA (Wednesday, September 21st):** Congressional Suicide Prevention Task Force Staff 988 Briefing
  - ASL Staff: Lauren
- **NIH (Wednesday, September 21st):** Widely Attended Briefing on Psychedelics Research
  - ASL Staff: Lauren
- **CDC (Wednesday, September 21<sup>st</sup>):** Briefing for Senator Gillibrand staff on CDC Infrastructure grant
  - ASL Staff: Kris

Erin Lunsford (she/her)

Special Assistant

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<b>Date:</b> 2023/01/19 13:17:02
<b>Priority:</b> Normal
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## TOP NEWS

## TOP NEWS

### U.K. medicines tax forcing cheaper drugs off the market

By Helen Collis

Generic and biosimilar medicines manufacturers warn the U.K. is no longer a viable market after a 26.5 percent rebate hike.

## MORE PHARMACEUTICAL NEWS

Moderna reports 83.7 percent efficacy for RSV vaccine in older adults

Medicare, patient advocates at odds over coverage for an expensive new Alzheimer's therapy

GAO questions HHS oversight of 'gain-of-function' research

*For full coverage of pharmaceutical news: [subscriber.politicopro.com/healthcare](https://subscriber.politicopro.com/healthcare).*

### **U.K. medicines tax forcing cheaper drugs off the market** ([back](#))

By Helen Collis

LONDON — Medicines manufacturers are calling on the U.K. government to drop a new tax hike, warning it has rendered cheaper drugs loss-making and will lead to widespread market withdrawals.

One company is mulling closing all British operations after the tax rate for 2023 was set at 26.5 percent of branded medicines' sales for companies signed up to the government contract. This is on top of existing corporation tax.

Manufacturers of copycat versions of expensive medicines with expired patents argue that without the large profit margins enjoyed by Big Pharma, some of their U.K. operations are no longer viable.

Such medicines drive down the National Health Service medicines bill; [data from July shows](#) they provided £1.2 billion in savings over three years.

The warning comes as the U.K.'s NHS is on the brink of collapse from surging demand for winter care, huge pandemic backlogs and chronic understaffing.

As health workers demand more pay and care providers call for greater investment, manufacturers of generic and biosimilar medicines — cheaper copies of off-patent medicines — warn that the NHS will lose out on billions of pounds in savings from their products if the market is no longer viable for them.

A recent report commissioned by the British Generic Manufacturers Association found that the majority of generics and biosimilar companies affected by the tax rate would downsize or end supplies and possibly also operations in the U.K.

“We have the largest pipeline of biosimilar medicines globally,” said Matthew Eddleston, commercial and operations director at Celltrion Healthcare U.K., which has five pipelines already in the U.K. But its pipeline of 20 biosimilars won't be launched if this tax rate continues, he warned.

“We are looking at reducing the portfolio, reducing the products that are available to the U.K. And the final piece would be withdrawal from the U.K.,” with the loss of 30 jobs, Eddleston told POLITICO.

Sandoz, the generics and biosimilars arm of Novartis that is being divested, is cutting U.K. allocations for “two major biosimilar products,” said Diane DiGangi Trench, country head and general manager of Sandoz U.K.

That's down to a “perfect storm” of surging demand for medicines in Europe and elsewhere, and the loss-making scenario in the U.K. “There's a limited supply overall of biosimilars,” she told POLITICO. “The industry has to make rational decisions to allocate supply to where we can make a reasonable level of profit.”

The current Voluntary Scheme for Branded Medicines Pricing and Access (VPAS) contract applies the tax to NHS spending over and above a capped medicines budget growth rate of 2 percent a year. The agreement between the U.K. government, NHS England, and the pharmaceutical industry is designed to control the NHS drugs bill and encourage uptake of innovation. This five-year deal finishes at the end of the year; a new contract will be negotiated this year.

From 2019 to 2022, the tax rate was 9.6 percent, 5.1 percent and 15 percent. The hike is due to increased spending on innovative branded medicines of 18 percent in 2022, compared with just 3 percent growth in spending on generics and biosimilars, said DiGangi Trench.

Meanwhile, manufacturers also fear that their concerns are also falling on deaf ears. Celltrion, Sandoz and the BGMA have written to the government asking for talks to resolve the issue.

Sandoz said letters to the Treasury, business and health departments requesting meetings had failed to deliver results. Business Secretary Grant Shapps' office declined “due to ongoing diary commitments”; the Treasury said in October the request was still being considered; and the health department has not replied.

Only Michael Gove, Sandoz's local MP in Surrey Heath, has agreed to meet the company at its Camberley office.

Meanwhile, Celltrion met with the Department of Health and Social Care in December, but it was clear that the tax rate would not be changed for this year, Eddleston said. Now, Celltrion's focus is on ensuring a new drug pricing contract, to take over from next year, does not penalize competitive and lower-cost drugs, he said.

The company is pushing for the BGMA to be at the negotiating table for the next drug pricing contract, alongside the branded pharma lobby the Association of British Pharmaceutical Industry, which has historically represented all of the medicines industry.

A Department of Health and Social Care spokesperson said that companies are allowed to leave the scheme if they wish.

In addition, they said: "We are open to ideas about how the next scheme should operate, after the current agreement runs out at the end of 2023, and will continue to engage with industry to understand the impact on companies."

Health Minister Will Quince will be holding a roundtable with industry to discuss the impact of VPAS on the U.K. industry.

*To view online [click here](#).*

### **Moderna reports 83.7 percent efficacy for RSV vaccine in older adults [\(back\)](#)**

By Katherine Ellen Foley

Moderna announced Tuesday that an early analysis of a late-stage clinical trial for its respiratory syncytial virus vaccine in older adults met its primary endpoint, with 83.7 percent efficacy against RSV lower respiratory tract cases presenting with at least two symptoms.

"Today's results represent an important step forward in preventing lower respiratory disease due to RSV in adults 60 years of age and older," Stéphane Bancel, Moderna's CEO, said in a statement.

Moderna's Phase III trial for its RSV vaccine candidate is ongoing with no major safety concerns from the vaccine, the company said. It includes about 37,000 adults over 60 in 22 countries.

Researchers conducted a preliminary analysis of the vaccine candidate's protection after 64 people developed RSV with at least two symptoms. There were 55 cases in the placebo group compared to nine in the vaccinated group. The vaccine also appeared to have an 82.4 percent efficacy against RSV with three or more symptoms.

**Background:** RSV is a mild virus in healthy adults, but can cause severe illness in older adults and babies.

**What's next:** The company said it would file for FDA approval in the first half of this year and that it will publish complete data from its Phase III trial in a scientific journal.

*To view online [click here](#).*

## **Medicare, patient advocates at odds over coverage for an expensive new Alzheimer's therapy ([back](#))**

By Katherine Ellen Foley

For the second time in two years, government officials and public health advocates are grappling with how to make a newly approved Alzheimer's drug affordable for millions of desperate patients.

The FDA approved a new Alzheimer's treatment earlier this month under its accelerated approval pathway, but a Medicare coverage decision means that of the millions of adults potentially eligible for the novel treatment, only those who can afford the \$26,500 annual price tag will be able to access it.

Unless or until the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services changes its coverage determination that only patients in trials can get the drug paid for by Medicare, the treatment may remain out of reach financially for many Americans. Eisai and Biogen, developers of the drug, have no plans for further trials. Meanwhile, the Alzheimer's Association, the powerful advocacy group, is in the process of a full-court press to meet with every lawmaker in the House and Senate, urging them to pressure CMS to change its coverage decision.

"There is rapidly growing pressure on CMS to reconsider their decision, even with the evidence available now at the time of the accelerated approval," said Sean Tunis, a senior fellow at the Center for the Evaluation of Value and Risk in Health at Tufts Medical Center.

A host of smaller advocacy groups argue against the drug's widespread distribution because trial data shows that its benefits are at best modest for early-stage patients while the risks of severe side effects, like brain swelling and bleeding, are troubling. But those findings don't deter patients willing to pay almost anything for any hope of relief from the inevitable and devastating cognitive decline caused by the disease.

Late last year, the Alzheimer's Association formally asked CMS to reconsider its coverage of these drugs. The agency said it is working on a response, though it's unclear when it will issue a final decision.

"CMS is very concerned about the growing and devastating impacts of Alzheimer's disease and is committed to making effective treatments available to people with Medicare," said a CMS spokesperson in a statement to POLITICO. "[The agency] encourages any stakeholder to send relevant data to assist in a reconsideration of the current coverage."

CMS' decision to limit coverage of Alzheimer's therapies like Leqembi, an antibody that targets amyloid proteins thought to cause progressive neurodegeneration over time, follows the FDA's contentious approval of Aduhelm, a similar drug from Biogen and Eisai, in 2021. The agency elected to cover Aduhelm, which also received accelerated approval from the FDA, for patients enrolled in a randomized clinical trial designed to generate efficacy and safety data. CMS also said that it would cover anti-amyloid antibodies that received traditional approval for patients enrolled in a patient registry.

The coverage decision, which was met with pushback from patient advocacy groups, reflected CMS' assessment that Aduhelm's conflicting clinical trial data didn't demonstrate that the drug was "reasonable and necessary" — the criteria the agency uses to determine whether it would cover an intervention for beneficiaries.

Biogen is conducting a Phase IV randomized trial for Aduhelm that is expected to wrap up in 2026. But the drug's limited coverage played a role in its bust: despite being the first new Alzheimer's drug in nearly two decades, sales hit only \$3 million after the drug's first year on the market, and Biogen shut down its marketing programs for the drug the following year.

The FDA granted Leqembi accelerated approval based on two clinical studies. Eisai and Biogen published the results of a third late last year that showed the drug modestly slowed disease progression while clearing amyloid proteins from the brain — though that came with the risk of side effects, including brain swelling and bleeding. The companies have applied for Leqembi's traditional approval with the updated data, but don't plan to further study the drug. Nor does Eli Lilly, the maker of a similar Alzheimer's drug candidate the FDA is expected to make a decision on next month.

"Americans living with Alzheimer's disease are entitled to FDA-approved therapies, just as are people with conditions like cancer, heart disease and HIV or AIDS," said Robert Egge, the chief public policy officer of the Alzheimer's Association. "People are losing the opportunity, they're losing days, weeks, months and memories. They're losing time, and it is unacceptable."

Advocacy groups are meeting with CMS, HHS and White House officials to push for a change in coverage. Eisai is also meeting with Medicare representatives. "Eisai is currently working with CMS to determine the most expeditious pathway to Medicare coverage," Christopher Vancheri, a company spokesperson, wrote in an email to POLITICO.

But not all patient groups are convinced that expanding Medicare coverage of anti-amyloid therapies is the right move for patients.

Diana Zuckerman, president of non-profit health policy research group National Center for Health Research, said the data behind Leqembi doesn't show the drug meaningfully slows progression of the disease. In an 18-month Phase III trial, patients who received Leqembi declined an average of 1.21 points on an 18-point scale measuring cognitive health; those who received the placebo declined 1.66 percent.

"These small increases can be statistically significant, but they don't mean anything," Zuckerman said. "People vary day to day."

Zuckerman also noted that if CMS elected to cover Leqembi without restrictions, Medicare would incur massive costs. “If it doesn't bankrupt Medicare, it could once again result in substantial [Medicare] premium increases,” she said.

The National Center for Health Research and 12 other advocacy groups wrote to CMS administrator Chiquita Brooks-LaSure on Jan. 6, the day Leqembi received accelerated approval, urging the agency to keep its limited coverage of the drug. “We understand that CMS is under pressure from industry-backed groups and providers to reconsider this policy and instead provide coverage based on preliminary results from a clinical trial regardless of the quality of the evidence regarding safety or clinically meaningful benefits,” they wrote.

“We will continue to expeditiously review the data on these products as they become available and are committed to timely access to treatments ... that improve clinically meaningful outcomes,” LaSure said in a statement issued later that day.

The same Leqembi Phase III trial showed that roughly 14 percent of patients taking the drug experienced side effects, which included brain bleeding or swelling, compared to 11 percent who received the placebo. Though most of these side effects were mild, five patients required medical attention. Additionally, three patients in an extension of the Phase III trial who received the drug passed away — though it's not clear if Leqembi was the cause of death.

Alzheimer's patients are eager to be treated with Leqembi given the dearth of options for the fatal disease. “Something that significantly slows down the course of the disease is extraordinarily welcome,” said George Vradenburg, the chairman and co-founder of UsAgainstAlzheimers. “The patient community is pretty excited about this and recognizes this is not a cure.”

And there is optimism that CMS could reverse its initial coverage decision. “I think Medicare will cover it,” said R. Scott Turner, the director of the Memory Disorders Program at Georgetown University Medical Center. “I don't see how they could decide not to.”

*To view online [click here](#).*

## **GAO questions HHS oversight of ‘gain-of-function’ research ([back](#))**

By Ben Leonard

The watchdog arm of Congress on Wednesday called on the Department of Health and Human Services to better oversee its funding of research into “enhanced potential pandemic pathogens,” adding fuel to a contentious debate in Washington over so-called gain-of-function research.

That research, in which scientists sometimes try to make viruses more dangerous to learn how to control them, has been a hot-button issue during the pandemic. Some scientists have said that HHS-funded research at China's Wuhan Institute of Virology could have led to a lab leak that caused the Covid-19 pandemic.

The Chinese government denies that, and the Biden administration issued an unclassified report in the summer of 2021 finding that the origins of the virus are inconclusive. The intelligence community is split on whether it came from a lab accident or spread to humans via an animal host. China hasn't fully cooperated with efforts to investigate.

Republicans in the House have promised to hold oversight hearings examining that question this year and the watchdog report's findings may fuel GOP furor over the research.

In its report, the Government Accountability Office, which helps Congress oversee the executive branch, raised concerns about HHS oversight of the research, calling the department out for a lack of transparency about its monitoring of its grantees, and for not providing sufficient "assurance" that it flags pertinent research for review.

Agency regulations require extra guardrails for proposed research involving modified pathogens that have pandemic potential, sometimes referred to as "gain-of-function" research.

**The details:** HHS is supposed to review research grant proposals that are "reasonably anticipated" to involve enhanced pathogens that could cause a pandemic. But, as the GAO noted, there isn't a standard for what "reasonably anticipated" means. The lack of a definition leaves the door open to subjectivity, the GAO said.

"Consequently, HHS cannot ensure that funding agencies are referring all proposed research involving enhanced potential pandemic pathogens for departmental review," the report said.

The watchdog also said that making public more information about the review process would boost confidence in the process' effectiveness.

House Energy and Commerce Chair Cathy McMorris Rodgers (R-Wash.) said in a statement that the GAO report "affirms many of my concerns" with HHS grantmaking and oversight.

"Whether or not the U.S. government played any role — directly or indirectly — in the creation of COVID-19, our committee's investigation is uncovering a host of issues that require more attention," she added. "We will continue pushing for more accountability and oversight to start rebuilding public trust in these research agencies."

And House Oversight and Accountability Chair James Comer (R-Ky.) told POLITICO in a statement that his panel will conduct "robust oversight" of HHS research funding. "Congress and the American people need to know how taxpayer dollars are being used on gain-of-function research, the decision-making process for approval, and how [the National Institutes of Health] conducts oversight."

**CDC program questioned:** The GAO also raised concerns about how the CDC keeps its list of high-risk pathogens in the agency's Division of Select Agents and Toxins program. Pathogens on that list get extra CDC scrutiny, but adding them to the list also could slow the public health response to an emerging disease by adding new reporting and inspection requirements for diagnostic and medical countermeasures.

“CDC officials told us they have had discussions with HHS leadership concerning needs and challenges regarding the DSAT program, including the need for proposed legislative solutions. However, HHS leadership did not provide further details, leaving it unclear if HHS is considering possible changes to the DSAT program,” the report said.

**The GAO made three recommendations:**

— HHS should develop standards to determine when it can be “reasonably anticipated” that a pathogen could cause a pandemic.

— HHS should make public more “non-sensitive” information on the review process for research on dangerous pathogens.

— CDC should “assess and document the risk posed by the limitations of the existing DSAT exemptions for public health emergencies and seek legislative authority as needed.”

**HHS’ response:** HHS didn’t agree or disagree with the first two recommendations and agreed with the third. The department didn’t immediately respond to a request for comment.

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# CQ Budget

CQ Budget

By David Lerman, CQ

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 12, 2023

***Publishing note:** With Congress in recess, the next edition of your CQ Budget newsletter will be published Monday, April 17.*

## TOPLINES

- 1. Risk to military:** The debt limit standoff threatens to damage military recruiting and supplying arms to Ukraine, lawmakers warn.
- 2. "Defunding" debate:** Democrats see a political opening as some Republicans push to defund federal agencies that anger them.

**3. Carbon border tax eyed:** Lawmakers of both parties are working on plans for taxing carbon-intensive goods at the border.

**4. Tax credits for Japanese cars:** A trade deal with Japan aims to qualify Japanese electric cars for new U.S. tax credits.

**5. IRS spending plan:** The tax agency laid out its plan for spending \$80 billion in new funding over the next decade.

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### FULL BRIEFING

#### 1. Risk to military

A congressional stalemate over lifting the debt ceiling could have serious consequences for the U.S. military even if a breach never occurs, defense industry analysts and lawmakers are warning.

Swirling economic uncertainty makes it difficult for the Pentagon and defense industry to execute their long-term plans, and questions over military pay and benefits could discourage people from joining the military amid an ongoing

recruiting crisis, advocates say. More broadly, lawmakers argue that risking a never-before-seen breach would project weakness to adversaries like Russia and China as the U.S. races to aid Ukraine in its war against Russia and deter Chinese aggression.

The U.S. could miss payments by August if Congress doesn't lift the debt ceiling, according to economists at Moody's Analytics, though the Treasury Department currently can't guarantee it will be able to pay all the nation's bills beyond early June. Republicans are seeking fiscal policy changes to pair with a debt limit increase, but Democrats say they won't bargain on such conditions and are insisting on a clean bill.

Negotiations have progressed little since Republicans took over the House majority in January. Earlier this month, Speaker Kevin McCarthy, R-Calif., and President Joe Biden exchanged letters doubling down on their positions.

But defense-minded lawmakers are hoping that national security concerns will jumpstart talks by highlighting an issue that generally gets bipartisan support. And a looming debt limit crisis has also caused anxiety within a defense industry that is already struggling to show it can meet the demands of the war in Ukraine and competition with China. Caroline Coudriet has the full story.

## **2. "Defunding" debate**

Republicans, who have accused Democrats of trying to defund the police, are now waging their own defunding campaigns.

Angered by the indictment of former President Donald Trump, some key House Republicans joined Trump in calling for defunding the Justice Department and the FBI. And Democrats smell blood.

Senate Majority Leader Charles E. Schumer, D-N.Y., said he will bring a resolution to the floor next week condemning the GOP defunding push and praising federal law enforcement. "The former president and his allies in Congress must not subjugate justice and public safety because of their own personal grievances," Schumer wrote in a letter to colleagues Tuesday announcing the planned resolution.

Trump began the GOP call for a defunding effort earlier this month with an all-caps post reacting to his indictment on 34 felony counts stemming from hush money he paid to two women who alleged sexual affairs. House Judiciary Chairman Jim Jordan, R-Ohio, echoed that call, telling Fox News that Congress should try to defund federal agencies that he thinks are interfering with elections.



Story Photo

Jordan, at center (Tom Williams/CQ Roll Call file photo)

"We control the power of the purse, and that's, we're gonna have to look at the appropriations process and limit funds going to some of these agencies, particularly the ones who are engaging in the most egregious behavior," Jordan said, as Michael Macagnone reports here.

While a defunding push will go nowhere in the Democratic-controlled Senate - if it ever makes headway in the GOP-controlled House, where it's not clear how much support the effort has even among Republicans -- Democrats sense a political opening. Many are eager to fight back after getting bashed on the campaign trail on allegations of trying to defund local police that most Democratic lawmakers never supported.

Schumer's resolution could force Republican senators to choose between standing by Trump or backing federal law enforcement. And the House Majority PAC, a super PAC aligned with House Democratic leadership, is already using the issue to target Republicans in politically vulnerable districts. Ryan Tarinelli has more here.

### **3. Carbon border tax eyed**

Lawmakers from both parties have expressed a budding interest in a border tax on carbon-intensive goods, but for different reasons.

In the Senate, Louisiana Republican Bill Cassidy is writing a preliminary bill, expected in a few months, to place a fee on foreign products brought into the country that are made with more pollution than similar American products.

Republicans Kevin Cramer of North Dakota and Lindsey Graham of South Carolina and Democrats Sheldon Whitehouse of Rhode Island and Chris

Coons of Delaware are broadly supportive of such a concept, generally called a carbon border adjustment mechanism.

And Rep. Scott Peters, D-Calif., is working on his proposal and conferring with colleagues, said spokesman Paul Iskajyan. Peters and Coons introduced legislation last Congress to implement a tax on a range of imported commodities, specifically steel, aluminum, cement, iron and the three fossil fuels: coal, oil and gas.

The uptick in congressional interest comes as the European Union, the world's largest trading bloc, is on track to implement the first phase of a carbon border scheme in October. The policy will impose fees on certain imported goods, including iron and steel, cement, fertilizer, aluminum and electricity.

Greg Bertelsen, CEO of the Climate Leadership Council, an advocacy group that supports carbon pricing, said the origins of Republicans' interest in carbon border adjustment tools typically stems from economic or trade reasons, while the climate upside is secondary. For Democrats in Congress, it's often the reverse. Benjamin J. Hulac has the full story.

#### **4. Tax credits for Japanese cars**

The U.S. struck a trade deal with Japan that aims to allow Japanese cars to qualify for a new electric vehicle tax credit and push China out of their critical mineral supply chains.

But it's not clear if Japanese automakers can shake off China in time to meet the increasingly strict sourcing rules.

And top trade and tax leaders in Congress, which passed the subsidy in last year's climate spending package (PL 117-169) with the goal of loosening China's control of electric vehicle critical minerals while shifting the supply chain to U.S. and friendly countries, argue the agreement has no teeth.

"It's clear this agreement is one of convenience," Ways and Means ranking member Richard E. Neal, D-Mass., and Senate Finance Chair Ron Wyden, D-Ore., said in a statement. "Even among allies, the United States should only enter into agreements that account for the realities of an industry, learn from past agreements, and raise standards."

Congress has been critical of the Biden administration's implementation of electric vehicle subsidy sourcing rules, since it can take years to build out aspects of mineral supply chains. Sen. Joe Manchin III, D-W.Va., who reserved support for the package unless it added new sourcing rules to favor the U.S. and its allies, has especially pressed Treasury to adhere to a stricter interpretation of the law that brings more manufacturing jobs stateside. Valerie Yurk has the full story.

## **5. IRS spending plan**

The IRS unveiled a 10-year plan for going after upper-income households and bigger businesses that dodge taxes while also becoming a more nimble agency with top-tier customer service.

The agency mapped out how it plans to use \$80 billion that Democrats passed in August (PL 117-169) to pad its coffers after years of stagnant funding. It devoted the bulk of money to bolstering enforcement of the tax code.

The long-awaited plan to beef up IRS funding, which spans 150 pages, has been a partisan flashpoint on Capitol Hill and in last fall's midterm elections.

To Democrats, the plan is a salve for a battered tax agency that has seen its funding and staffing decline by roughly a fifth since fiscal 2010. What's more, they say, cracking down on wealthy tax cheats will help reduce federal deficits.

But Republicans have warned the plan would weaponize the IRS with an "army" of new auditors that would inevitably lead to increased enforcement against struggling middle-class families -- a claim denied by the Biden administration. Laura Weiss has

**IRS hearing:** IRS Commissioner Danny Werfel will defend his agency's fiscal 2024 budget at a Senate Finance Committee hearing on April 19, with the new \$80 billion spending plan likely to become a chief focus. The tax agency emphasized in its plan that its goals for the \$80 billion rely on annual funding coming in at the fiscal 2022 enacted level plus growth for inflation. The IRS received \$12.6 billion in fiscal 2022 appropriations, then saw a decrease in fiscal 2023.

#### **BUDGET BRIEFS**

**Deficit tally:** The budget deficit for the first six months of fiscal 2023 was nearly \$1.1 trillion, or \$430 billion higher than the prior year's first-half total, the Congressional Budget Office reported. The new figure for the six months ended in March is consistent with the CBO's full-year estimate of a \$1.4 trillion shortfall between spending and revenue, the agency said, up from roughly \$1.3 trillion in fiscal 2022. April tax receipts typically mean a surplus in that month; combined with higher cash flows in other months, the full-year deficit usually isn't double that of the first-half tally.

**EPA targeted:** Six conservative House Republicans, led by Rep. Chip Roy of Texas, sent a letter to top appropriators seeking a 36 percent cut to the EPA's budget in the coming fiscal year, amounting to a \$3.6 billion reduction. They said the EPA is a "prime example" of a "federal bureaucracy that is weaponized against American freedom and economic growth."

**Wexton's diagnosis:** Rep. Jennifer Wexton, D-Va., announced Tuesday that she has been diagnosed with Parkinson's disease, an illness that affects the nervous system. The 54-year-old House Appropriations Committee member said the disease has primarily affected her speech, manner of walking and balance, but she plans to remain in Congress as she undergoes treatment, as Aidan Quigley reports.

**Access to food stamps:** Sen. Edward J. Markey, D-Mass., sent a letter Tuesday to Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack and Social Security Administration acting Commissioner Kilolo Kijakazi commending their efforts to strengthen their partnership to ensure eligible Social Security recipients can access Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program benefits, or food stamps. But Markey and 11 other Democratic senators who signed onto the letter also expressed concerns about ongoing challenges for recipients to obtain those benefits.

**Staff departure:** Christopher Knight, formerly the deputy communications director to Senate Appropriations ranking member Susan Collins, R-Maine, has taken a new role as the communications director for the American Trucking Associations. The ATA is the largest national trade association for the trucking industry.

**Economic address:** Speaker Kevin McCarthy, R-Calif., announced Tuesday that he will deliver a speech on the economy Monday at the New York Stock

Exchange. McCarthy's speech comes amid a stalemate between between the parties over raising the debt limit.

**Hospital aid questioned:** House Oversight Chairman James R. Comer, R-Ky., and Rep. Nick Langworthy, R-N.Y., announced an investigation Tuesday into the Department of Health and Human Services' use of pandemic funding provided in three pieces of legislation (PL 116-136; PL 116-139 and PL 116-260) to keep hospitals and health care providers open. Comer and Langworthy asked HHS Secretary Xavier Becerra for more information and expressed concerns about profitable hospitals receiving funding.

**Online tax reporting:** House Ways and Means Chairman Jason Smith, R-Mo., and Oversight Subcommittee Chairman David Schweikert, R-Ariz., sent a letter to the Government Accountability Office requesting a study on the impact of a lower \$600 threshold triggering tax reporting for online transactions on sites like eBay, Etsy, Uber and Airbnb, which is set to take effect this year. They seek information on how effective the IRS is at leveraging information returns it currently collects for better tax compliance, and on challenges that taxpayers, online platforms and the IRS face in collecting information for the expanded tax reporting requirements.

**New markets tax credit:** House Ways and Means Tax Subcommittee Chair Mike Kelly, R-Pa., and panel member Claudia Tenney, R-N.Y., led introduction of a bipartisan bill with Democrats including Terri A. Sewell of Alabama and Danny K. Davis of Illinois to make the new markets tax credit permanent and index program funding to inflation. The program offers a tax break for investors that finance projects in lower-income communities, and it currently expires after 2025.

**Health savings accounts:** Sen. Marco Rubio, R-Fla., and Rep. Jake LaTurner, R-Kan., led introduction of legislation to expand health savings accounts and flexible savings accounts, which allow funds to be tucked away tax-free to pay medical expenses. Groups that lobbied on the bill in the past include the Consumer Healthcare Products Association, which represents makers of over-the-counter drugs, and America's Health Insurance Plans Inc., a trade association for health insurance companies.

*Aidan Quigley, Laura Weiss and your Budget Tracker compiled this report.*

#### **CATCH OUR PODCAST**

Our latest CQ Budget podcast, available here, outlines the pressure tactics used by both parties to reach a deal to raise the debt limit, and the challenges facing Republicans in trying to produce a budget resolution.

#### **BUDGET BULLETIN**

##### **Wednesday, April 12:**

- • Bureau of Labor Statistics release of consumer price index data for March, 8:30 a.m., bls.gov.

#### **FISCAL 2024 APPROPRIATIONS**

CQ Roll Call's central repository for all the latest information on the fiscal 2024 appropriations process, including all the White House documents on the president's budget request, can be found here. Click here for CQ Roll Call's

repository on the fiscal 2023 omnibus, including news coverage and documents.

## FEEDBACK

Send comments and questions to your CQ Budget Tracker, David Lerman.

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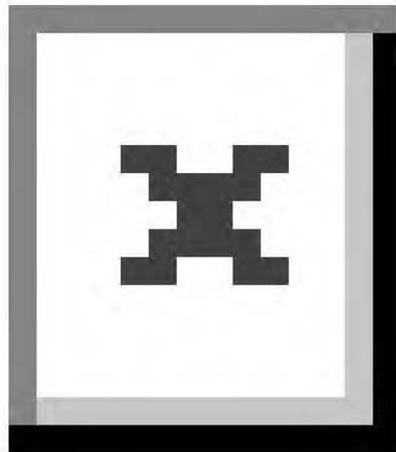
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Briefing

CQ Morning

By Megan Mineiro, CQ

*Good morning. Here's your CQ Morning Briefing for Wednesday, June 1. With Congress in recess, we'll next publish Monday, June 6.*

**Listen up:** You can catch this morning's top stories on the go. Listen to the CQ Morning Briefing podcast here and subscribe on [Apple](#) | [Spotify](#) | [Amazon](#).

#### TOPLINES

1. • **Gun votes.** A House panel holds a rare recess markup on a slate of gun control proposals.
  2. • **Stuck subpoenas.** Some Jan. 6 subpoenas may not be fully enforced before a series of public hearings this month.
  3. • **On the radar.** House Republicans have a new bill that would make Supreme Court leaks a federal crime punishable by time behind bars.
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## **SCHEDULES**

**White House:** Biden will participate in the Coast Guard change-of-command ceremony. In the afternoon, he will meet virtually with infant formula manufacturers to discuss accelerating production and importation of formula.

**House and Senate:** Not in session. Both hold pro forma sessions Friday.

**Committees:** Senate Indian Affairs has a field hearing led by Sen. Brian Schatz, D-Hawaii, on funding and access to innovation programs for Native Hawaiians (*4:30 p.m. EST, Honolulu*). Check CQ Schedules for up-to-date info on committee meetings.

## **FULL BRIEFING**

### **1. House panel to mark up gun control proposals**



### Story Photo

Demonstrators attend a rally to demand the Senate take action on gun safety. (Tom Williams/CQ Roll Call)

The House Judiciary Committee will hold a rare recess markup Wednesday (10 a.m., 2141 Rayburn) in what will be the first legislative action on gun control since the mass shooting at an elementary school in Uvalde, Texas.

But the suite of proposals that Democrats hope to advance faces an uncertain future in the 50-50 Senate, where they would have to gain support from at least 10 Republicans to overcome a filibuster, Michael Macagnone reports.

A panel vote would tee up potential House floor action when lawmakers return next week, a spokesman for the committee said.

The measure includes proposals that would raise to 21 the eligible age to purchase some semi-automatic rifles, establish a federal ban on new high-capacity magazines, and create a new federal firearms offense for gun trafficking and straw purchases, among other proposals. Read the full story [here](#).

President Joe Biden told reporters Tuesday he plans to "meet with the Congress on guns," but did not indicate support for any specific legislative proposal, or when such a meeting would take place.

Rep. Carolyn B. Maloney, D-N.Y., chair of the House Oversight and Reform Committee, also plans to hold a hearing on gun violence on June 8. That panel has requested information from five gun manufacturers on their methods for manufacturing, marketing and selling certain firearms.

## **2. Subpoenas may go unanswered ahead of Jan. 6 hearings**

The House select committee investigating the Jan. 6, 2021, attack on the Capitol may not be able to enforce all its subpoenas before a series of public hearings expected to begin next week.

The committee intends to showcase what it uncovered in months of work on the events surrounding the attack, such as the more than 1,000 interviews it has conducted and thousands of documents it received from even recalcitrant witnesses.

Yet the plodding pace at which committees can enforce congressional oversight means some major players and key records remain out of reach. That appears to include testimony from House Republican Leader Kevin

McCarthy of California and four other Republicans who received subpoenas nearly three weeks ago.

The committee has spent much of the last year fighting out more than a dozen court cases and seeking contempt of Congress charges to try to add testimony or documents to a broad investigation of the attack.

But experts say any effort to use the court system to force testimony may drag on after the committee's planned public airing of findings. Michael Macagnone has the full story.

**ON THE RADAR: REPUBLICANS ISSUE BILL TO MAKE SCOTUS LEAKS A CRIME**



Story Photo

(Tom Williams/CQ Roll Call)

**Leak case:** House Republicans criticizing the leak of a Supreme Court draft opinion that would overturn Roe v. Wade earlier this month unveiled legislation to make such an unauthorized release a federal crime.

The draft bill, out Tuesday, would make the leaking of "any confidential information" punishable by up to five years in prison.

It defines such information as internal notes, communications between justices, a draft opinion, a final opinion prior to its public release, and justices' personal information not publicly available -- but leaves the door open for a broader definition by empowering the chief justice to designate additional information as confidential.

It's led by GOP Conference Vice Chairman Mike Johnson, R-La., with 12 Republican co-sponsors including the conference chair, Elise Stefanik, R-N.Y. "This bill is a commonsense response to a horrible situation to ensure it never happens again," Johnson said in a press release.

**Section 232 tariffs:** The White House issued separate proclamations announcing the June 1 effective date for a March agreement the U.S. and the United Kingdom reached that converts Section 232 tariffs on U.K. steel and aluminum to duty-free quotas as long as the volumes do not exceed preset levels.

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*With help from Daniel Lippman*

#### QUICK FIX

- **The Biden administration declares a public health emergency for monkeypox.**
- **Senate Democrats urge the president to use executive action to support abortion rights.**
- **Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis suspends a state attorney who pledged not to enforce the state's**

**Welcome to Thursday's edition of Pro Health Care PM !** [According to a recent federal appeals court decision](#) and news tips at [tdoherty@politico.com](mailto:tdoherty@politico.com) and follow me on Twitter at [@tucker\\_doherty](https://twitter.com/tucker_doherty).

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**Government price setting or the moonshot to end cancer? We can't do both.** Democrats' misguided policies [harm patients](#) and discourage invaluable post-approval innovation.

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**Subject:** ASL Week Ahead - September 19th, 2022

**Date:** 2022/09/19 09:49:00

**Priority:** Normal

**Type:** Note

### Upcoming Secretary Engagement

- **September 28: White House Conference on Hunger, Nutrition & Health**
  - Topic: Hunger, Nutrition & Health
  - Memos: TBD (OASH Leading)
  - Members: Senators Booker, Braun and Congressman McGovern
  - Staffing: TBD
  
- **TBD: Call with Congressman Llyd Doggett**
  - Topic: CICIP
  - Memos: TBD
  - Staffing: Rose

### Upcoming HHS Principal Engagement with Members of Congress

- **Thursday September 22<sup>nd</sup>: Administrator Carole Johnson Meeting with Chairman Ron Wyden**
  - Topic: Intro Meeting/MIECHV
  - Memos: HRSA
  - Staffing: HRSA/Leslie

### Upcoming Secretary Travel

- **September 19 (All Day): New York City**
  - Topic: UNGA & Clinton Global Initiative
  - Members Attending: Rep. Josh Gottheimer; Rep. Barbara Lee (invited to Clinton Global Initiative event on Monday 9/19) CLOSE HOLD

- Notecards: Erin (member cards)
- **September 23 (All Day): Madison, WI**
  - Topic: Cancer Moonshot & Mental Health
  - Members Attending: Congressman Mark Pocan
  - Notecards: Yes, due Thursday September 24<sup>th</sup>

#### Upcoming HHS Principal Travel

- **Monday September 19<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday September 20<sup>th</sup>**: Surgeon General Murthy Travel to NYC
  - Notifications sent to NY delegation
- **Tuesday September 20<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday September 21<sup>st</sup>**: ADM Levine Travel to Durham, NC
  - Notifications sent & invite to Price made

#### Upcoming Hearings

- N/A

#### Nominations Updates

- N/A

#### This Week's Policy Announcements

- **HRSA (Tuesday)**: HRSA awards over \$5 million to 11 HRSA-funded health centers across seven states (CA, FL, KS, OK, TN, TX, and VA) to increase equitable access to life-saving cancer screenings and referral for care and treatment. **Aligns with Cancer Moonshot Initiative and Unity Agenda**
  - ASL Role: HRSA OL
- **Secretary/HHS (Wednesday)**: Secretary Becerra participates virtually in the United States Mission to the United Nations Universal Health Coverage Meeting
  - ASL Role: None, FYI only
- **HHS/HRSA (Wednesday)**: HHS Invests \$266 Million in New Programs to Expand and Strengthen the Community Health Worker and Public Health Workforces (ARP funding.) HRSA is awarding \$225.5 million to 83 grantees as part of the Community Health Worker Training Program, which is a new, multiyear program that will support training and apprenticeship to support new community health workers. Also \$40.7 million to 29 grantees through the Public Health Scholarship Program, which will incentivize individuals to pursue training and careers in public health, including as epidemiologists and other positions critical to community public health needs.
  - ASL Role: HRSA OL
- **Secretary/HHS (Thursday)**: HOLD: Monkeypox Press Call with Latino Press
  - ASL Role: None
- **CMS (Thursday)**: CMS approves a postpartum coverage extension state plan amendment (SPA) for state in the south.
  - ASL Role: CMS OL
- **(Thursday)**: HHS releases WH Recovery Event grant bundle - Grants to Expand Substance Abuse Treatment Capacity in Adult and Family Treatment Drug Courts, \$7.1M - State Opioid Response

Grants, \$1.440B - Tribal Opioid Response Grants, \$55M – Rural Community Opioid Response Programs, \$104 million.

- ASL Role: SAMHSA
- **HRSA (Friday):** HRSA announces awards of more than \$104 million across three Rural Community Opioid Response Programs (RCORP), part of HRSA's RCORP initiative to address the barriers to treatment for substance use disorder, including opioid use disorder, in rural communities.
  - ASL Role: HRSA OL
- **CDC (Friday):** CDC and Kaiser Health authors publish a study in *Academic Pediatrics: Association Between Aluminum Exposure from Vaccines Before Age 24 Months and Persistent Asthma at Age 24-59 Months*. Summary: In a large observational study, a positive association was found between vaccine related aluminum exposure and persistent asthma.
  - ASL Role: CDC OL
- **(Friday):** Twitter Spaces with Dr. Daskalakis and Dr. Mena from the CDC to talk about monkeypox
  - ASL Role: TBD.

#### **This week's Briefings**

- **AASLD (Tuesday at 11:00am):** Alcohol Associated Liver Disease Congressional briefing with NIAAA
  - ASL Staff: Lauren
- **SAMHSA (Wednesday at 11:00am):** Congressional Suicide Prevention Task Force Staff 988 Briefing
  - ASL Staff: Lauren
- **NIDA (Wednesday at 2:00pm):** Widely Attended Briefing on Psychedelics Research
  - ASL Staff: Lauren
- **ASPR/CDC/FDA (Thursday at 2:30pm):** Standing Weekly All-Hill Monkeypox Call
  - ASL Staff: Leslie, Melanie
- **FDA (Thursday at 4:30pm):** Call with CBO re: S. 4430- FDA-USPTO coordination bill- task force cost estimate
  - ASL Staff: Brian
- **ACF (Friday at 3:00pm):** House Committee on Education & Labor SRAE TPP Briefing
  - ASL Staff: Garrick, Jonathan

#### **ASL Regulatory Clearances Open**

- OS: Influenza and/or COVID-19 Vaccine Religious Accommodation Requests for Public Health Service Officers, due 9/15/2022
- \*Awareness/Final Review\* Decision Memo and Congressional Report on Nutrition and Food Insecurity Programs and Initiatives ("120-day report"), due 9/19/2022
- CMS: Medicaid FFCRA FMAP NOI (CMS-9912-NOI), due 9/19/2022
- OS: Info Memo: The Surgeon General's Framework for Workplace Mental Health and Well-Being (The Framework), due 9/20/2022
- FDA: HHS QL 2022-3 -- Regs, due 9/20/2022
- FDA: HHS QL 2022-3 – Guidances, due 9/20/2022
- CMS R&D: [Reorg] CMS: Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation, due 9/21/2022

- AHRQ: RTC - National Healthcare Quality and Disparities Report 2022, due 9/21/2022
- CMS: Essential Health Benefits RFI (CMS-9898-NC), due 9/23/2022
- CDC: Notice of Proposed Rulemaking: Control of Communicable Diseases; Foreign Quarantine: Importation of Dogs and Cats - DECISION, due 9/27/2022
- CMS: Interoperability #3 NPRM (CMS- 0057-P), due 9/28/2022

#### **Recently Received Congressional Correspondence (last 7 days)**

- 9/14/2022: [TRI-DEPT] - Sen. Marshall: Regarding Questions on the Shortage of Baby Formula; +USDA, NEC, FDA
  - FDA, Secretary Signature
- 9/14/2022: [Recommendation] Senator Mike Crapo +24 Regarding Implementation of Drug Price-Setting Program
  - CMS, Secretary Signature
- 9/14/2022: [OVERSIGHT] Chair Pascrell, Jr., Regarding Alleged Fraud and Staffing Issues at HCA Healthcare Facilities
  - CMS, Secretary Signature
- 9/13/2022: [TRI-DEPT] Sen. Marshall: Concerning Shortage of Baby Formula; +USDA
  - FDA, Secretary Signature
- 9/13/2022: [TRI-DEPT] - Rep. Bush +31: Conducting a Review of Gun Violence and Prevention Strategies; +DOJ, DOE
  - CDC, Secretary Signature

#### **Recently Closed Congressional Correspondence (last 7 days)**

- 9/12/2022: CMS, Rep. Escobar+ 8: Regarding CMS' OPSS Rule CY 2021 Governing Hospitals Qualifying as "High Medicaid Facilities", Direct Reply with Clearance
- 9/12/2022: ACF, Rep. Davis +1: Urge HHS to Issue Policy Guidance and Technical Assistance to State Child Welfare Agencies on Addressing Challenges related to LGBTQ+ Foster Youth, Secretary Signature
- 9/13/2022: NIH, Rep. Levin +2: Letter on Implementation of FY 2022 Approps Nuclear Cancer Study, Secretary Signature, Jamar Hawkins
- 9/13/2022: ASL, [OVERSIGHT] Sen. Burr: Expresses Concerns re: HHS Response to Monkeypox, Direct Reply
- 9/13/2022: ASL, [OVERSIGHT] [x-ref. 00484306] Requests Information re: HHS's Response to Monkeypox Outbreak, Secretary Signature
- 9/15/2022, HRSA, GRANT SUPPORT] Sen. Wicker + 5 (Bicameral): Supports University of Mississippi Medical Center's Application for Transforming Pediatrics for Early Childhood Program, Direct Reply

**Erin Lunsford** (she/her)

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Zelenko, Leslie (HHS/ASL) /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=b14d75b301ff4872beb48588e0ad4c8e-Zelenko, Le <Leslie.Zelenko@hhs.gov>

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Letter, Elizabeth (HHS/ASL) /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=5d9d5de6c5d14a3f83f50083cba81e91-Letter, Eli <Elizabeth.Letter@hhs.gov>

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Mellette, Kelsey (HHS/ASL) /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=2ac56c6bab2f4741b8760686c49ead41-Mellette, K <Kelsey.Mellette@hhs.gov>

**Subject:** ASL Day Ahead - September 23rd, 2022

**Date:** 2022/09/23 11:07:51

**Priority:** Normal

**Type:** Note

#### Upcoming Secretary Engagement

- **September 28 (2-5PM): White House Conference on Hunger, Nutrition & Health** Moderated Q&A with Senator Stabenow & Chairwoman DeLauro
  - Topic: Hunger, Nutrition & Health -
  - Memos: Leslie putting together due tomorrow 9/23
  - Members: Senators Booker, Braun and Congressman McGovern (additional in event memo)
  - Staffing: TBD
- **TBD: Call with Congressman Lloyd Doggett**
  - Topic: CICP
  - Memos: TBD
  - Staffing: Rose

#### Upcoming HHS Principal Engagement with Members of Congress

- N/A

#### Upcoming Secretary Travel

- N/A

#### Upcoming HHS Principal Travel

- **Tuesday, September 29<sup>th</sup>:** Deputy Secretary Travel to Atlanta, GA
  - Invitations will be sent to GA Senators, Reps. Johnson, Williams

### Upcoming Hearings

- N/A

### Nominations Updates

- Roselyn Tso confirmed as IHS Director!

### This Week's Policy Announcements

- **HRSA (Friday):** HRSA announces awards of more than \$104 million across three Rural Community Opioid Response Programs (RCORP), part of HRSA's RCORP initiative to address the barriers to treatment for substance use disorder, including opioid use disorder, in rural communities.
  - ASL Role: HRSA OL
- **CDC (Friday):** CDC and Kaiser Health authors publish a study in *Academic Pediatrics*: Association Between Aluminum Exposure from Vaccines Before Age 24 Months and Persistent Asthma at Age 24-59 Months. Summary: In a large observational study, a positive association was found between vaccine related aluminum exposure and persistent asthma.
  - ASL Role: CDC OL
- **WH/CDC (Friday):** Twitter Spaces with Dr. Daskalakis and Dr. Mena from the CDC to talk about monkeypox
  - ASL Role: None, FYI only

### Today's Briefings

- **ASPR (Friday, September 23rd)** Briefing with staff of Rep. Harris on SNS Contracting
  - ASL Staff: Kris
- **ACF (Friday, September 23rd):** House Committee on Education & Labor SRAE TPP Briefing
  - ASL Staff: Jonathan

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<Kelsey.Mellette@hhs.gov>

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**Date:** 2022/07/19 07:29:54  
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**Type:** Note

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# News Briefing

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Healthcare-Only Reconciliation Package.  
Biden's Term.

Ending South Carolina Children Health Insurance.  
Methotrexate Access Concerns Following Overturning Of Roe.  
States Peddling "Misinformation."

Market Research Firm Finds.

Out Of Monkeypox Vaccine In US.

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Facing Barriers Treating Monkeypox.  
Clinics Unprepared For Monkeypox Cases.  
C's Monkeypox Response.  
Capita Across US.  
ment For More Monkeypox Vaccine Supply.  
eypox Messages Addressing Gay Men.  
n Massachusetts.  
ncisco Office Over Government's "Anemic" Response To Monkeypox Outbreak.  
pox Vaccine From Bavarian Nordic.  
ch About Monkeypox.

For US Cruise Ships.  
st BA.5.  
d BA.5 Fueled Wave.  
Counties Mask Up Amid COVID-19 Wave.  
In Los Angeles County, Less Falling "Seriously Ill."  
's Mask Mandates For Schools.  
Gains Last Year, Reducing COVID-19 Learning Gap.  
ine Development, Variant Vaccines.  
ewed By CDC Advisory Committee.  
ortance Of Developing Drugs To Treat Mild COVID-19 Symptoms.  
diatric COVID-19 Vaccine In Europe.  
ay, Tablet COVID-19 Vaccines.  
urb Pandemic-Era Public Health Authority Through Litigation.  
Higher Than Winter's Omicron Wave.  
More COVID-19 Antivirals Are Prescribed In Richer Zip Codes.  
hanging" Guidance Hindering State Pandemic Response.  
VID-19 Vaccinations For Children 4 And Under.  
Mask Mandates Ahead Of Fall Elections.  
D-19 Testing.  
As Other Regions Extend Lockdowns.  
Moderna Pediatric COVID-19 Vaccine.  
ally Defuse" COVID-19 Crisis.  
diatric Clinical Trial For COVID-19 Vaccine Candidate.  
wer Imbalance In Global Health.

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County Plans To Bring Back Mask Mandates.  
Last COVID-19 Emergency Declarations.

Use Over Endorsement Of Gender Transitioning For Children.

HHS \$240K To Settle Possible HIPAA Violation.

Biden Administration To Penalize Drugmakers Ending, Reducing Discounts For 340B Program.

Probe Into Federal Government's "Lethargic" Response To Monkeypox.

H.

Declared A WMD.

Settlement, Federal Funds For Programs To Fight Opioid Addiction.

988 Suicide Hotline.

Examined.

Legislation Facing Partisan Battle.

Takes Tough Stand Against Minor Patent Changes In Drugs.

Improve Long-Term Care System.

Abortion Rights.

Deaths Increased Since Roe Overturned.

Abortion Ban.

Abortion Ban.

Florida To Try To Implement Law Restricting Abortion Access For Minors.

Expanding Abortion Training To More Medical Students.

Concerns Criminalization Of Abortion In All Cases.

Efforts To Reduce Abortion Access.

Efforts To Florida For Abortions.

Complying With Both Federal, State Abortion Laws, Some Experts Say.

State Budget Funding For Adoptions.

Supreme Court Decision Overturning Roe Closes.

Complicated, Legal Experts Say.

Collects Reproductive Research Data After Overturn Of Roe V. Wade.

Number Of Mothers Choosing Adoption.

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uster" Block Efforts To Provide Legal Abortion Access.  
n Access Reportedly Among Biggest Users Of Phone Location Data.  
Ability To Take Exams Virtually.  
g Girls Highlighted.  
at Healthcare Consolidation Attempts.  
8% Increase In 2023 Small Group Rates, 20.4% For Individual Market.  
ot Greatly Impacted Clinician Time On EHR Documentation, Study Finds.  
Limits On Healthcare Costs.  
Among Americans, Survey Finds.  
s AG's Lawsuit Against Administration.  
Restrictions.  
osing The Abortion War."  
tability For Increased Risk To Pregnant Women.  
on Restrictions Threaten Lives Of "Both Parent And Child."  
l Be On The Midterm Election Ballot.

erries With Lead Contamination.

dvantage Plans Can Disguise Profits As Costs.

re Nonprofit My Choice Wisconsin For \$150M.

sccovering Tools To Help Manage Endometriosis.  
Will Only Cover Fertility Treatment For Employees In Opposite-Sex Marriages.  
Multiple States That Can Cause Serious Illness, Death For Infants.  
perience Higher Death Rates Than Democratic Ones.  
lectively Earned More Than \$4.5B In 2021.  
ildren Allegedly Getting Lead Poisoning On Rental Properties.  
Saves Government Money Despite Contradicting Data.  
art, Walgreens, 25 Other Store Brands Recalled For Bacterial Contamination.  
Narcolepsy Drug Patent Infringement.  
e Changed Approval Recommendation For Heart Drug Vascepa.  
Of Climate Emergency Following Stalled Environmental Legislation Talks.  
xamined.  
th Infrastructure, Dating Apps Could Help Stop The Spread Of STIs.

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Infections Global Killer, Action Is Needed.

Of Deaths, Risk Of Drought.

g Under Taliban Rule.

ng At 62%.

ays Rights Under Assault From "Extremist So-Called Leaders."

Act On Tuesday.

Four Seats To Supreme Court.

s To Unionize.

Sparks Warning From Burns.

ons To Trump, Others.

eaon Successfully Tested.

In 2024.

ver GOP In Competitive House Races.

Administration To More Forcefully Combat Inflation.

d To Blue" Program.

rats.

Candidate In Arizona.

pping Elections May Not Apply To Current Cycle.

gerous Strategy In GOP Primaries.

ral Count Act.

Disinformation On The Rise Ahead Of Midterms.

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**Healthcare-Only Reconciliation Package.**

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that the White House called Monday "for senators to move forward with a slimmed-down, health care-only reconciliation bill on the cusp of beating the pharmaceutical industry." On Friday, President Biden "told senators to move forward with a health care bill" but "struck a blow to his agenda over its tax and climate provisions, which Biden said he will address through executive action." Biden's statement just recently, if the Senate doesn't act on that, and doesn't take action on climate, he has a contingency plan: "I will act on climate, climate change in a way that's going to be effective." However, [NBC Nightly News](#) [Video](#) (7/18, 6:35 p.m.) says "executive action...climate activists believe without Congress acting to speed up wind and solar installations and electric cars."

[Politico](#) (7/18, 6.73M) says "most but not all Senate Democrats" are "no longer betting on a climate and tax deal" with Manchin and "are ready to move on and accept what they know is feasible: party-line legislation lowering prescription drug costs and health care provisions." "Senate Democrats" who "said it's time for the caucus to cut its losses after months of negotiation with their elusive centrist" Manchin "criticized and blamed Manchin for abandoning talks with Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer that could have passed." Sen. Martin Heinrich (D-NM) "is openly calling for the revocation of his energy committee chairmanship. Most other Democrats say they can get."

[Politico](#) (7/18, 6.73M) says Manchin's decision to oppose the tax and climate provisions "presents a dramatic but not necessarily fatal setback to a global climate catastrophe." Manchin "appeared to leave a sliver of hope for passing climate legislation this year, but the provisions he said he'll support are, according to nonpartisan climate scientists and policy analysts, inadequate to avert a global climate catastrophe."

[Politico](#) (7/18, 6.73M) says even if Democrats could win Manchin's support, the Senate's "arcane budget rules threaten" their "plans to introduce legislation before November's midterm elections." Manchin "said he could support a broader tax and spending bill in September, but the late-night votes and other procedures required to push the legislation through." Schumer "is moving forward on the Medicare bill, but in the health-care bill, options – especially for tax legislation – get more limited."

[Politico](#) (7/18, 6.73M) says "Senate Democrats are looking to *further limit Democrats' Bill*. Meanwhile, a separate report from [Politico](#) (7/18, Emma, Scholtes, 6.73M) says Senate Democrats are looking to "eject more items from the ever-slimmer package Democrats once called Build Back Better." While the "bill is moving quicker and less painful for the majority party now that Manchin has sworn off tax hikes," even "the central piece of the bill – drug prices – is at risk of dwindling further under the Republican onslaught."

## Of Biden's Term.

[Politico](#) (7/18, 6.73M) reports, "Anthony S. Fauci, the nation's preeminent infectious-diseases expert who has served as the face of the White House since the start of President Biden's term after more than 50 years in government, he confirmed Monday." He said, "By the time I'm 80, it will be time for me to step down from this position."

[Politico](#) (7/18, 20.6M) reports, "Even with the added clarity about the possible timing of his retirement, January 2025 is a long way off, well before January 2023, when Republicans may well control one or both houses of Congress." Several "of Dr. Fauci's friends and colleagues" said he is not worried about any investigation, noting that Republicans, who have accused him of misleading the public about whether he is still working."

[Politico](#) (7/18, 20.6M) reports that when Fauci was asked on CNN's "At This Hour" if COVID-19 "impacted his thoughts to retire he said, "I'm at a rather advanced age. ... I have the energy and passion to continue to want to pursue other aspects of my life."

Fauci, 81, was appointed director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases in 1984, and has led research later, Fauci "was thrust even more into the spotlight at the height of the coronavirus pandemic under then-President Trump. Reports, "Fauci played a key role in Trump's news briefings and on political TV shows during the early part of the pandemic, characterized as 'moving the goalposts' in terms of ending pandemic restrictions like lockdowns, mandatory masking and school closures." However, "after Biden was elected president in 2020, he appointed Fauci as his chief medical advisor." (7/18, O'Connell, 21M) reports, "Fauci said that he feels like he's established a good system at NIAID to facilitate a smooth transition to Biden's administration." (7/18, O'Connell, 21M, O'Connell, 6.73M), Fauci "spoke of his legacy, the hard truths about the country's pandemic response and his

include the [Wall Street Journal](#) (7/18, Armour, McKay, Subscription Publication, 8.41M), [Bloomberg](#) (7/18, Baumann, 3.1M), [CBS](#) (7/18, Bendix, O'Donnell, 4.91M), [Fox News](#) (7/18, Wallace, 23.99M), [The Hill](#) (7/18, Choi, 5.69M), [HuffPost](#) (7/18, 1.2M), [New York Post](#) (7/18, Moore, 7.45M), the [Pittsburgh Tribune-Review](#) (7/18, Guza, 245K), [US News & World Report](#) (7/18, 1.2M), [The Washington Post](#) (7/18, 1.26M), and the [Financial Times](#) (7/18, Stacey, Subscription Publication, 1.48M).

### **Extending South Carolina Children Health Insurance.**

(7/18, Corwin, 299K) reports, "A federal moratorium on booting people off Medicaid has extended health insurance for millions of South Carolinians. US Secretary Xavier Becerra extended the Public Health Emergency declaration for another 90 days." The article adds that in 2020, states were essentially offered a deal: They could receive a 6.2 percent increase in Medicaid funding from the federal government in exchange for maintaining Medicaid coverage while the Public Health Emergency was in effect."

### **Ensuring Methotrexate Access Concerns Following Overturning Of Roe.**

That so far, methotrexate "prescribing issues affecting patients with arthritis do not appear to be affecting patients with other rheumatoid conditions have reported that they can no longer get their prescriptions" for methotrexate filled following the Supreme Court's decision. Health Services Secretary Xavier Becerra said, "We are committed to ensuring that everyone can access health care, free of charge, including mental health and other types of care."

### **Abortion Advocates Peddling "Misinformation."**

Senior counsel and vice president of legal strategy Ryan Bangert writes for [The Hill](#) (7/18, 5.69M), "Abortion advocates have long claimed that the Supreme Court's decision is a basic and essential part of health care." Such "statements, which ignore the fact that the procedure is a uniquely deadly procedure, doubly qualify as 'misinformation' under the abortion advocates' capacious standard."

### **Formula Shortage, Market Research Firm Finds.**

(7/18, 1.2M) reports, "The ongoing shortage of baby formula across the United States has become more acute in recent weeks, according to a new report from market research firm IRI. The firm found that 28.3% of powdered baby formula production is now coming from outside the United States across the world over the past two months."

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percentage than the 23.7% reported out of stock for the week ending May 22, when the shortage dominated headlines." Reasons for the persistent shortage – including hoarding by consumers, manufacturers prioritizing certain formula packages, and limited containers when they do go to the store."

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### **Shortage Of Monkeypox Vaccine In US.**

The shortage of the monkeypox vaccine nationwide has been hamstrung by logistical, bureaucratic and technical errors, leaving health officials and activists warn the government's sluggish response may no longer be enough to contain the growing outbreak." After several months and present stock is not remotely close to meeting demand." Health officials said, "The shortage may be surprising, since officials previously said the country has enough vaccines in the Strategic National Stockpile for ACAM2000 vaccine, which is approved for use against smallpox and can also be used for monkeypox." On July 15, a CDC spokesman said the administration is actively working to increase supply." The article continues with the story.

### **Challenges Facing Barriers Treating Monkeypox.**

A report (7/18, Rouben, 10.52M) says physicians "treating monkeypox say they've faced 'daunting' paperwork and obstacles that may continue to encounter barriers with tests, vaccines and treatments." Among the challenges, the FDA-approved antiviral TPOXX1 is facing delays in its testing and "vaccine-sharing formula," although CDC Director Rochelle Walensky said more progress has been made. The CDC "failed to contain" the spread of monkeypox, adding that the window for controlling and containing the virus "probably has closed."

### **Sexual Health Clinics Unprepared For Monkeypox Cases.**

Health officials report, "Sexual health clinics on the frontline of the monkeypox response are already financially stretched, leaving the public health system vulnerable since the COVID-19 pandemic." According to infectious disease experts, "sexual health clinics...are best placed to identify and treat monkeypox with men." However, "such programs are doing so largely without additional funding despite years of financial neglect and the resources needed to curb rising rates of other sexually transmitted diseases (STD)." Experts in both the US and UK are concerned about the impact of the virus on these clinics.

### **CDC's Monkeypox Response.**

In a former US Food and Drug Administration Commissioner Dr. Scott Gottlieb's interview in which he criticized the federal government's response "according to CDC Director Dr. Rochelle Walensky. On Sunday, Gottlieb stated "that it may be too late to control an outbreak of monkeypox pandemic, saying the US is making 'a lot of the same mistakes,' such as a lack of testing early on and not enough vaccine production." He also said the CDC has expanded the monkeypox case definition to encourage health care providers to test for the virus.

### **High Cases Per Capita Across US.**

A report (5/2M) reports, "D.C. has more cases of monkeypox per capita than any state, prompting public health officials to launch a campaign to reduce the number of cases."

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munities." On Friday, the DC area public health departments reported "122 positive cases in D.C., 44 in Virginia and  
rts, "The city has approximately 8,300 applicable vaccine doses on hand, with about 2,600 of those already adminis  
er (D) said the District would need 100,000 total doses to meet the demands of the current 'target population.'"

### **ment For More Monkeypox Vaccine Supply.**

) analysis says, "New York is the epicenter of the country's monkeypox outbreak, and its leaders are calling on the  
ay, Gov. Kathy Hochul "said that the state and city had received more than 28,000 doses, and that another 32,785  
and Mental Hygiene "has decided to switch to a single-dose strategy to account for the rapid increase in cases."

### **monkeypox Messages Addressing Gay Men.**

.6M) reports, "The spread of monkeypox has ignited a debate within the New York City Health Department over who  
rtners during this summer's outbreak." Some "epidemiologists say the city should be encouraging gay men to tempo  
argue that approach would stigmatize gay men and would backfire." New York City Health Commissioner Dr. Ashwin  
nt to be very clear there are certain activities and one of them is intimate sexual contact that places you at higher ri

### **n In Massachusetts.**

vaccine is now available at 11 sites around Massachusetts, state public health officials said Monday." According to th

### **San Francisco Office Over Government's "Anemic" Response To Monkeypox Outbreak.**

omb, 2.44M) reports, "Several San Francisco LGBTQ advocacy organizations descended on the U.S. Department of H  
was the federal government's anemic response to the growing monkeypox outbreak and the lack of available vaccine  
San Francisco Department of Health requested 35,000.

### **monkeypox Vaccine From Bavarian Nordic.**

Monday, the European Commission announced "it has secured about 54,000 additional doses of the monkeypox va  
the disease amid a spike in cases." This "deal follows an initial contract signed in June, when the European Union or  
mission, "under the initial order, the EU has so far delivered around 25,000 doses to six member states."

### **Truth About Monkeypox.**

ost (7/18, 10.52M), contributor Benjamin Ryan writes numerous public health experts have stated that "anyone can  
ox risk to a simplistic binary equation, public health leaders are prioritizing fighting stigma over their duty to directly  
ak." Ryan says, "In particular, they are failing to properly convey the seriousness of this burgeoning crisis to gay an  
ch about monkeypox so we can take action accordingly. ... Please be honest with us."

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## ...s For US Cruise Ships.

...att, 10.52M) reports, a noticed posted on the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website on Monday announced the end of a program that allowed the public to monitor the spread of the virus at sea." A statement it "depended upon each cruise line having the same COVID-19 screening testing standards, which may now vary among them." The agency's website also states, "CDC has worked closely with the cruise industry, state, territorial, and local health departments to create a safer, healthier environment for cruise passengers and crew. ... Cruise ships have access to guidance and tools to manage

...9K) and [Forbes](#) (7/18, Kelleher, 10.33M) also report.

## ...nst BA.5.

... interview, White House COVID-19 response coordinator Dr. Ashish Jha discusses the new BA.5 fueled COVID-19 wave. The bottom line that people need to know, which is: the things that we know that have been working for us as a country – they all work for BA.5. Like, our tools continue to work, and if we use them effectively, we can continue to manage the wave. The CDC are mentioned.

...o reports.

## ...mid BA.5 Fueled Wave.

...526K) reports, "Nearly half of all new reported COVID-19 cases in Ohio in recent weeks came from the BA.5 variant, which has jumped past 24,000 newly reported cases during the seven days ending on Thursday." Comparatively, "the state was reporting about 12,000 cases in May." However, due to at-home tests, reporting is unreliable. Currently, "COVID-19 hospitalizations, a more reliable measure, are rising in Ohio. Last Thursday saw the state break past 1,000 current hospitalizations, the first time since March 1."

## ...a Counties Mask Up Amid COVID-19 Wave.

...80K) reports, "Residents living in 45 of South Carolina's 46 counties should mask up to reduce the spread of COVID-19." The CDC and Prevention's community levels map, there are now "32 counties with high levels of COVID-19" and "another 13 counties with high levels of COVID-19 use masks while indoors, including in schools and workplaces."

## ...g In Los Angeles County, Less Falling "Seriously Ill."

...7M) reports the "super-contagious Omicron subvariants that can reinfect people within weeks are fueling a new wave of COVID-19 cases in Los Angeles County is moving toward an indoor mask mandate." Though, "this wave is different from previous ones because hospitalizations are rising, patients are generally less sick, and intensive care units are less crowded than in previous waves. This is a change with the virus itself, for the improvements." However, it "doesn't mean COVID-19 has become a toothless tiger." ...h."

## ...ty's Mask Mandates For Schools.

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eta, 587K) reports, "Parents who have fought throughout the pandemic to reopen schools early, end school mask mandates for school boards across San Diego County." The article says "on Monday, a number of those parents – including school board members – denounced the return of San Diego Unified's indoor mandate." While "the school district brought back its mask mandate, as defined by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention," several "parents argue that government and schools are forcing students to wear masks."

### **Academic Gains Last Year, Reducing COVID-19 Learning Gap.**

Despite a year of disruptions, students largely made academic gains this past year that paralleled their growth pre-pandemic and are on track to close the learning gap, according to a report released Monday from NWEA, a nonprofit research group that administers standardized tests. "Researchers found 'gains across in math and reading' in 2022." However, "students in high-poverty schools had fallen further behind, making it likely they will need more time than others to catch up." The report is a "positive sign of hope for academic recovery from COVID-19. But sustained effort and investment in education remain crucial."

### **Vaccine Development, Variant Vaccines.**

Moderna Senior Vice President of Infectious Diseases Jacqueline Miller "says the company recognized early on that the original vaccines – Alpha and Beta – were identified in late 2020" and the original vaccines did not work as well against Beta. Miller "says the company is working on 'variant-specific' boosters." But "while the process of updating an mRNA booster" can take only four to six weeks, testing, manufacturing, and distribution "can take much longer." Miller says she hopes the timeline will get shorter once the first variant-specific booster is out of the gate. "As omicron 'has become the dominant variant,' she says, "we had 'more time to develop boosters against BA.4 and BA.5, after originally generating candidate boosters against the original variants."

### **Novavax Vaccine Reviewed By CDC Advisory Committee.**

Novavax (Subscription Publication, 897K) reports, "Gaithersburg's Novavax Inc. is on the cusp of rolling out its Covid-19 vaccine." The company's vaccine "will be the first protein-based vaccine to be approved for use in the U.S." and the panel's recommendations will shape the CDC's "guidance around the vaccine's use in adults for emergency use authorization does not equate to a full commercial approval – which Novavax...said it intends to seek," but "the company is also developing a flu-Covid combination vaccine and an Omicron-specific vaccine." Novavax "is also developing a flu-Covid combination vaccine and an Omicron-specific vaccine." Novavax "is also developing a flu-Covid combination vaccine and an Omicron-specific vaccine." Novavax "is also developing a flu-Covid combination vaccine and an Omicron-specific vaccine."

### **Importance Of Developing Drugs To Treat Mild COVID-19 Symptoms.**

A shift is afoot in the search for COVID-19 therapies: some researchers are turning their attention towards drugs that treat mild symptoms, rather than severe disease. "Treating mild symptoms 'might sound indulgent, but drugs for mild disease could mark a turning point in the fight against the virus,' says a researcher. "It could help reduce the burden of disease, but could also limit disease spread" and "stem the rise of new variants." But "there are barriers to finding drugs for mild disease, including a lack of incentive to research mild disease. But US National Institutes of Health committee on COVID-19 treatment is working to find drugs to treat mild COVID-19, both because of broad public-health benefits and because long quarantines are a burden."

### **Pediatric COVID-19 Vaccine In Europe.**

The European Medicines Agency on Monday started reviewing a low-dose version of BioNTech (22UAy. DE) and Pfizer's (PFE) COVID-19 vaccine for use in children aged 6 to 11 years. "In June, the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention 'cleared the way for use of the shot in children 6 to 11 years old.'"

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for approval in Europe in the age group on July 8, proposing a three-shot course with a 3 microgram dosage, which

### **Oray, Tablet COVID-19 Vaccines.**

that according to a recent study, "Injected vaccines against the coronavirus that causes Covid-19 have been hugely successful in reducing the pandemic's death toll by an estimated 63%." But "even as vaccine manufacturers race to update the first-generation vaccines delivered via nasal sprays or tablets that would deploy more immune defenders to the body's front lines: the lining of the nose and throat for COVID-19, but "many scientists say the approach needs an injection of funding to accelerate the pace of development."

### **Curb Pandemic-Era Public Health Authority Through Litigation.**

(Jester) reports, "Through a wave of pandemic-related litigation, a trio of small but mighty conservative legal blocs has been curbing America's future battles against infectious diseases." Motivated "by what they've characterized as an overreach by the federal government in three overlapping spheres – conservative and libertarian think tanks, Republican state attorneys general, and religious freedom government agencies charged with protecting community health."

### **Surge Higher Than Winter's Omicron Wave.**

(7M) reports, "New coronavirus infections in parts of California may be surging even higher than winter's Omicron wave, according to a new study." The article says "the concentration of coronavirus levels in San Francisco's wastewater is at even higher levels than during the winter wave." Professor in environmental health at Emory University." Indeed, "the wastewater data suggest many infections aren't being detected because so many people are using at-home over-the-counter tests, which can be more convenient than getting tested at a clinic."

### **More COVID-19 Antivirals Are Prescribed In Richer Zip Codes.**

(3, Munro, 227K) reports, "Over four times as many prescriptions for COVID-19 treatment pills were filled in richer zip codes than in poorer ones, a new study from the Virginia Department of Health (VDH) COVID-19 task force leader of health care therapeutics coordination Alexis Page said Tuesday. It's difficult to tell if the disparity exists because of actual need for the treatments or issues with access." The trend for fewer prescriptions in poorer zip codes ranks for income, health, language and transportation....mirrors the situation nationally – where the rate of oral treatment is lower in poorer zip codes. The CDC had the largest number of sites to receive the medication, according to a June Centers for Disease Control and Prevention report.

### **"Ever-Changing" Guidance Hindering State Pandemic Response.**

(7) reports that on Monday, Connecticut Gov. Ned Lamont (D) "admitted that the ever-changing guidance from the federal government, which has changed now with President Joe Biden – has made it difficult for Connecticut health officials to adjust and respond during the pandemic." Lamont spoke at a meeting in this city's central library, Lamont joined local leaders and state Commissioner of Public Health Dr. Manisha Juthi. Lamont said, "I think the CDC has been a little slow and reactive and unclear going back during both administrations, from my point of view. We've worked closely with the medical community, trying to give people a clear sense of where we're going and what we're doing."

### **More COVID-19 Vaccinations For Children 4 And Under.**

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) reports Maine's "Cumberland County is among the leading counties nationally in COVID-19 vaccinations for children. More than 1,700 children in the southern Maine county aged six months up through four years have received their first shot in that age group, according to Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention data."

### **U.S. Prepares for Mask Mandates Ahead Of Fall Elections.**

AP reports, "A new wave of COVID-19 cases and rising hospitalizations ahead of an October election are creating fresh calls for mask mandates in the Canadian province despite calls by some doctors to do so." The "global surge in cases, mostly in Europe, is pushing governments to consider mask mandates while trying to avoid extending or reintroducing unpopular restrictions." And "in Quebec, some now say the government's mask mandate is not going far enough."

### **China's COVID-19 Testing.**

AP (Subscription Publication, 8.41M) reports that this week, two of China's largest cities ordered residents to undergo mass COVID-19 testing, leading to new and economically crippling lockdowns.

### **China's Lockdowns As Other Regions Extend Lockdowns.**

AP reports that Chinese cities including Shanghai are rolling out new mass testing or extending lockdowns on millions of residents. Shanghai reported "an average of around 390 local daily infections in the seven days ending on Sunday, higher than about 340 in other parts of Asia, China is adamant about implementing its dynamic zero COVID policy of eliminating outbreaks as soon as possible in many of its 16 districts and in some smaller areas where new infections had been reported recently, after similar tests elsewhere."

### **U.S. Approves Moderna Pediatric COVID-19 Vaccine.**

AP (Subscription Publication, 8.41M) reports that the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) said late on Monday Australia's drug regulator Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) has provisionally approved the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine for children aged six months to five years. "Spikevax" was provisionally approved in the country for individuals aged six years and older and for children aged six months to five years. "The approval comes as Australia battles a major virus outbreak fueled by the highly transmissible new variant, which has caused high levels in several states."

### **South Korea 'Finally Defuse' COVID-19 Crisis.**

AP reports that South Korea is on the path to 'finally defuse' a crisis stemming from its first acknowledged outbreak of COVID-19, the state news agency said. "The country is on the path to 'finally defuse' a crisis stemming from its first acknowledged outbreak of COVID-19, the state news agency said. It says 99.98% of its 4.77 million fever patients since late April have fully recovered, and 99.98% of those that proved positive." Reuters says "the World Health Organization has cast doubts on North Korea's claims, amid an absence of independent data."

### **Japan Approves Pediatric Clinical Trial For COVID-19 Vaccine Candidate.**

AP reports that Sanofi and Takeda (4507.T) said on Tuesday it started a clinical trial of its COVID-19 vaccine candidate among children aged 5 to 11. "The trial of a recombinant protein-based vaccine known as S-268019 will be carried out among 48 children in Japan." The vaccine "has been shown to be safe and effective in a phase 1 trial."

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## **S, Biden Administration To Penalize Drugmakers Ending, Reducing Discounts For 340B Program.**

(372K) reports that in a July 15 letter, 181 House representatives "are demanding the Biden administration penalize drugmakers for the latest fallout from an intensifying battle between the U.S. government and the pharmaceutical industry." The representatives say that the 340B Drug Discount program are increasing costs for hospitals and clinics and hurting patients." Although "months ago, the Office of Inspector General of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services has not taken action."

## **Rep. Probe Into Federal Government's "Lethargic" Response To Monkeypox.**

(372K) reports that on Monday, Rep. Ritchie Torres (D-NY) called "for a Washington inspector general to probe the federal government's response to the New Yorkers clamor for vanishingly rare vaccine doses." The representative, "who is gay, penned a letter to the inspector general stating that the 'failed federal response' to monkeypox has landed a 'disproportionately destructive impact on the LGBTQ+ community." Torres and his colleagues are closely monitoring this issue and will review the letter to determine the appropriate course of action once we have more information.

## **A-H.**

(372K) reports North Carolina is one of multiple states trying to land the headquarters for a new federal agency focused on research and innovation for Health – or ARPA-H. Members of the state's Congressional Delegation sent a letter to HHS stating, "With an unparalleled focus on research, STEM, biotech, and business training programs to prepare for a workforce skilled in cutting-edge research, academic excellence, and innovation, a group formed under the North Carolina Biotechnology Center, ARPA-H in NC Coalition, is also advocating for the location of the agency. Supporting Duke Health, Duke Margolis Center for Health Policy, RTI International, SAS Institute, UNC Chapel Hill and the Research Triangle Park." The letter also states, "North Carolina is a leader in research and innovation, and we believe that the state is the ideal location for the agency's headquarters."

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## **Florida Declared A WMD.**

(372K) reports, "Florida Attorney General Ashley Moody is calling for illicit fentanyl to be declared a weapon of mass destruction. Moody "is urging President Biden to either use executive authority or urge Congress to take action. "If too many Americans are being murdered, the whole federal government and every tactic and capability that we have should be used to stop this." Moody has also "urged President Biden to raise the issue with Mexican President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador." Biden has said the US is "accelerating our efforts to disrupt the trafficking of fentanyl and other drugs, that are literally killing people."

## **Settlement, Federal Funds For Programs To Fight Opioid Addiction.**

(372K) reports, "Nevada governments are planning to expand opioid treatment and addiction prevention services using federal funding from settlements the state made with drug manufacturers." The funding "is slowly being distributed to cities and counties to support treatment and support services." Funding from the settlements "as well as some federal grant money are distributed to counties and some cities based on need." State Department of Health and Human Services clinical program planner says the funding will be used to "provide evidence to guide spending, invest in youth prevention, focus on racial equity, and develop a fair and transparent process for distribution."

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### **Of 988 Suicide Hotline.**

ts the new 988 suicide hotline launched nationally on Saturday as part of the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline Ne  
y risen – from 3.3 million in 2020 to 3.6 million in 2021. Experts say the new number, which is easier to remember,

ntal health advocates “expressed hope Monday that the launch of a three-digit mental health crisis hotline will help  
) to promote the service.

) reports advocates have questioned “whether the call centers could withstand the demand for mental health assista  
h (7/18, Cohn, 629K), the [Hampton Roads \(VA\) Virginian-Pilot](#) (7/18, Stone, 227K), and the [Portland \(ME\) Press He](#)

### **Examined.**

hile more than 1 million died from COVID in the U.S., many more survived ICU stays that have left them with anxie  
y starting in the ICU can help, but it was often hard to provide as hospitals teemed with patients.” In this article, th  
COVID-19.

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### **Price Legislation Facing Partisan Battle.**

y Leader Mitch McConnell is warning that Democrats’ plans to curb drug prices would insert ‘socialist price controls’  
er a shrunken economic package that President Joe Biden wants Congress to complete within weeks.” Last week, P  
an he’d sought at the beginning of his presidency,” and “said he wanted Democrats to quickly write and pass a mea  
yuing health insurance and modestly reducing federal deficits.” Manchin “announced last week that those were the o  
t inflation.” Manchin’s “performance is clearly wearing on many,” and his “objections spiked most of Biden’s multitr  
raise taxes on the rich.”

### **es Tough Stand Against Minor Patent Changes In Drugs.**

, 262K) reports, “For the second time this month, the U.S. Patent & Trademark Office has taken a tougher stand to  
end monopolies, which can result in medicines costing more.” The issue “has percolated for years amid complaints  
t protections and that the PTO has failed to act on those concerns.” But in 2021, “the matter gained traction...when  
were used ‘misused to inhibit or delay’ competition from lower-cost generic drugs.”

### **Improve Long-Term Care System.**

d Gleckman reports, “One would have thought that after more than 750,000 Covid-19 related deaths among older a  
g-term care facilities that Congress would act to improve the nation’s long-term care system.” He adds, “In an extra  
andoned any effort to improve a long-term care system.” Gleckman says, “Senate Democrats now appear to be look  
edicare to gradually negotiate drug prices and a separate bill to extend certain subsidies for buyers of health insuran

es are important, and reducing Medicare drug prices certainly would help many older adults, but they would do nothing

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### **Loss Abortion Rights.**

(47M) reports Vice President Harris traveled to New Jersey on Monday "to address the NAACP's 113th national convention and access," and had meetings scheduled "with more than 20 New Jersey state legislators and local leaders to discuss the 1973 9-year-old Roe v. Wade decision." Other speakers at the event include CMS Administrator Chiquita Brooks-LaSure and Governor Phil Murphy of New Jersey.

### **Abortion Access Have Increased Since Roe Overturned.**

(10.5M) reports, Subscription Publication, 8.41M) reports that since the Supreme Court overturned Roe v. Wade, both orders and laws have been passed quickly to restrict abortion access. Foreign providers of abortion pills have also recorded greater interest. (10.5M) reports, "Some clinics have stopped offering the pills to out-of-state patients fearing that state lawmakers could pass laws banning "an FDA-approved drug, conservative lawmakers could still attempt to make abortion pills illegal, or make generic versions illegal." (10.5M) reports, "Some states provide similar coverage."

### **Abortion Ban.**

(10.52M) reports, "A Louisiana judge on Monday temporarily extended an order blocking the state trigger law but did not rule on whether a district court determines whether the near-total state abortion ban, with no exceptions for rape or incest, violates the Constitution. In the weeks since the Supreme Court struck down Roe v. Wade and gave states the power to enact restrictions, courts have blocked, unblocked and then reblocked the ban."

(7/18, Hilburn, 137K) says a Baton Rouge district judge may rule "as soon as Tuesday on whether he will extend a temporary order blocking all abortions following Monday's hearing."

reports that whatever the district judge decides, "Louisiana Attorney General Jeff Landry said he anticipates that the court will rule in favor of the ban."

### **Abortion Ban.**

(10.5M) reports, Kanawha County, West Virginia Circuit Court Judge Tera Salango on Monday blocked the state's "pre-Roe v. Wade abortion ban at the Kanawha Health Center of West Virginia - to restart services." The abortion ban "made performing or obtaining an abortion illegal." The ban has been superseded by a slew of modern, conflicting laws." West Virginia Attorney General Patrick Morrisey criticized "the decision and will appeal the decision to the state Supreme Court."

the judge argued that West Virginia's law "dating back to the 1800s making performing or obtaining an abortion a felony is unconstitutional." The judge's decision is a landmark ruling.

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## **Indiana To Try To Implement Law Restricting Abortion Access For Minors.**

Supreme Court Chief Justice John Roberts "cleared the way for Indiana to attempt to implement a law that restricts a minor's access to abortion services." The court granted a request from Indiana to bypass normal procedures and quickly transmit the court's opinion from June over the summer. The court's decision will allow Indiana to place its strict parental notification law that had been blocked."

## **Offer Abortion Training To More Medical Students.**

Current medical students and residents are "part of a generation of emerging doctors that have fought an uphill battle to ensure they can provide abortion services. These students may be even more rare and in demand after the Supreme Court's decision to reverse federal-level abortion rights. They are urgently seeking to expand the number of doctors that can" carry out abortions, and "California, which is positioning itself as a leader in providing abortion services, access to training may expand."

Dr. David Grimes (3.37M) says, "California lawmakers have laid the legal groundwork for a range of health providers to provide abortion services. The state's abundant training opportunities for training have made it harder for them to do so."

## **Idaho's New Language Backs Criminalization Of Abortion In All Cases.**

Idaho's Republican Party "adopted language to their platform" on Saturday "that supports the criminalization of abortion in all cases except in the case of a woman's need to get an abortion to save their life." State GOP delegates "approved changes to the party's platform that went to the state's platform meeting on Saturday. The new language backs criminalization of all abortions in Idaho."

Additional coverage.

## **Anti-Abortion Groups Intensify Efforts To Reduce Abortion Access.**

Anti-abortion groups in Texas "are intensifying their efforts to shut down access for residents seeking abortion services. They are targeting providers, employers and others trying to" ensure abortion access. One recent court filing shows that beyond providers, anti-abortion groups are targeting people who volunteer time or give money to abortion providers; employers who support pregnant workers; and people who provide transportation to abortion clinics.

## **Florida's Abortion Rate Rises As People Travel To Florida For Abortions.**

Florida's abortion rate has risen as people travel to Florida for abortions. As states pass and revive legislation restricting abortion following the Supreme Court ruling that overturned Roe v. Wade, Florida could "surpass last year's total of out-of-state abortions, which was nearly 4,900, according to Florida Agency for Health Care Regulation and Licensure. The state "has the third highest abortion rate among states in the country, according to the agency's data."

Additional coverage (6/18, 6:44 p.m. EST, story 7, 2:20, O'Donnell, 3.48M) provided additional coverage.

## **Colleges Face Legal Risk Complying With Both Federal, State Abortion Laws, Some Experts Say.**

Colleges face legal risk complying with both federal and state abortion laws, some experts say. "Georgia's fetal 'heartbeat' law could cause trouble for colleges that must follow federal law. The law bans most abortions once embryonic or fetal cardiac activity can be detected," and "experts say colleges could face legal risk if they do not comply with the law."

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### **Michigan State Budget Funding For Adoptions.**

ner, 2.16M) reports Michigan Gov. Gretchen Whitmer's (D) "office on Monday detailed more than \$20 million in line-items that she plans to sign into law Wednesday." The majority "of the vetoed budget items in House Bill 5783...involve restrictions on the state's health care centers that promote alternatives to abortion." Whitmer "vetoed a \$2 million tax credit for adoptive parents" as well as "funding for abortion."

### **End Of Supreme Court Decision Overturning Roe Closes.**

Mississippi abortion clinic at the center of a U.S. Supreme Court case that overturned Roe v. Wade has been sold and will be moved to Mexico, the Associated Press on Monday." The owner "said the furniture and equipment from Jackson Women's Health Organization has been sold to Mexico."

### **Abortion Access Complicated, Legal Experts Say.**

In theory, clinics within federal enclaves could provide a loophole for abortion access in states with restrictive abortion laws, but providing abortion services on federal lands is complicated."

### **NIH Protects Reproductive Research Data After Overturn Of Roe V. Wade.**

NIH (Subscription Publication, 4K) reports, "Reproductive health researchers shouldn't have to turn over their data to Congress under a new federal statute – although legal experts caution it's an added layer of protection and not a guarantee." The NIH program will protect research data from the legal process, making the data inadmissible as evidence unless the participant agrees to its disclosure, a policy that has been in place around since the 1970s, allowing researchers to study illicit drug use to guide evidence-based policies."

### **Number Of Mothers Choosing Adoption.**

NIH (Subscription Publication, 4K) reports that the overturning of Roe v. Wade is unlikely to lead to a spike in the number of mothers opting to give up their babies. Instead, it says, "The number of infants available to adopt annually will make an additional 10,000 infants available to adopt annually. That figure represents 9 percent of the estimated number of children in the adoption waiting lists. Although there is no national source of reliable data, experts estimate the number of children in the adoption waiting lists is around 100,000, according to the CDC and HHS."

### **Senate Filibuster" Block Efforts To Provide Legal Abortion Access.**

Senate Vice President Harris "on Monday said she and President Biden 'will not let the filibuster stand in our way' on proposed legislation to protect abortion rights ahead of November's midterm elections to protect 'our most essential rights and freedoms.'" Speaking at a NAACP convention, Harris said, "We will not let the filibuster stand in our way of our most essential rights and freedoms."

NIH (Subscription Publication, 4K) reports Harris "put the issue [of abortion] in terms of religion, saying that supporting a woman's right to choose is a religious belief. It just requires us to agree the government shouldn't be making that decision for her.'" According to the Times, Harris' "stance tends to obscure more nuanced positions held by critical components of the party's electoral coalition, including African American voters, who tend to support Democrats, and Catholics, where the issue has helped push some Catholic voters toward Republicans." The article mentions the CDC and HHS.

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### **Abortion Access Reportedly Among Biggest Users Of Phone Location Data.**

Many of the states rushing to ban abortion are also the biggest users of a surveillance tool that authorities could use to track people's phones." Supporters of abortion access "are expressing growing alarm about the potential uses that police or prosecutors could make, including to target abortion providers or the people seeking the procedure."

### **Physicians' Ability To Take Exams Virtually.**

Many OB-GYNs, including some who perform abortions, are celebrating a decision that allows them to avoid traveling to other states for gynecology. The Dallas-based medical group "had held virtual exams during the pandemic but planned to have the exams in person, saying the exams would be virtual," citing the Supreme Court decision to overturn Roe v. Wade.

### **Young Girls Highlighted.**

AP reports that following "the account a 10-year-old Ohio girl crossing state lines to get an abortion drew national attention, a new survey says pregnancy is common in young adolescent girls say those pushing for very young girls to carry pregnancies to term are ignoring the child."

### **Efforts To Combat Healthcare Consolidation Attempts.**

AP reports, "Fresh off the Federal Trade Commission's successful challenges to four hospital mergers, the Biden administration is pushing for more consolidation in the health care industry than it has in past years." Last year, President Biden "ordered the FTC and other agencies to focus on health care industries." According to the trade commissioners, "this is a key way to slow health care price increases; protect patients from unfair labor practices."

AP reports the FTC is also "interested in some legal theories of antitrust enforcement," which include "questioning whether vertical mergers, in which hospitals, insurers, or other types of health care companies seek to merge with companies that supply them with services."

### **4.8% Increase In 2023 Small Group Rates, 20.4% For Individual Market.**

AP reports, (Bordonaro, 22K) reports, "Health insurers planning to offer group and individual health plans in Connecticut in 2023. The state's rate filings for traditional fully-insured plans, which cover 206,186 people in the state, contained an average requested rate increase of 4.8% for small group (workers) and 20.4% for the individual market."

### **21st Century Cures Act Not Greatly Impacted Clinician Time On EHR Documentation, Study Finds.**

AP reports, (The 21st Century Cures Act final rule mandating patient access to clinical notes has not meaningfully impacted clinician time on EHR documentation, a study finds. The study "analyzed a national longitudinal dataset of all ambulatory care physicians and advance practice providers using a national EHR system. The final rule went into effect, though the effect sizes are minuscule."

### **California's New Limits On Healthcare Costs.**

AP reports, (Ibarra, 2.44M) reports, "California and the country are in the midst of a health care affordability crisis." However, the new law "will not directly reduce the cost of health care for most people."

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rocketing costs – its latest effort being a new Office of Health Care Affordability whose job will be to investigate the state budget was recently approved and “includes \$30 million to create the office, whose key responsibility will be to work with insurers and physician groups.” This office “is attempting to tackle the root of the issue: Providers can charge patients

### **Cost Among Americans, Survey Finds.**

that “a new survey of more than 1,000 U.S. workers with employer-sponsored health insurance shows that consumers are increasingly frustrated with their health insurance bills. According to a survey from employee benefits company Optavise (formerly DirectPath), approximately one-third (35%) of respondents said they have received a bill that was incorrect and pushed back, asking for a new, corrected bill.” Meanwhile, “some respondents paid the incorrect bill even though they knew it was wrong. In a 2021 version of the survey, 43% of respondents said the amount of the error wasn’t worth the effort to fix it, a substantial jump from 43% in a 2021 version of the survey.”

### **Texas AG’s Lawsuit Against Administration.**

reports the Texas abortion ban “contains exceptions to save the life of the mother or to prevent ‘substantial impairment of the mother’s physical health.’” The Post says that the ban “is either woefully ignorant of this lifesaving provision or thinks he can willfully defy it in pursuit of his extremist political goals.” The Post also notes that the ban “underscores the obligations of physicians to their patients.” According to the Post, “Paxton professes to be pro-life, but he also professes to be pro-life. To save a woman’s life, the doctor does not have a duty to save the woman’s life.” The Post calls on the courts to dis-

### **Abortion Restrictions.**

news (7/18, 20.6M) that a proposed amendment to the Kansas state constitution that would “pave the way for tighter abortion restrictions” is on the ballot and “it is hard not to feel that the reproductive-rights side is a little overwhelmed.” Cottle describes “some of the challenges” and says they “are likely to pop up other places too, as the crucial battles on abortion shift to the state level.” Cottle says “it’s important to keep close tabs on the action. One day soon, a similarly intense, complicated fight may be headed their way.”

### **Losing The Abortion War.”**

g The Abortion) War,” Karen Attiah writes in the [Washington Post](#) (7/18, 10.52M) that “securing defeat is...an art, and it is one that we must learn to do. We must not arrogantly lose to their opponents and confidently expose our nation to danger.” Among them, Attiah writes, “Remain vigilant. Do not let a Supreme Court order signed 49 years ago, do not strengthen these rights in law, even though you hold the political power. Do not let a victory over your opponent or safety for your people.” She says to “drain the motivation of your supporters and give

### **Unaffordability For Increased Risk To Pregnant Women.**

(7/18, 10.52M), Jennifer Rubin says, “The Supreme Court’s overturning of *Roe v. Wade* is resulting in increased pain, suffering, and the media should “demand that Republicans face up to the consequences of their handiwork – and to der-

### **Abortion Restrictions Threaten Lives Of “Both Parent And Child.”**

(7/18, 645K), 11 Tennessee pediatricians, internists, and OBGYNs argue that proposed tighter abortion restrictions in Ten-

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condemn this decision to strip patients of their previously protected constitutional right to make their own reproductive

### **Should Be On the Midterm Election Ballot.**

(7/18, 10.33M), in late June, the Food and Drug Administration "advised COVID-19 vaccine manufacturers to develop the shots will be ready by the fall." But "that will probably be too late to stop BA.5," and this late response is "part of the COVID-19 crisis – and is threatening to repeat its mistakes with the ongoing outbreak of monkeypox. It's longed down by concerns about equity, armchair psychology, and an insatiable request for more data," but instead of cutting in even more red tape." Pipes writes, "As midterm elections approach, FDA reform should be on the ballot." The CD

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### **Blueberries With Lead Contamination.**

BrandStorm has recalled "two lots of its organic freeze-dried blueberry pouches due to 'the presence or potential' of lead. The products "were distributed in the U.S. through retail and online stores services," but the company has "not received any feedback" on this proactive recall."

(Gibson, 5.39M), the [Miami Herald](#) (7/18, Neal, 647K), and [Food Safety News](#) (7/18).

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### **Advantage Plans Can Disguise Profits As Costs.**

As a new [report](#) from the USC-Brookings Schaeffer Initiative for Health Policy shows "parent companies that offer Medicare Advantage plans to their employees are not subject to medical loss ratio limitations." The report explained that "MLR rules do not apply to the profits to appear as costs in MLR reports for the Medicare Advantage plan." For example, "there are substantial opportunities for net revenues to the parent company to be treated as costs to the health plans through

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### **Medicaid Managed Care Nonprofit My Choice Wisconsin For \$150M.**

(Gardner, Subscription Publication, 885K) reports Molina Healthcare will acquire Medicaid managed care organization My Choice Wisconsin's existing Wisconsin core Medicaid and managed long-term services and supports business." However, the nonprofit will remain in Wisconsin."

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### **Discovering Tools To Help Manage Endometriosis.**

The [report](#) on "endometriosis, a chronic condition that affects 10 percent of women and girls, according to the World Health Organization, says that "awareness about how to recognize and treat the disease can prevent patients from getting help." The Times adds, "T

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ing tools to manage the often debilitating pain that comes with the disease.”

### **That Will Only Cover Fertility Treatment For Employees In Opposite-Sex Marriages.**

Illinois-based Catholic hospital system” OSF HealthCare “that employs more than 24,000 people will only cover fertility treatment for employees in opposite-sex marriages. The policy could run afoul of federal discrimination laws.” Under this new “policy it transferred this year to a new third-party administrator the responsibility for a married couple of opposite sex spouses to conceive’ and said its coverage aimed to assist ‘married opposite-sex couples’ in line with the state’s anti-discrimination law by Bloomberg Law.”

### **Multiple States That Can Cause Serious Illness, Death For Infants.**

is, “The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention is warning” that the parechovirus (PeV) “that can cause serious illness in infants, including meningitis, was found in a baby boy in Connecticut.” PeV “is common in children – most kids will get it by the time they’re in kindergarten, and it’s usually gone by the time they’re 3 months old.” The virus spreads in two main ways: “the respiratory route (like coughing or sneezing) and the fecal-oral route.” Parents should be aware of the signs and symptoms of parechovirus and consider to test for parechovirus if an infant has an unexplained fever, sepsis-like syndrome, or neurological problems.

### **Experience Higher Death Rates Than Democratic Ones.**

(with a population of 3.1M) analysis, Lydia Denworth, a Brooklyn, NY-based science writer and a contributing editor for Scientific American, found that the health became glaringly obvious. Democrat-leaning ‘blue’ states were more likely to enact mask requirements and vaccination mandates, while Republican-leaning ‘red’ states were more resistant to health measures.” The outcomes “of those differences emerged by the end of 2020, when rates of COVID-19 deaths were significantly higher in red states than in liberal ones.” However, Denworth says “COVID is only the latest chapter in the story of politics and health. ... In the years prior to the pandemic, there was a growing gap in mortality rates for residents of Republican and Democratic controlled states.” She cites studies and concludes that “a key takeaway from these studies is that the partisan mortality gap doesn’t have to keep widening.”

### **Collectively Earned More Than \$4.5B In 2021.**

The CEOs of approximately 300 health care companies collectively took home more than \$4.5 billion in 2021, according to a new study. While only 0.1% of the \$4.3 trillion U.S. health care economy, it still represents a vast amount of wealth for a small class of executives. “Indeed, “the lavish pay packages – which have swollen over time, as profits and stock prices have soared – tower over the relatively high salaries of health care’s rank and file.” As “more than 100 CEOs collected eight-figure paydays last year, while millions of patients had to ration medications, and devoured more of everyone’s paychecks.”

### **Children Allegedly Getting Lead Poisoning On Rental Properties.**

has sued five more landlords who rent properties in which children with lead poisoning live, the state attorney general said. “In cases where landlords’ and the landlords have failed to comply with state lead poisoning prevention laws, Attorney General Peter Neroni said, “landlords must identify and abate lead hazards, provide tenants adequate alternative housing during remediation, and penalties of up to \$5,000 per violation.”

### **A Saves Government Money Despite Contradicting Data.**

262K) reports that in June, “UnitedHealth Group’s top two executives, Andrew Witty and John Rex, told a crowd at a

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program that outsources Medicare coverage to health insurance companies – saves the federal government money.”

### **CVS, Walgreens, 25 Other Store Brands Recalled For Bacterial Contamination.**

“The recall of a laxative sold as CVS’ store brand has been expanded to 30 brands of laxatives, including the store brand. CVS’ Navarro Vi-Jon “pulled one lot of CVS Magnesium Citrate Laxative Oral Solution Lemon Flavor from CVS and Navarro Vi-Jon stores.” According to the recall notice’s risk statement, written by Vi-Jon and posted by the FDA, “Immunocompromised individuals are at greatest risk for infections caused by *Gluconacetobacter liquefaciens* that could lead to serious, life-threatening adverse health consequences.”

### **CVS Narcolepsy Drug Patent Infringement.**

Yasiejko, Subscription Publication, 4K) reports, “Jazz Pharmaceuticals Inc. filed a lawsuit alleging that a narcolepsy drug, Xyrem, is a violation of Jazz’s Xyrem patent. In a related case, Avadel, in a related case, has asked a Delaware federal judge to remove from Xyrem’s market. On June 7 of the allegation that the patent’s claims are invalid, unenforceable, or wouldn’t be infringed by the brand. The lawsuit was filed July 15 in the US District Court for the District of Delaware.”

### **FDA Changed Approval Recommendation For Heart Drug Vascepa.**

“Members of an expert panel that recommended the Food and Drug Administration approve a fish-oil-based heart drug, Vascepa, have changed their recommendation. Their “concern stems from the suggestion that a substantial benefit the drug showed in a large clinical trial may not be as significant as initially reported in the study.” Data from “a new analysis published in the medical journal *Circulation* on June 28 indicated that in the study, there were “side effects that might indicate heightened risk of heart attacks and strokes.”

### **Decline Of Climate Emergency Following Stalled Environmental Legislation Talks.**

“The Washington Post (5/2M) reports, “President Biden is considering declaring a national climate emergency as soon as this week as he seeks to address the climate crisis, according to three people familiar with the matter who spoke on the condition of anonymity.” The potential “move” is seen as a “game-changer” that does not support his party’s efforts to advance a sprawling economic package this month that includes billions of dollars in infrastructure spending. “It could empower the Biden administration in its efforts to reduce carbon emissions and foster cleaner energy,” and “trigger a slew of additional actions aimed at curbing planet-warming emissions.” However, “any new executive action on the climate crisis would be a departure from the current structure of environmental regulations.”

### **Chelsea Examined.**

“A paywall that “a few days after undergoing cosmetic surgery, Chelsea was in a Philadelphia emergency room with her face severely sunburned, hardened and blistered. The burning sensation was so intense she was struggling to breathe.” The article reportedly described the procedure.

### **Health Infrastructure, Dating Apps Could Help Stop The Spread Of STIs.**

“A disease specialist, and epidemiologist, and a senior fellow and editor-at-large for public health at the Kaiser Family Foundation.”

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Health activist and data scientist with a specialty in forecasting, policy, and public health analysis write in a [STAT](#) (cross the United States." While "the meteoric rise of dating apps has led to more casual relationships," more "users" together." Gounder and Donnelly say "this is one of several factors that has helped propel rates of these diseases skyward, making it difficult to respond to both new and old infectious disease threats." They write that "later this year, the CDC will be releasing a report they conclude that "this represents a rare opportunity to think broadly about all the data systems that might strengthen public health efforts to help users avoid sexually transmissible infections."

### **Antibiotic Infections Global Killer, Action Is Needed.**

Senior director of CARB-X and a professor at Boston University School of Law and Henry Skinner, the CEO of the AMR Alliance, write in a [STAT](#) "Antibiotic-resistant infections, including MRSA, are a leading global killer." Just "last week the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported a 15 percent increase in antibiotic-resistant infections in 2020, after years of steady declines." The authors write, "The current economics of" new antibiotics approvals in the past decade have gone bankrupt or shut down their antibiotic programs. This broken market for new antibiotics is gaining traction globally is subscription models" where "governments pay a pre-determined fee for the successful development of a drug described in the first years after approval."

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### **Heatwaves, Risk Of Deaths, Risk Of Drought.**

[The Guardian](#) (10.2M) reports extreme heat has "engulfed parts of western Europe," as wildfires continue to burn in France and Portugal continues to deal with a "worsening drought." In Spain, Carlos III Health Institute estimated a cumulative total of 659 deaths. Health Ministry said 659 "mainly elderly people" had died in the previous seven days. Researchers at the EU Commission said the UK's Met Office said Tuesday is "expected to be even hotter."

[The New York Times](#) (20.6M) reports that UK "authorities placed most of the country under a 'red' warning for heat for the first time in 100 years" across London and the country's south and Midlands." The Times says "Britain's top reading, 100.6 Fahrenheit (37.5 Celsius), is a 2019, but to a sweltering nation, that felt like a distinction without a difference." Consequently, "officials urged people to stay indoors Monday and Tuesday - a plea reminiscent of the depths of the coronavirus pandemic."

[The Washington Post](#) (10.52M) reports, however, that "in Britain and most of Europe, few homes, apartments, schools or small businesses have air conditioning, so the heat is a 'national emergency' and portions of the nation are under an 'extreme' heat warning for the first time."

Other sources are the [Washington Post](#) (7/18, Booth, 10.52M), the [Wall Street Journal](#) (7/18, Miolene, Subscription Publication, 8.41M)

### **Healthcare Under Taliban Rule.**

[The Washington Post](#) (10.52M) reports that maternal and neonatal healthcare in Afghanistan are faltering due to the Taliban and international organizations. Hunger contributes to premature delivery and low birthrate, and the weakest public health systems are struggling to provide basic care.

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## g Four Seats To Supreme Court.

ght House Democrats "called for legislation on Monday that would add four seats to the Supreme Court, lamenting a  
abortion rights." The Hill adds that while the 2021 Judiciary Act "has little chance of becoming law" because of "Rep  
among progressive Democrats about the court's direction under three conservative justices nominated by former P

## ons To Unionize.

ports the staffers for "eight of the most progressive members of the House filed petitions on Monday to form union  
collectively to bargain for better work conditions." The Times says their move "paves the way for House aides to beg  
e without the threat of retaliation – a right that other federal workers already enjoy."

the petitions were filed as rules "that clear the way for many legislative branch staffers to collectively bargain" too  
most significant expansion of workers rights for Capitol Hill employees in almost thirty years, with House staffers no

arts staff in the offices of Reps. Jesús "Chuy" García (D-IL), Andy Levin (D-MI), Ro Khanna (D-CA), Alexandria Ocasio  
, and Cori Bush (D-MO) have begun the unionization process. [The Hill](#) (7/18, Schnell, 5.69M) reports the Congress  
ssional staff and our democracy." In a statement, the union said, "For far too long, congressional staff have dealt w  
es that prevent Congress from properly representing the communities and needs of the American people." The Cong  
union will ensure we have a voice in decisions that impact our workplace."

## ty Sparks Warning From Burns.

man, 20.6M) reports CIA Director William Burns issued a "warning to the agency's work force last week after what a  
cy in Virginia, according to people familiar with the matter." In the message, Burns "said that racism and racist sym  
ct was "found near a small agency facility located in a building that houses businesses and other organizations," but  
as even meant to be a noose, or if whoever placed it there knew that the C.I.A. secretly operated in the building." T  
oyee left the item, or that a foreign intelligence service was involved, according to some of those people briefed on  
l reported it, prompting the investigation and Mr. Burns's note."

## tions To Trump, Others.

ew York state residents "were charged with illegally using funds from Chinese and Singaporean investors to donate  
S. prosecutors said on Monday." The move "was part of an effort by Sherry Li and Lianbo Wang to showcase political  
w York, prosecutors said, adding that they raised \$27 million in investment, but never completed the project." The [V](#)  
he two were charged with making donations in their own names with money from foreign nationals. The Journal say

## Weapon Successfully Tested.

s successfully tested a Raytheon Technologies Corp air-breathing hypersonic weapon capable of speeds faster than

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publicly rung the alarm about the issue. Democrats desperate to retain control of Congress are now pleading with the combat rising prices – and, in the process, hang on to their seats.”

### **Red To Blue” Program.**

7M) reports that while Democrats “are on defense across the country in this year’s midterm elections,” they “appeal in California.” According to announcement by the DCCC, “five of six candidates added to their ‘Red to Blue’ program “are two competing for open seats: Dr. Kermit Jones is running against GOP Assemblyman Kevin Kiley in a spay is vying with Republican nursery owner John Duarte in the Central Valley.” Also added to the program “are former northern Los Angeles County; Dr. Asif Mahmood, who is vying with Republican Rep. Young Kim in an Orange County-seat Rep. Ken Calvert.”

### **ocrats.**

at as Sen. Lisa Murkowski (R-AK) “tries to fend off a challenge from Donald Trump-backed candidate Kelly Tshibaka left-leaning Democrats and independents. Murkowski’s Senate Democratic fan club reflects the same crossover cloud conservatives will support Tshibaka anyway.” Alaska’s new “open, top-four primary and a ranked-choice general election brace her elevated status among Democrats for her bipartisan positions. And rather than rebuff support across the a ats, “I hope they’re going to have my back. Just as I hope the Republicans would have my back.”

### **ed Candidate In Arizona.**

ner Vice President Mike Pence on Monday “publicly backed Karrin Taylor Robson in Arizona’s Republican gubernatorial Axios adds that Pence is “expected to campaign with Robson, a housing developer, on Friday – the same day that T Pence also “backed Georgia Gov. Brian Kemp (R), who became a top Trump target after he refused to help him over 18) says, “As an incumbent seeking reelection, Kemp had an advantage over his primary rival, David Perdue, and u on the ballot...the GOP contest in Arizona will likely be much closer.” Nevertheless, the AP adds that “what once loo sh.”

t Sanchez, Knowles, 10.52M) reports Lake “said she viewed Pence’s endorsement as laying the groundwork for a 20 ment, Lake said, “At this point, it’s clear that Mike Pence has an electoral interest in taking down Donald Trump and on, and this is just one more example of the RINO establishment doing absolutely everything they can to stop our an, 20.6M) says Pence’s endorsement “came amid pushback from some Republicans against Mr. Trump and the can in 2020 – as Ms. Lake has done,” while [Politico](#) (7/18, Isenstadt, 6.73M) says Pence is “joining term-limited Republi Ducey “maintain a close relationship, and the two have been in touch about the primary.”

Editor-At-Large Chris Cillizza writes that Pence “seems to have decided that the only way past Donald Trump is thro he has a political future in the GOP is to prove – through a series of steps – that Trump is less powerful than he is b

### **apping Elections May Not Apply To Current Cycle.**

or [Roll Call](#) (7/18, 130K) that he has not seen many election cycles “that are more confusing than the one we are no election cycles when nothing out of the ordinary happens,” and “the old rules still apply,” it is “more difficult to sketch

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events seem to have occurred each day since Donald Trump announced he was running for president in 2016." Rotunda says, "I've been wrong about the 2022 midterms. And I haven't given up entirely on those old rules. But we live in such a crazy time that I have re-evaluated my strategy."

### **Dangerous Strategy In GOP Primaries.**

The Washington Post (7/18, 10.52M) that the Democratic Governors Association's efforts "to boost a Republican named Daniel L. Cox as a candidate for governor in Maryland, on the theory that Cox will be easier to defeat in a general election" is "part of a broader strategy to lure fringe figures over the GOP's governing wing." Hohmann says while the tactic "may have worked in a few places, it's not working in Maryland." Republicans, Hohmann writes, "barely have a grip on their own party's many factions. Trying to fiddle with the party's internal structure is a losing strategy."

### **Supreme Court Act.**

The Washington Post (7/18, Subscription Publication, 8.41M), former President Jimmy Carter (D) and former Secretary of State James Baker are expected to announce their support for a candidate in the 2024 presidential election.

### **Spreading Disinformation On The Rise Ahead Of Midterms.**

The Washington Post (7/18, 10.52M) that "Spanish-language right-wing disinformation that spiked around the 2020 election on social media is back and on the rise ahead of the fall midterms." According to "social media researchers and Democratic political strategists...far-right disinformation is spreading on social media platforms but also on newer platforms, including TikTok, Signal and Telegram." Alvarez says, "The problem is hardly limited to social media. Miami radio, is still an effective megaphone for false narratives, particularly in Miami, where far right-wing hosts have long been a staple. Spanish language Miami radio, conservative voices and disinformation have been almost indistinguishable."

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The Wall Street Journal (7/18, Subscription Publication, 8.41M) editorial argues that the CHIP bill subsidizes protectionism. The Journal says the measure will encourage other industries to cite China competition as a reason to seek government support.

The Wall Street Journal (7/18, Subscription Publication, 8.41M) editorial says Illinois Gov. J.B. Pritzker's recent trips to New York and California for a 2024 presidential bid, may be an effort to escape his record in Illinois, which has seen low GDP growth as well as high unemployment. The Journal says Pritzker may move to other states.

The Wall Street Journal (7/18, Subscription Publication, 8.41M) says the heatwave is bringing the "predictable jargon of climate change." The Journal says climate lobbyists and media and politics blame every turn in the weather on climate change. The Journal says Europe's emissions reductions, which have come at the cost of less reliable energy and greater vulnerability to Vladimir Putin. The Journal says that "without larger emissions reductions, further European emissions reductions will do nothing to alter global temperatures without larger emissions reductions elsewhere."

The Wall Street Journal (7/18, Subscription Publication, 8.41M) editorial lauds Kansas lawmakers for eliminating excise taxes on cosmetic procedures. The Journal says Kansas is the only state that requires a license to use a thin string to shape brows and pluck unwanted facial hair.

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**'s Slide Toward One-man Rule."** In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (7/18, 10.52M) argues that Tunisian President Ennahdha's move to undermine the country's once-promising political institutions, established in the wake of a 2011 uprising against the former ruler, which he seeks to ratify in a referendum set for July 25, could deepen this political winter." The Post notes that leverage over Tunisia's economic aid and Tunisia's potential need for an International Monetary Fund bailout." The Post concludes by arguing that the move is a "step toward authoritarianism."

**Texas Attorney General's Abortion Lawsuit."** The [Washington Post](#) (7/18, 10.52M) reports the Texas abortion ban "contains a definition of major bodily function," but Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton (R) "is either woefully ignorant of this lifesaving medical procedure's goals," as evidenced by his "legal challenge to a directive from the Biden administration that underscores the obligation of doctors to be pro-life. Yet he is saying that in cases where an emergency abortion is needed to save a woman's life, the doctor is not required to dismiss his "harmful" lawsuit.

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[Higher Trading Revenue, But Profit Falls](#)

[Interest Rates Climb](#)

[Afghanistan, Is Faltering Under The Taliban](#)

[Yemen, A Land Not Built For It](#)

[Economic Outlook: Warnings And Murky Data](#)

[Abortion Among Black Voters](#)

[Renewable Energy: Turbines Are Set To Rise](#)

[Ukraine: Russia In Limbo](#)

[Ukraine: Russia Comes To Terms With War's Traumas](#)

[Ukraine: A War-Torn Armed Civilian](#)

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Ukraine

Europe Wrestles With Heatwave And Forest Fires

ers Help Profits Beat Forecasts

O Following Political Turmoil

**ork News:**

Europe; US Weather; Fallout From Uvalde Shooting Report; Shooting At An Indiana Mall; War In Ukraine; Steve Ba  
inia Woman Awakens From Coma; Red Land Cotton Company.

rt; Shooting At An Indiana Mall; Parkland Shooter Trial; Extreme Heat In Europe; US Extreme Heat; Steve Bannon C  
nderneath SUV; North Carolina Gardener Teaches Teens.

backs For President Biden's Climate Agenda; Fallout From Uvalde Shooting Report; Shooting At An Indiana Mall; St  
ctims; Rising Cost Of Car Ownership; Carson Pickett/US Women's Soccer Team.

2 minutes, 35 seconds

1 – 4 minutes, 45 seconds

seconds

ctims – 2 minutes, 30 seconds

European countries are facing weather they've never seen before. In France, temperatures are expected to top 104 c  
n government is reminding all mimes to crack a window in their invisible boxes."

tee learned last week that the Secret Service erased text messages from January 5 and January 6, after oversight  
e, but their story about this deletion has shifted several times, first blaming it on their 'device replacement program  
our phones,' 'Our phones are going through a tunnel,' and finally, 'New phone, who dis?'"

o Saudi Arabia] "This was always going to be a touchy trip, because the Crown Prince is infamously – and I'm putting  
, so..."

Saudi Arabia] "America obsesses about these things, like not looking too friendly. It's also funny how President Biden seems less friendly than a handshake. That is the whitest decision of all time."

ustrated with Joe Manchin, because he is on your team, he is wearing your jersey, but every time he gets the ball, h  
t he could do is say so up front, instead of wasting everybody's time and jerking the Democrats around for a year, p

held a controversial meeting with the Crown Prince of Saudi Arabia, but the real controversy was that Biden greeted  
punch him as hard as I could."

hat he plans to retire by the end of President Biden's term. Then everyone turned to Biden like, 'Is there anything y

criticism after he fist-bumped Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman last week during their first in-person meeting  
then weren't they?"

ogized last week after she said the Latino community is 'as unique as the breakfast tacos here in San Antonio.' Said

nd former Vice President Mike Pence are set to hold competing rallies on Friday in Arizona. It will be the first time the

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