

From: Morten Max Rasmussen <Morten.Rasmussen@bavarian-nordic.com>
To: Barry, Daniel J (HHS/OGC) /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=user3e449ce0 <daniel.barry@hhs.gov>
Paul John Chaplin <Paul.Chaplin@bavarian-nordic.com>;
Disbrow, Gary (OS/ASPR/BARDA) /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=0fd5845defda4dc0bb45f8fac629cf09-Disbrow, Ga
CC: <Gary.Disbrow@hhs.gov>;
Bagenstos, Samuel (HHS/OGC) /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=afa71ea876614421a32eee5049c60e45-Bagenstos, <Samuel.Bagenstos@hhs.gov>
Subject: RE: Connecting you
Date: 2022/08/08 10:50:59
Priority: Normal
Type: Note

Thanks – you can reach me on my mobile at the following number: (b)(6) I look forward to speaking to you.

BR/Morten

Morten Max Rasmussen
General Counsel, SVP, Legal & Global IP



Bavarian Nordic A/S
Philip Heymans Alle 3
DK-2900 Hellerup
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From: Barry, Daniel J (HHS/OGC) <daniel.barry@hhs.gov>
Sent: 8. august 2022 16:46
To: Morten Max Rasmussen <Morten.Rasmussen@bavarian-nordic.com>
Cc: Paul John Chaplin <Paul.Chaplin@bavarian-nordic.com>; Disbrow, Gary (OS/ASPR/BARDA) <Gary.Disbrow@hhs.gov>; Bagenstos, Samuel (HHS/OGC) <Samuel.Bagenstos@hhs.gov>
Subject: RE: Connecting you

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Thanks – we will plan to call you in an hour and 15 minutes from now at 12:00 PM EDT. Can you let us know what is the best number for us to reach you? Otherwise, we will be available at 202-690-7741.

Thanks,
Dan

From: Morten Max Rasmussen <Morten.Rasmussen@bavarian-nordic.com>
Sent: Monday, August 8, 2022 9:52 AM
To: Barry, Daniel J (HHS/OGC) <daniel.barry@hhs.gov>
Cc: Paul John Chaplin <Paul.Chaplin@bavarian-nordic.com>; Disbrow, Gary (OS/ASPR/BARDA) <Gary.Disbrow@hhs.gov>; Bagenstos, Samuel (HHS/OGC) <Samuel.Bagenstos@hhs.gov>
Subject: RE: Connecting you

Dear Dan Barry,

Thank you for your e-mail. I am currently out of the office traveling in Spain but can make myself available any time convenient for you.

Best regards,
Morten

Morten Max Rasmussen
General Counsel, SVP, Legal & Global IP



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Sent: 8. august 2022 14:43
To: Morten Max Rasmussen <Morten.Rasmussen@bavarian-nordic.com>
Cc: Paul John Chaplin <Paul.Chaplin@bavarian-nordic.com>; Disbrow, Gary (OS/ASPR/BARDA) <Gary.Disbrow@hhs.gov>; Bagenstos, Samuel (HHS/OGC) <Samuel.Bagenstos@hhs.gov>
Subject: RE: Connecting you

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Dear Mr. Rasmussen:

HHS's General Counsel, Sam Bagenstos, and I are available to speak with you today. Please let us know when would be a convenient time to connect.

Thank you,

Dan Barry

Deputy General Counsel
HHS/OGC

From: Paul John Chaplin <Paul.Chaplin@bavarian-nordic.com>
Sent: Sunday, August 7, 2022 3:55 AM
To: Disbrow, Gary (OS/ASPR/BARDA) <Gary.Disbrow@hhs.gov>
Cc: Barry, Daniel J (HHS/OGC) <daniel.barry@hhs.gov>; Morten Max Rasmussen <Morten.Rasmussen@bavarian-nordic.com>
Subject: Re: Connecting you

Thanks, Gary, for the introduction.

I am copying in Morten who will take up the discussion with Dan.

Regards

Paul

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From: Disbrow, Gary (OS/ASPR/BARDA) <Gary.Disbrow@hhs.gov>
Sent: Sunday, August 7, 2022 9:46:11 AM
To: Paul John Chaplin <Paul.Chaplin@bavarian-nordic.com>
Cc: Barry, Daniel J (HHS/OGC) <daniel.barry@hhs.gov>
Subject: Connecting you

Paul,

During the call with HHS Secretary and after with me, you requested complete indemnification for Bavarian Nordic. Dan Barry is with HHS legal and if you could connect him with your legal team, or whoever is appropriate, they can have a discussion on PREP Act and indemnification.

Gary

Gary L. Disbrow, Ph.D.
Director
Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority (BARDA)
Deputy Assistant Secretary
Administration for Strategic Preparedness and Response (ASPR)
US Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)

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Sent Date: 2022/08/08 10:49:50

Delivered Date: 2022/08/08 10:50:59

From: POLITICO Pro's Pulse <newsletter@email.politicopro.com>

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Subject: Are parents ready for new kids' boosters?

Date: 2022/10/13 06:02:12

Priority: Normal

Type: Note

With Daniel Lippman

DRIVING THE DAY



The FDA authorized emergency use of bivalent Covid-19 vaccines for kids. | Michael M. Santiago/Getty Images

SELLING AN UPDATED SHOT — Updated Covid-19 boosters from Pfizer and Moderna were given

Just hours after the FDA gave the green light, the CDC recommended the shots for kids, [POLITICO](#)

Many kids aren't ready for a booster, having had only one or no doses of the two-dose primary C

Older kids have higher vaccination rates, with about 60 percent of those 12–17 having completed th

The reluctance to get the updated shot reaches far beyond kids. Only 5 percent of the general popul

That doesn't make health care staff — especially those working with children — any less con

Linda Mendonça, president of the National Association of School Nurses, told Pulse that school nurses

“I think messaging is always a challenge,” Mendonça said. “School nurses do sometimes struggle with

And now, some see even more to be done beyond Covid-19 and into the care that was halted through

School nurses continually work to make sure kids are caught up on their routine vaccinations and care

Mental health care workers have also brought new focus to engaging children trying to bounce back

Even so, the work to get the new boosters to kids now begins.

“**It’s how we practice,**” Mendonça said. “If there’s a vaccine available, then we certainly will promote

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kmahr@politico.com.

TODAY ON OUR PULSE CHECK PODCAST, Carmen Paun talks with Sam Sutton about how influenza



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Sent Date: 2022/10/13 06:02:03

Delivered Date: 2022/10/13 06:02:12

From: POLITICO Pro Health Care <alert@email.politicopro.com>
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To: (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=afa71ea876614421a32eee5049c60e45-Bagenstos, <Samuel.Bagenstos@hhs.gov>
Subject: PRO PHARMACEUTICAL REPORT: Thursday, Jan. 19, 2023
Date: 2023/01/19 13:17:06
Priority: Normal
Type: Note

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.

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.”

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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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Subject: Judge rescinds departure after successor nominated

Date: 2022/08/10 07:09:18

Priority: Normal

Type: Note

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New York Federal Judge Is Latest to Rescind Departure Letter (1)

A New York federal trial court judge who rescinded plans to take senior status unless his successor lives and works in the Utica, N.Y., area is the latest example of judges changing their minds about vacating a life-tenured seat.

Rethinking It: David Hurd, who sits in the Utica courthouse of the US District Court for the Northern District of New York, informed President Joe Biden of his decision in a July 14 letter, one day after White House announced plans to nominate an attorney from Albany to the seat. Hurd, who has served on the court since 1999, had written Biden last November to say he intended to take senior status upon confirmation of his successor.

Recent Trend: At least two other federal judges have similarly reversed themselves in recent year prompting calls for measures to discourage such a change of plan, which legal scholars say can be ethically murky and is growing in frequency. “It definitely seems to be a new trend that is historically out of the ordinary,” Richard Re, a University of Virginia law professor.

[Read More](#)

[x](#) [x](#) [x](#)

Leading the News

Bump Stock Ban Receives Another Appeals Court’s Approval

- [Documents Attached](#)

A government ban on firearms accessories known as bump stocks came about through the best reading of a statute banning civilian ownership of machine guns and related parts, the D.C. Circuit Tuesday. [Read More](#)

Trump Tax Returns Must Be Given to House Panel, Court Rules (1)

Former President Donald Trump’s tax returns must be turned over to a congressional committee, a federal appeals court ruled. [Read More](#)

Biden Picks Kansas Federal Prosecutor for Seat on Tenth Circuit

President Joe Biden plans to nominate a federal prosecutor as the first person of color to serve on

federal appeals court in Kansas. [Read More](#)

Boies, Lawyers Suing Blue Cross to Receive \$667 Million Fee (1)

↳ [Document Attached](#)

A federal judge has signed off on a \$667 million fee for the lawyers who spent nine years crafting a \$2.67 billion antitrust settlement with health insurance plans offered by Blue Cross Blue Shield. [Read More](#)

Former Twitter Employee Convicted of Spying for Saudi Arabia (1)

A former Twitter Inc. employee was convicted of spying for Saudi Arabia by turning over personal information of platform users who'd used anonymous handles to criticize the Kingdom and its royal family. [Read More](#)

OPINION

Three Major Takeaways From the FBI Search on Trump: Noah Feldman

Based on what we know about the FBI's search of Donald Trump's Florida home on Monday, executing the search warrant is far from a guarantee that any criminal action will be taken. In fact, there is some reason to think that the public raid will take some of the heat off Attorney General Merrick Garland, whom President Joe Biden has been urging to act against Trump—without forcing him into a prosecution decision he has strong reason to avoid. [Read More](#)

Giuliani Can Drive 13 Hours to Atlanta Grand Jury, Judge Says

Rudy Giuliani, former president Donald Trump's onetime personal lawyer, was ordered to appear a week before a special grand jury in Atlanta investigating whether Trump violated Georgia election law in trying to flip the 2020 election. [Read More](#)

Trump Lawyers Rotate Among His Inner Circle as Legal Woes Mount

As the legal risks facing Donald Trump and his inner circle continue to expand, the former president

and key allies have been playing round robin with a small pool of defense lawyers. [Read More](#)

Supreme Court

Ex-Judge Luttig Calls GOP-Backed Legal Theory Grave Threat

J. Michael Luttig, a retired federal appellate judge and conservative legal figure, forewarned an existential threat to democracy if the US Supreme Court affirms a GOP-backed election law doctrine.

[Read More](#)

StarKist Asks Justices to Strip Tuna Case of Class Action Status

» [Documents Attached](#)

StarKist Co. asked the US Supreme Court to shut down a closely watched lawsuit over its role in an alleged industrywide scheme to inflate the price of canned tuna, after two lower courts ruled that tuna buyers could litigate the antitrust case on a class action basis. [Read More](#)

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D.C. Cir

Powertech Uranium Extraction to Move Forward in Loss for Tribe

↳ [Documents Attached](#)

Powertech USA Inc. can proceed with extracting uranium in South Dakota after the D.C. Circuit said Tuesday that a tribe's refusal to participate in the licensing process undermined its claims that nuclear regulators violated federal law. [Read More](#)

Labor Board's 'Whore Board' Graffiti Ruling Survives Review (1)

↳ [Document Attached](#)

The NLRB had adequate justification to rule that an aluminum products maker violated federal labor law for firing a worker who wrote "whore board" on overtime sign-up sheets, a divided federal appeals court in Washington held. [Read More](#)

D.C. Circuit Vacates Energy Regulators' Return-on-Equity Method

↳ [Opinion Attached](#)

A panel of US judges on Tuesday struck down federal energy officials' method for calculating return-on-equity in transmission line rates, a ruling on a nine-year dispute that could influence how investments in the power grid are recouped. [Read More](#)

Insights

Perspectives from Legal Practitioners, Law Professors and Other Thought Leaders

How Law Firms Can Help Litigators Foster Mental Wellness

By Elizabeth Ortega of ECO Strategic Communications

Litigators often have a gladiatorial mindset that can impair their mental health, argues legal communications consultant Elizabeth Ortega, principal of ECO Communications in Florida. She suggests some positive steps law firms can take to improve litigators' well-being. [Read More](#)

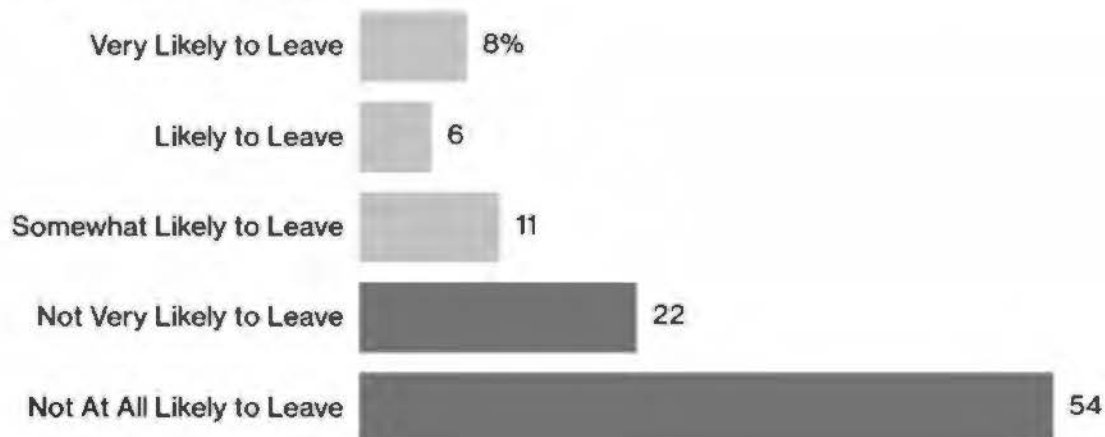
ANALYSIS: Are Attorneys Still Uprooting From Their Jobs?

The temptation for attorneys to pull up roots and leave their jobs still persists after more than two years of the Great Resignation, according to the results from two recent Bloomberg Law surveys.

One-Quarter of Attorneys Might Leave Their Jobs Soon

Attorneys' expectations for leaving their jobs within the next six months

■ At Least Somewhat Likely to Leave



Source: Bloomberg Law's State of Practice Survey conducted from April 28, 2022 to May 27, 2022. Respondents were asked, "How likely are you to leave your current job within the next 6 months?"

Bloomberg Law

[Read More](#)

[x](#) [x](#) [x](#)

3rd Cir.

NFL Agent Faces Revived \$2.1 Million Suit Over Golladay Signing

↳ [Documents Attached](#)

NFL agent Todd France will again face claims that he poached New York Giants wide receiver Ker Golladay from his then-agent, after the Third Circuit on Tuesday found an arbitration ruling in his favor was procured by fraud. [Read More](#)

4th Cir.

Fourth Circuit to Revisit Attorneys' Fee Bar for Injunctions

↳ [Documents Attached](#)

The full Fourth Circuit agreed Tuesday to revisit a ruling that denied attorneys' fees to Virginia drivers who got a preliminary injunction against a later-repealed law that automatically suspended their licenses for failure to pay court costs and fines. [Read More](#)

5th Cir.

Texas A&M Student Suspended for Sex Assault Didn't Show Bias

↳ [Documents Attached](#)

A former Texas A&M University student who was suspended for sexual assault failed to show the university discriminated against him in its disciplinary proceeding on the basis of sex, the Fifth Circuit ruled Tuesday. [Read More](#)

Louisiana Bar Association Prevails in Attorney's Dues Challenge

↳ [Documents Attached](#)

The Louisiana State Bar Association convinced a federal court in Louisiana to throw out a lawsuit by a lawyer alleging its requirement to provide dues is unconstitutional. [Read More](#)

7th Cir.

University Student Must Comply with Sexual Assault Suspension

↳ [Documents Attached](#)

A male University of Southern Indiana student must comply with a suspension stemming from a sexual assault, even as his gender discrimination claim plays out, the Seventh Circuit ruled. [Read More](#)

Illinois Law Barring Federal Detainee Contracts Upheld in Appeal

↳ [Documents Attached](#)

An Illinois law prohibiting state agencies and political subdivisions from contracting with the federal government to house immigration detainees isn't unlawful, the Seventh Circuit affirmed Tuesday.

[Read More](#)

8th Cir.

Lesbian Former Hockey Operations Director Loses Job Bias Appeal

↳ [Documents Attached](#)

The University of Minnesota-Duluth was properly granted judgment on sex discrimination claims by former part-time operations director for its women's hockey team because she failed to show the explanation for relieving her of that position was pretextual, the Eight Circuit ruled Tuesday. [Read](#)

[More](#)

9th Cir.

PGA Can Ban Three Liv Players From FedEx Cup, Judge Rules (2)

Three professional golfers who joined the Saudi Arabia-financed LIV Golf series will have to sit out FedEx Cup Playoffs because a judge refused to lift their suspension by the PGA Tour. [Read More](#)

Feds, Lumber Company Drop Dispute Over Idaho Logging Project

↳ [Documents Attached](#)

A battle between the federal government, conservation groups, and a lumber company over an Ida

logging project and its potential harm to grizzlies will come to an end after the parties dropped their appeals in the Ninth Circuit. [Read More](#)

Kinetic Concepts Must Again Face Whistleblower's Fraud Claims

↳ [Documents Attached](#)

Kinetic Concepts Inc. must again defend itself against claims that it violated the False Claims Act by falsely certifying compliance with Medicare payment rules with regard to its medical device for treating wounds, the Ninth Circuit ruled Tuesday. [Read More](#)

10th Cir.

Penalties in Colorado Child Abuse Records Law Partially Revived

↳ [Documents Attached](#)

Part of a Colorado law that imposes penalties on those who wrongfully disclose records on child abuse was revived Tuesday, after the Tenth Circuit held that the plaintiff attorney didn't have standing to challenge the provision because she wasn't harmed by it. [Read More](#)

11th Cir.

DEEP DIVE

Consumer Class Actions May Founder Due to Eleventh Circuit Split

A majority of the Eleventh Circuit voted not to revisit a 2020 opinion prohibiting incentive awards for

class representatives, solidifying a new circuit split over whether a pair of 19th century Supreme Court cases have always barred the payments. [Read More](#)

State Courts

Petrotel Beats Free Speech Defense in Breach of Contract Suit

A business investor who sought the closing of a case against him for disclosing confidential information must face the lawsuit, after a Texas appeals court said that he failed to prove the lawsuit was in response to his free speech right. [Read More](#)

Business & Practice

ABA Sides Against Opening Law Firms Up to New Competition (1)

The American Bar Association is pouring cold water on efforts to loosen restrictions on who can own law firms, including moves that could open firms up to new competition from corporations. [Read More](#)

Companies

Mentioned in this issue

Constellium NV

Twitter Inc

Law Firms

Mentioned in this issue

Baker Donelson

Boies Schiller Flexner

Carlton Fields

Clifford Chance

Cuneo Gilbert & LaDuca

Dowd Bennett

Foley Hoag

Glancy Prongay & Murray

Greene Espel

Hausfeld LLP

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Straight From The Well

Saturday, March 25, 2023

Happy Saturday! The stories below were covered in this week's daily editions of *Saved by The Well*. Was this email forwarded to you? Sign up for *The Well News* [here](#).

INTERNATIONAL

- • Given increased economic stress around the world, the official release of a new report by the **Wilson Center's Middle East Program** on female entrepreneurship in the MENA region may be that much more relevant. (Mar. 21)

IN THE NEWS

- • The **Metropolitan Police Department** is not aware of any protests planned in the district in the wake of former President Donald Trump's "announcement" he'll be arrested next week, but is continuing to monitor the situation, a spokesman told The Well News on Saturday afternoon. (Mar. 18)
- • **House Speaker Kevin McCarthy, R-Calif.**, said Sunday that he doesn't think people should protest if former President Donald Trump is arrested on charges brought by the Manhattan district attorney's office. (Mar. 20)
- • **President Joe Biden on Monday** issued his first veto since taking office, rejecting a bill that would have reversed a Labor Department rule that allowed fiduciary planners to consider environmental, social and governance factors when investing. (Mar. 20)
- • The chief executive of social media app and website **TikTok** endured five hours of withering accusations in Congress Thursday that his company acted as the alter ego of the Chinese government and failed to protect children from harmful video content. (Mar. 23)

- • Senators who introduced a bill requiring the **Supreme Court** to televise its hearing said it would help to ensure transparency and better public understanding of how the court operates. (Mar. 24)

OPINION

- • **Laura Kolton**, president of The Science Coalition, writes on why the 118th Congress must act on science to win the 21st century. (Mar. 21)
- • **Fiona McEntee**, managing attorney at McEntee Law, writes on necessary immigration changes for America to rank first in global talent. (Mar. 23)
- • **Barry Pearson**, senior vice president of Purchase College at the State University of New York, writes on moving beyond tourism in study abroad programs. (Mar. 24)

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**Electorate
Empowered**

• •

Students in Idaho are suing the state after Republican Gov. Brad Little signed a bill into law that removes student ID cards as an acceptable form of voter identification at polling places. (Mar. 19)

- **Florida election officials** have been slapped with a federal lawsuit challenging the state's 2005 "wet signature" requirement. (Mar. 19)
- A group of **Washington, D.C., voters** is suing to overturn a new local law giving noncitizen residents a right to vote. (Mar. 21)



- President Joe Biden and First Lady Dr. Jill Biden teamed up with Apple TV+'s "Ted Lasso" on Monday to highlight "the importance of addressing your **mental health** to promote overall well-being." (Mar. 20)
- Encouraged by positive topline results from its phase 3 trial for its new therapy for adults with schizophrenia, **Karuna Therapeutics** announced Monday that it is on track to submit KarXT to the Food and Drug Administration for approval by summer. (Mar. 20)
- A week after the House overwhelmingly voted to declassify any and all information related to the origin of COVID-19, **President Joe Biden** signed the measure into law, saying, "I share the Congress' goal of releasing as much

information as possible” about the virus. (Mar. 20)

- • The chief executive of **Moderna Inc.** defended his plan to quadruple the price of the COVID-19 vaccine during a Senate hearing Wednesday by saying his company is preparing for a sharp decline in demand. (Mar. 22)

WELL POWERED

- • TWN's Dan McCue previewed the annual **ARPA-E Energy Innovation Summit** and technology showcase held at the Gaylord National Convention Center in National Harbor, Maryland, this week. (Mar. 20)
- • Global food and agriculture giant **Cargill** has signed a 50 MW power purchase agreement with Apex Clean Energy to power operations in Illinois. (Mar. 20)
- • The **Department of Energy** will hold a public meeting via webinar on Thursday, April 27, 2023, related to a proposed a new energy conservation rule for battery chargers for consumer products. (Mar. 20)
- • The **White House** and **Dept. of Transportation** have opened applications for the first round of an eventual \$2.5 billion in funding to

ensure the creation of new electric vehicle and alternative fueling infrastructure throughout the United States. (Mar. 20)

- • President Joe Biden on Tuesday designated **two new national monuments** ahead of remarks at the White House Conservation in Action Summit being held at the headquarters of the U.S. Interior Department. (Mar. 21)
- • **Innovation** ruled the ARPA-E summit this week and according to Energy Secretary Jennifer Granholm, who moderated a session with a trio of entrepreneurs Wednesday morning, a number of factors make “investment in America just irresistible” right now. (Mar. 23)
- • **BHE Renewables**, owner of an array of solar, wind, geothermal and hydroelectric projects, knew there was a way to bring the old Kaiser Aluminum site back to life by creating good-paying and long-lasting 21st century jobs in the process. (Mar. 24)
- • **Dr. David Victor**, an expert on the relationship between technological change and political change at the University of California, San Diego’s School of Global Policy and Strategy, suggested, from experience, that as research leads to new technological breakthroughs, the public debate needle inevitably shifts. (Mar. 24)

CARTOONS OF THE WEEK

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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.

null

[The ____ will see you now: How the pandemic could change who treats you](#)

[Top 5 takeaways from POLITICO Pro's briefing on health care](#)

[Blue states are buying up abortion medication amid legal uncertainty](#)

[The abortion pill rulings are scaring the FDA and drugmakers. Here's why.](#)

[New York stockpiles abortion pills after FDA approval suspended](#)

[Appeals court keeps abortion pill on the market but sharply limits access](#)

[Sanders, Cassidy postpone drug pricing markup to get expert feedback](#)

[Future uncertain at generic drug lobby as cuts threaten its influence](#)

[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.

To view online [click here](#).

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This email was sent to samuel.bagenstos@hhs.gov by: POLITICO, LLC 1000 Wilson Blvd. Arlington, VA, 22209, USA

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Bagenstos, Samuel (HHS/OGC) /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group

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Sent Date: 2023/04/13 13:16:19

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To: Hayes, Kaye (HHS/OASH) /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=325e77483dc469dba2a7e975abb21f4-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>;
CC: 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 08:12:38

Priority: Normal

Type: Note

Good Morning

We are working with CDC to schedule a briefing for ADM Levine on the CDC vaccine/aluminum stud

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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Sent Date: 2022/09/26 08:12:53

Delivered Date: 2022/09/26 08:12:38

Message Flags: Unread Unsent

From: Boateng, Sarah (HHS/OASH) /o=EXCHANGELABS/ou=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=RECIPIENTS/cn=D83DED642AF84229A075D7E1F7B59A59-BOATENG, SA <Sarah.Boateng@hhs.gov>

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Balbus, John MD, MPH (OS/OASH/OCCHE) /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=e8ec6cdd4b094cdfb6d36d72aba61bc8-Balbus, Joh <John.Balbus@hhs.gov>

Brown, Michele (HHS/OASH) /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=2fd29a6d9f574b10a995205ab9ffc494-Brown, Mich <Michele.Brown@hhs.gov>;
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Carlson, Chris (HHS/OASH) /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=5c1e2923b0884ac0bd4a7c4c65eb0946-7cdf9525-1f <Chris.Carlson@hhs.gov>;
Gray, Oneika (HHS/OASH) /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=b7c446d71dac4354a8218c8e08bfd51-Gray, Oneik <Oneika.Gray@hhs.gov>;
Cure, Kelly (OS/OASH) (CTR) /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=565a5e448d8341ba9b12dda3befd0787-Cure, Kelly <Kelly.Cure@hhs.gov>

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Gray, Oneika (HHS/OASH) /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=b7c446d71dac4354a8218c8e08bfd51-Gray, Oneik <Oneika.Gray@hhs.gov>;
Cure, Kelly (OS/OASH) (CTR) /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=565a5e448d8341ba9b12dda3befd0787-Cure, Kelly <Kelly.Cure@hhs.gov>

Subject: Re: Save the date: Connecting Climate Change and Health Event - June 7, 2023

Date: 2023/05/10 11:45:41

Priority: Normal

Type: Note

Let's review at a scheduling meeting. They are going to invite her to speak so perhaps she can stay just that window of time. And then go to LcCC after or reverse

Get Outlook for iOS

From: Cure, Kelly (OS/OASH) (CTR) <Kelly.Cure@hhs.gov>

Sent: Wednesday, May 10, 2023 11:39 AM

To: Boateng, Sarah (HHS/OASH) <Sarah.Boateng@hhs.gov>; Oh, Kathy (OS/OASH) <Kathy.Oh@hhs.gov>; Balbus, John MD, MPH (OS/OASH/OCCHE) <John.Balbus@hhs.gov>

Cc: Brown, Michele (HHS/OASH) <Michele.Brown@hhs.gov>; Lee, Kinbo (HHS/OASH) <Kinbo.Lee@hhs.gov>; Carlson, Chris (HHS/OASH) <Chris.Carlson@hhs.gov>; Gray, Oneika (HHS/OASH) <Oneika.Gray@hhs.gov>; Cure, Kelly (OS/OASH) (CTR) <Kelly.Cure@hhs.gov>

Subject: Save the date: Connecting Climate Change and Health Event - June 7, 2023

FYSA - Please see invite below which conflicts with the Long COVID Coordinating Council from 11am-12pm on Wednesday, June 7th.

From: Bechara Choucair, MD, SVP & Chief Health Officer, Kaiser Permanente <ccchhub@splash.events>

Sent: Wednesday, May 10, 2023 11:09 AM

To: Cure, Kelly (OS/OASH) (CTR) <Kelly.Cure@hhs.gov>

Subject: Save the date: Connecting Climate Change and Health Event

Connecting Climate Change and Health



SAVE THE DATE!

Launch of Connecting Climate Change and Health Series

Dear Kelly,

I hope you can join us on Wednesday, June 7 as Kaiser Permanente and the World Economic Forum launch our Connecting Climate Change and Health series, where we will highlight critical topics such as air quality, extreme heat and weather, and the impacts on individual and community health, and health equity.

In this first event, we will be joined by special guests from prominent organizations who will discuss how national business leaders across different industries can prioritize health and health equity as part of climate action planning. We welcome your participation in these important discussions.

DATE

June 7, 2023

TIME

8-9:30 a.m. PDT / 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. EDT

LOCATION

Virtual

Live stream link will be provided upon registration.

In-person

Kaiser Permanente Center for Total Health
700 Second St. NE
Washington DC 20002

Please save the date. A formal invitation and registration for this event are coming soon.

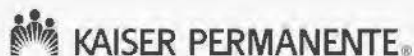
We hope to see you there!

Sincerely,

Bechara Choucair, MD

SVP & Chief Health Officer

Kaiser Permanente



[Unsubscribe](#)

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<Sarah.Boateng@hhs.gov>

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Carlson, Chris (HHS/OASH) /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=5c1e2923b0884ac0bd4a7c4c65eb0946-7cdf9525-1f <Chris.Carlson@hhs.gov>;
Gray, Oneika (HHS/OASH) /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=b7c446d71dac4354a8218c8e08bffd51-Gray, Oneik <Oneika.Gray@hhs.gov>;
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Recipient:

Sent Date: 2023/05/10 11:45:41

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From: Boateng, Sarah (HHS/OASH) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=D83DED642AF84229A075D7E1F7B59A59-BOATENG, SA>
To: Hayes, Kaye (HHS/OASH) /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=325e577483dc469dba2a7e975abb21f4-Hayes, Kaye <Kaye.Hayes@hhs.gov>
CC: Harrison, Timothy (HHS/OASH) /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=e6a36bc2a38c41f6929c69dc13a2615e-Harrison, T <Timothy.Harrison@hhs.gov>
Subject: RE: upcoming vaccine safety datalink research paper
Date: 2022/09/12 12:07:00
Priority: Normal
Type: Note

Thanks so much

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

Sender: Boateng, Sarah (HHS/OASH) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=D83DED642AF84229A075D7E1F7B59A59-BOATENG, SA>
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Recipient: Harrison, Timothy (HHS/OASH) /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=e6a36bc2a38c41f6929c69dc13a2615e-Harrison, T <Timothy.Harrison@hhs.gov>
Sent Date: 2022/09/12 12:07:12
Delivered Date: 2022/09/12 12:07:00

From: Boateng, Sarah (HHS/OASH) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=D83DED642AF84229A075D7E1F7B59A59-BOATENG, SA>
To: Sarvana, Adam (HHS/OASH) /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=cef02713edbb48e9a5d823ee64466ed9-Sarvana, Ad <Adam.Sarvana@hhs.gov>;
Cure, Kelly (OS/OASH) (CTR) /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=565a5e448d8341ba9b12dda3befd0787-Cure, Kelly <Kelly.Cure@hhs.gov>
Subject: RE: Net Zero Event -- social post approval
Date: 2022/06/02 13:31:00
Priority: Normal
Type: Note



From: Sarvana, Adam (HHS/OASH) <Adam.Sarvana@hhs.gov>
Sent: Thursday, June 2, 2022 1:32 PM
To: Boateng, Sarah (HHS/OASH) <Sarah.Boateng@hhs.gov>; Cure, Kelly (OS/OASH) (CTR) <Kelly.Cure@hhs.gov>
Subject: RE: Net Zero Event -- social post approval

Right – I sent this to Kelly for an OGC check.

From: Boateng, Sarah (HHS/OASH) <Sarah.Boateng@hhs.gov>
Sent: Thursday, June 2, 2022 1:29 PM
To: Sarvana, Adam (HHS/OASH) <Adam.Sarvana@hhs.gov>; Cure, Kelly (OS/OASH) (CTR) <Kelly.Cure@hhs.gov>
Subject: FW: Net Zero Event -- social post approval

I think we are waiting on final legal sign off on this one

From: Tara L Herberth <Tara.L.Herberth@kp.org>
Sent: Wednesday, June 1, 2022 8:15 PM
To: Sarvana, Adam (HHS/OASH) <Adam.Sarvana@hhs.gov>
Cc: Seema S Wadhwa <Seema.S.Wadhwa@kp.org>; Fisher, Megan (HHS/OASH) <Megan.Fisher@hhs.gov>; Mataka, Arsenio (HHS/OASH) <Arsenio.Mataka@hhs.gov>; Mccannon, Joseph (AHRQ/IOD) <Joseph.Mccannon@ahrq.hhs.gov>; Boateng, Sarah (HHS/OASH) <Sarah.Boateng@hhs.gov>; Balbus, John MD, MPH (OS/OASH/OCCHE) <John.Balbus@hhs.gov>; John M Vu <John.Vu@kp.org>; Robyn Rothman <Robyn.Rothman@mboothhealth.com>
Subject: RE: Net Zero Event -- social post approval

Hi Adam...as promised, attached for your review are the social posts we are proposing as a initial step in the LinkedIn setup / promotion.

We are working on the Q&A, run of show, other promotional materials, and logistics to send your way but wanted to get this in front of you so we could post ASAP once we get your approval.

Thank you so much! Tara

From: Bechara Choucair <Bechara.Choucair@kp.org>
Sent: Monday, May 30, 2022 1:00 PM
To: Sarvana, Adam (HHS/OASH) <Adam.Sarvana@hhs.gov>; Boateng, Sarah (HHS/OASH) <Sarah.Boateng@hhs.gov>; Levine, Rachel (HHS/OASH) <Rachel.Levine@hhs.gov>
Cc: Fisher, Megan (HHS/OASH) <Megan.Fisher@hhs.gov>; Mataka, Arsenio (HHS/OASH) <Arsenio.Mataka@hhs.gov>; John M Vu <John.Vu@kp.org>
Subject: RE: Net Zero Event

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) c: (b)(6)

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From: Sarvana, Adam (HHS/OASH) <Adam.Sarvana@hhs.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, May 18, 2022 6:30 AM
To: Boateng, Sarah (HHS/OASH) <Sarah.Boateng@hhs.gov>; Bechara Choucair <Bechara.Choucair@kp.org>

Cc: Fisher, Megan (HHS/OASH) <Megan.Fisher@hhs.gov>; Levine, Rachel (HHS/OASH) <Rachel.Levine@hhs.gov>; Mataka, Arsenio (HHS/OASH) <Arsenio.Mataka@hhs.gov>; Misty Rose Spencer <Misty-Rose.Spencer@kp.org>; John M Vu <John.Vu@kp.org>
Subject: RE: Net Zero Event

Caution: This email came from outside Kaiser Permanente. Do not open attachments or click on links if you do not recognize the sender.

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

Email: adam.sarvana@hhs.gov

Mobile: (b)(6)

Desk: (202) 795-7619

hhs.gov/ash



image005.png

From: Boateng, Sarah (HHS/OASH) <Sarah.Boateng@hhs.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, May 18, 2022 9:04 AM
To: Bechara.Choucair@kp.org
Cc: Fisher, Megan (HHS/OASH) <Megan.Fisher@hhs.gov>; Levine, Rachel (HHS/OASH) <Rachel.Levine@hhs.gov>; Mataka, Arsenio (HHS/OASH) <Arsenio.Mataka@hhs.gov>; Sarvana, Adam (HHS/OASH) <Adam.Sarvana@hhs.gov>; Misty-Rose.Spencer@kp.org; 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

Mobile: (b)(6)

Desk: (202) 401-7003



image006.jpg

From: Bechara Choucair <Bechara.Choucair@kp.org>

Sent: Tuesday, May 17, 2022 9:45 PM

To: Levine, Rachel (HHS/OASH) <Rachel.Levine@hhs.gov>

Cc: John M Vu <John.Vu@kp.org>; Misty Rose Spencer <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) c: (b)(6)

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Sender: Boateng, Sarah (HHS/OASH) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=D83DED642AF84229A075D7E1F7B59A59-BOATENG, SA>

Sarvana, Adam (HHS/OASH) /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=cef02713edbb48e9a5d823ee64466ed9-Sarvana, Ad <Adam.Sarvana@hhs.gov>;

Recipient: Cure, Kelly (OS/OASH) (CTR) /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=565a5e448d8341ba9b12dda3befd0787-Cure, Kelly <Kelly.Cure@hhs.gov>

Sent Date: 2022/06/02 13:31:54

Delivered Date: 2022/06/02 13:31:00

From:	Boateng, Sarah (HHS/OASH) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=D83DED642AF84229A075D7E1F7B59A59-BOATENG, SA>
	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
To:	(FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=2c7d2ccfd4bb4a74877eba68f09777ed-Kathy, Oh <Kathy.Oh@hhs.gov>; Balbus, John MD, MPH (OS/OASH/OCCHE) /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=e8ec6cdd4b094cdfb6d36d72aba61bc8-Balbus, Joh <John.Balbus@hhs.gov>
	Brown, Michele (HHS/OASH) /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=2fd29a6d9f574b10a995205ab9ffc494-Brown, Mich <Michele.Brown@hhs.gov>; Lee, Kinbo (HHS/OASH) /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=25da49a3105c470a9cd2be9b83c57458-Lee, Kinbo <Kinbo.Lee@hhs.gov>;
CC:	Carlson, Chris (HHS/OASH) /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=5c1e2923b0884ac0bd4a7c4c65eb0946-7cdf9525-1f <Chris.Carlson@hhs.gov>; Gray, Oneika (HHS/OASH) /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=b7c446d71dac4354a8218c8e08bff51-Gray, Oneik <Oneika.Gray@hhs.gov>
Subject:	RE: Save the date: Connecting Climate Change and Health Event - June 7, 2023
Date:	2023/05/10 14:16:00
Priority:	Normal
Type:	Note

It looks like an invite to attend - not speak, correct? See attached for more information. If no speaking role I suggest she stay with LCCC and perhaps an delegate from OCCHE can attend meeting. CAPT OH, John – thoughts?

Sarah

From: Cure, Kelly (OS/OASH) (CTR) <Kelly.Cure@hhs.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, May 10, 2023 11:39 AM
To: Boateng, Sarah (HHS/OASH) <Sarah.Boateng@hhs.gov>; Oh, Kathy (OS/OASH) <Kathy.Oh@hhs.gov>; Balbus, John MD, MPH (OS/OASH/OCCHE) <John.Balbus@hhs.gov>
Cc: Brown, Michele (HHS/OASH) <Michele.Brown@hhs.gov>; Lee, Kinbo (HHS/OASH) <Kinbo.Lee@hhs.gov>; Carlson, Chris (HHS/OASH) <Chris.Carlson@hhs.gov>; Gray, Oneika (HHS/OASH) <Oneika.Gray@hhs.gov>; Cure, Kelly (OS/OASH) (CTR) <Kelly.Cure@hhs.gov>
Subject: Save the date: Connecting Climate Change and Health Event - June 7, 2023

FYSA - Please see invite below which conflicts with the Long COVID Coordinating Council from 11am-12pm on Wednesday, June 7th.

From: Bechara Choucair, MD, SVP & Chief Health Officer, Kaiser Permanente <ccchhub@splash.events>

Sent: Wednesday, May 10, 2023 11:09 AM

To: Cure, Kelly (OS/OASH) (CTR) <Kelly.Cure@hhs.gov>

Subject: Save the date: Connecting Climate Change and Health Event

Connecting Climate Change and Health



SAVE THE DATE!

Launch of Connecting Climate Change and Health Series

Dear Kelly,

I hope you can join us on Wednesday, June 7 as Kaiser Permanente and the World Economic Forum launch our Connecting Climate Change and Health series, where we will highlight critical topics such as air quality, extreme heat and weather, and the impacts on individual and community health, and health equity.

In this first event, we will be joined by special guests from prominent organizations who will discuss how national business leaders across different industries can prioritize health and health equity as part of climate action planning. We welcome your participation in these important discussions.

DATE

June 7, 2023

TIME

8-9:30 a.m. PDT / 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. EDT

LOCATION

Virtual

Live stream link will be provided upon registration.

In-person

Kaiser Permanente Center for Total Health
700 Second St. NE
Washington DC 20002

Please save the date. A formal invitation and registration for this event are coming soon.

We hope to see you there!

Sincerely,

Bechara Choucair, MD

SVP & Chief Health Officer

Kaiser Permanente



[Unsubscribe](#)

Sender: Boateng, Sarah (HHS/OASH) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=D83DED642AF84229A075D7E1F7B59A59-BOATENG, SA>

Recipient: 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>;
Balbus, John MD, MPH (OS/OASH/OCCHE) /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=e8ec6cdd4b094cdfb6d36d72aba61bc8-Balbus, Joh <John.Balbus@hhs.gov>;
Brown, Michele (HHS/OASH) /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=2fd29a6d9f574b10a995205ab9ffc494-Brown, Mich <Michele.Brown@hhs.gov>;
Lee, Kinbo (HHS/OASH) /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=25da49a3105c470a9cd2be9b83c57458-Lee, Kinbo <Kinbo.Lee@hhs.gov>;
Carlson, Chris (HHS/OASH) /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=5c1e2923b0884ac0bd4a7c4c65eb0946-7cdf9525-1f <Chris.Carlson@hhs.gov>;
Gray, Oneika (HHS/OASH) /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=b7c446d71dac4354a8218c8e08bff51-Gray, Oneik <Oneika.Gray@hhs.gov>

Sent Date: 2023/05/10 14:16:26

Delivered Date: 2023/05/10 14:16:00

From: Levine, Rachel (HHS/OASH) /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=e691235ff2f3496e9b53eeb5f538b2f6-Levine, Rac <Rachel.Levine@hhs.gov>
Boateng, Sarah (HHS/OASH) /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=d83ded642af84229a075d7e1f7b59a59-Boateng, Sa <Sarah.Boateng@hhs.gov>;
Oh, Kathy (OS/OASH) /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=2c7d2ccfd4bb4a74877eba68f09777ed-Kathy, Oh <Kathy.Oh@hhs.gov>;
To: 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>;
Cure, Kelly (OS/OASH) (CTR) /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=565a5e448d8341ba9b12dda3befd0787-Cure, Kelly <Kelly.Cure@hhs.gov>

Subject: Fwd: Event Invite – Join KP & WEF on June 7 in DC

Date: 2023/05/10 07:26:31

Priority: Normal

Type: Note

Get Outlook for iOS

From: Bechara Choucair <Bechara.Choucair@kp.org>

Sent: Tuesday, May 9, 2023 4:18:48 PM

To: Levine, Rachel (HHS/OASH) <Rachel.Levine@hhs.gov>

Subject: Event Invite – Join KP & WEF on June 7 in DC

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
415 271 5736 (mobile)

Executive Assistant: Misty Rose Spencer (Misty-Rose.Spencer@kp.org) c: (b)(6)

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

Boateng, Sarah (HHS/OASH) /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=d83ded642af84229a075d7e1f7b59a59-Boateng, Sa <Sarah.Boateng@hhs.gov>;
Oh, Kathy (OS/OASH) /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=2c7d2ccfd4bb4a74877eba68f09777ed-Kathy, Oh <Kathy.Oh@hhs.gov>;
Recipient: 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>;
Cure, Kelly (OS/OASH) (CTR) /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=565a5e448d8341ba9b12dda3befd0787-Cure, Kelly <Kelly.Cure@hhs.gov>

Sent Date: 2023/05/10 07:26:29
Delivered Date: 2023/05/10 07:26:31

From: Boateng, Sarah (HHS/OASH) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=D83DED642AF84229A075D7E1F7B59A59-BOATENG, SA>
Berger, Sherri (CDC/OD/OCS) (b)(6)
Oh, Kathy (OS/OASH) /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=2c7d2ccfd4bb4a74877eba68f09777ed-Kathy, Oh
To: <Kathy.Oh@hhs.gov>;
Houry, Debra E. (CDC/DDNID/NCIPC/OD) /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=6f439d06047d440faea800cfc95c813c-debra.houry (b)(6)
Brown, Tiffany J. (CDC/OD/OCS) /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=70528855e0a3431692f006035b6bbf1-tiffany.bro (b)(6)
CC: Griffis, Kevin (CDC/OD/OADC) /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=35d08b2f61224c2882f54d8f70a94b36-kevin.griff (b)(6)
Subject: RE: Vaccine paper
Date: 2022/09/29 10:00:00
Priority: Normal
Type: Note

Super, thanks!

From: Berger, Sherri (CDC/OD/OCS) (b)(6)
Sent: Thursday, September 29, 2022 9:56 AM
To: Boateng, Sarah (HHS/OASH) <Sarah.Boateng@hhs.gov>; Oh, Kathy (OS/OASH) <Kathy.Oh@hhs.gov>; Houry, Debra E. (CDC/DDNID/NCIPC/OD) (b)(6)
Cc: Brown, Tiffany J. (CDC/OD/OCS) (b)(6) Griffis, Kevin (CDC/OD/OADC) (b)(6)
Subject: RE: Vaccine paper

Please see attached, thanks

From: Boateng, Sarah (HHS/OASH) <Sarah.Boateng@hhs.gov>
Sent: Thursday, September 29, 2022 9:38 AM
To: Berger, Sherri (CDC/OD/OCS) (b)(6) Oh, Kathy (OS/OASH) <Kathy.Oh@hhs.gov>; Houry, Debra E. (CDC/DDNID/NCIPC/OD) (b)(6)
Cc: Brown, Tiffany J. (CDC/OD/OCS) (b)(6) Griffis, Kevin (CDC/OD/OADC) (b)(6)
Subject: RE: Vaccine paper

Thanks Sherri. We will check with ADM Levine

From: Berger, Sherri (CDC/OD/OCS) (b)(6)
Sent: Wednesday, September 28, 2022 6:02 PM
To: Oh, Kathy (OS/OASH) <Kathy.Oh@hhs.gov>; Boateng, Sarah (HHS/OASH) <Sarah.Boateng@hhs.gov>; Houry, Debra E. (CDC/DDNID/NCIPC/OD) (b)(6)
Cc: Brown, Tiffany J. (CDC/OD/OCS) (b)(6) Griffis, Kevin (CDC/OD/OADC) (b)(6)
Subject: RE: Vaccine paper

Hi Kathy, the paper was released this week and the media stories have already run. A briefing may not be necessary? Happy to discuss. Thanks

From: Oh, Kathy (OS/OASH) <Kathy.Oh@hhs.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, September 28, 2022 4:40 PM
To: Boateng, Sarah (HHS/OASH) <Sarah.Boateng@hhs.gov>; Houry, Debra E. (CDC/DDNID/NCIPC/OD) (b)(6) Berger, Sherri (CDC/OD/OCS) (b)(6)
Cc: Brown, Tiffany J. (CDC/OD/OCS) (b)(6) Griffis, Kevin (CDC/OD/OADC) (b)(6)
Subject: RE: Vaccine paper

Thank you Sherri and Dr. Houry. Who should my team work with to get this briefing set up?

Thank you, Kathy

From: Boateng, Sarah (HHS/OASH) <Sarah.Boateng@hhs.gov>
Sent: Monday, September 26, 2022 8:12 AM
To: Houry, Debra E. (CDC/DDNID/NCIPC/OD) (b)(6) Berger, Sherri (CDC/OD/OCS) (b)(6) Oh, Kathy (OS/OASH) <Kathy.Oh@hhs.gov>
Cc: Brown, Tiffany J. (CDC/OD/OCS) (b)(6) Griffis, Kevin (CDC/OD/OADC) (b)(6)
Subject: RE: Vaccine paper

Thanks so much Dr. Houry

Sarah

From: Houry, Debra E. (CDC/DDNID/NCIPC/OD) (b)(6)
Sent: Sunday, September 25, 2022 9:03 PM
To: Berger, Sherri (CDC/OD/OCS) (b)(6) Boateng, Sarah (HHS/OASH) <Sarah.Boateng@hhs.gov>; Oh, Kathy (OS/OASH) <Kathy.Oh@hhs.gov>
Cc: Brown, Tiffany J. (CDC/OD/OCS) (b)(6) Griffis, Kevin (CDC/OD/OADC) (b)(6)
Subject: RE: Vaccine paper

Here are some draft TPs
We are working on Q&As for clinicians as well

Deb Houry, MD, MPH
Acting Principal Deputy Director
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

From: Berger, Sherri (CDC/OD/OCS) (b)(6)
Sent: Sunday, September 25, 2022 8:31 PM
To: Boateng, Sarah (HHS/OASH) <Sarah.Boateng@hhs.gov>; Oh, Kathy (OS/OASH) <Kathy.Oh@hhs.gov>; Houry, Debra E. (CDC/DDNID/NCIPC/OD) (b)(6)
Cc: Brown, Tiffany J. (CDC/OD/OCS) (b)(6) Griffis, Kevin (CDC/OD/OADC) (b)(6)
Subject: RE: Vaccine paper

Thanks adding @Houry, Debra E. (CDC/DDNID/NCIPC/OD) who can share some info in writing sooner

From: Boateng, Sarah (HHS/OASH) <Sarah.Boateng@hhs.gov>
Sent: Sunday, September 25, 2022 7:26 PM
To: Berger, Sherri (CDC/OD/OCS) (b)(6) Oh, Kathy (OS/OASH) <Kathy.Oh@hhs.gov>
Cc: Brown, Tiffany J. (CDC/OD/OCS) (b)(6) Griffis, Kevin (CDC/OD/OADC) (b)(6)
Subject: RE: Vaccine paper

+ @Oh, Kathy (OS/OASH)

Re: Aluminum. Yes, please.

From: Berger, Sherri (CDC/OD/OCS) (b)(6)
Sent: Wednesday, September 21, 2022 11:25 AM
To: Boateng, Sarah (HHS/OASH) <Sarah.Boateng@hhs.gov>
Cc: Brown, Tiffany J. (CDC/OD/OCS) (b)(6) Griffis, Kevin (CDC/OD/OADC) (b)(6)
Subject: Vaccine paper

Hi, there's a paper coming out soon on vaccine safety and we heard the ASH would like a briefing. Is this accurate? Thanks

Sherri A. Berger, MSPH
Chief of Staff
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
(b)(6)
(b)(6) cell
404.639.7846 desk

Sender: Boateng, Sarah (HHS/OASH) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=D83DED642AF84229A075D7E1F7B59A59-BOATENG, SA>
Berger, Sherri (CDC/OD/OCS) (b)(6)
Oh, Kathy (OS/OASH) /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=2c7d2ccfd4bb4a74877eba68f09777ed-Kathy, Oh <Kathy.Oh@hhs.gov>;
Houry, Debra E. (CDC/DDNID/NCIPC/OD) /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=6f439d06047d440faea800cfc95c813c-debra.houry

Recipient: (b)(6)
Brown, Tiffany J. (CDC/OD/OCS) /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=70528855e0a3431692f006035b6bbbf1-tiffany.bro (b)(6)
Griffis, Kevin (CDC/OD/OADC) /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=35d08b2f61224c2882f54d8f70a94b36-kevin.griff (b)(6)

Sent Date: 2022/09/29 10:00:55
Delivered Date: 2022/09/29 10:00:00

From: Cure, Kelly (OS/OASH) (CTR) /O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=565A5E448D8341BA9B12DDA3BEFD0787-CURE, KELLY <Kelly.Cure@hhs.gov>

To: Danley, Sarah (HHS/OGC) /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=8636de34c8bb4cbebaacb9e14e03065a-Danley, Sar <Sarah.Danley@hhs.gov>

Boateng, Sarah (HHS/OASH) /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=d83ded642af84229a075d7e1f7b59a59-Boateng, Sa <Sarah.Boateng@hhs.gov>;

Cure, Kelly (OS/OASH) (CTR) /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=565a5e448d8341ba9b12dda3befd0787-Cure, Kelly <Kelly.Cure@hhs.gov>;

CC: Ralls, Timothy (OS/OGC) /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=33930496de8540a8a4c9238839802b54-Ralls, Timo <Timothy.Ralls@hhs.gov>;

Frankel, Rachel (HHS/OGC) /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=f0e4b7dbeca14f9d907030a0884b2efe-Frankel, Ra <Rachel.Frankel@hhs.gov>;

Gray, Oneika (HHS/OASH) /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=b7c446d71dac4354a8218c8e08bfd51-Gray, Oneik <Oneika.Gray@hhs.gov>

Subject: FOR REVIEW: ADM Levine's West Coast Trip

Date: 2022/06/02 11:19:49

Priority: Normal

Type: Note

Hi Sarah,

Please see enclosed for your review, ADM Levine's travel itinerary and briefing memos for her West Coast trip. There will be a few more today. Hotel reservations are in the process of being secured.

Could you please pay special attention to the enclosed email titled "Net Zero Event...". Not sure if you need to review the social post regarding this event. The organizers are providing for review before posting.

Thank you,
Kelly

Kelly Cure

Executive Assistant to ADM Rachel Levine
Assistant Secretary for Health
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health

Email: kelly.cure@hhs.gov
Office: (202) 690-7694
hhs.gov/ash

Sender: Cure, Kelly (OS/OASH) (CTR) /O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=565A5E448D8341BA9B12DDA3BEFD0787-CURE, KELLY <Kelly.Cure@hhs.gov>

Recipient: Danley, Sarah (HHS/OGC) /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=8636de34c8bb4cbebaacb9e14e03065a-Danley, Sar <Sarah.Danley@hhs.gov>;
Boateng, Sarah (HHS/OASH) /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=d83ded642af84229a075d7e1f7b59a59-Boateng, Sa <Sarah.Boateng@hhs.gov>;
Cure, Kelly (OS/OASH) (CTR) /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=565a5e448d8341ba9b12dda3befd0787-Cure, Kelly <Kelly.Cure@hhs.gov>;
Ralls, Timothy (OS/OGC) /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=33930496de8540a8a4c9238839802b54-Ralls, Timo <Timothy.Ralls@hhs.gov>;
Frankel, Rachel (HHS/OGC) /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=f0e4b7dbeca14f9d907030a0884b2efe-Frankel, Ra <Rachel.Frankel@hhs.gov>;
Gray, Oneika (HHS/OASH) /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=b7c446d71dac4354a8218c8e08bffd51-Gray, Oneik <Oneika.Gray@hhs.gov>

Sent Date: 2022/06/02 11:19:02
Delivered Date: 2022/06/02 11:19:49

From: Sarvana, Adam (HHS/OASH) /O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=CEF02713EDBB48E9A5D823EE64466ED9-SARVANA, AD <Adam.Sarvana@hhs.gov>

To: Cure, Kelly (OS/OASH) (CTR) /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=565a5e448d8341ba9b12dda3befd0787-Cure, Kelly <Kelly.Cure@hhs.gov>;
Fisher, Megan (HHS/OASH) /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=ac4a8e3790f240e189f97ec0830ac093-Fisher, Meg <Megan.Fisher@hhs.gov>;
Gray, Oneika (HHS/OASH) /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=b7c446d71dac4354a8218c8e08bffd51-Gray, Oneik <Oneika.Gray@hhs.gov>

Subject: FW: Net Zero Event -- social post approval
Date: 2022/06/02 10:53:56
Priority: Normal
Type: Note

Does this need to go separately through OGC? This language seems fine to me.

From: Tara L Herberth <Tara.L.Herberth@kp.org>
Sent: Wednesday, June 1, 2022 8:15 PM
To: Sarvana, Adam (HHS/OASH) <Adam.Sarvana@hhs.gov>
Cc: Seema S Wadhwa <Seema.S.Wadhwa@kp.org>; Fisher, Megan (HHS/OASH) <Megan.Fisher@hhs.gov>; Mataka, Arsenio (HHS/OASH) <Arsenio.Mataka@hhs.gov>; Mccannon, Joseph (AHRQ/IOD) <Joseph.Mccannon@ahrq.hhs.gov>; Boateng, Sarah (HHS/OASH) <Sarah.Boateng@hhs.gov>; Balbus, John MD, MPH (OS/OASH/OCCHE) <John.Balbus@hhs.gov>; John M Vu <John.Vu@kp.org>; Robyn Rothman <Robyn.Rothman@mboothhealth.com>
Subject: RE: Net Zero Event -- social post approval

Hi Adam...as promised, attached for your review are the social posts we are proposing as a initial step in the LinkedIn setup / promotion.

We are working on the Q&A, run of show, other promotional materials, and logistics to send your way but wanted to get this in front of you so we could post ASAP once we get your approval.

Thank you so much! Tara

From: Bechara Choucair <Bechara.Choucair@kp.org>
Sent: Monday, May 30, 2022 1:00 PM
To: Sarvana, Adam (HHS/OASH) <Adam.Sarvana@hhs.gov>; Boateng, Sarah (HHS/OASH) <Sarah.Boateng@hhs.gov>; Levine, Rachel (HHS/OASH) <Rachel.Levine@hhs.gov>
Cc: Fisher, Megan (HHS/OASH) <Megan.Fisher@hhs.gov>; Mataka, Arsenio (HHS/OASH) <Arsenio.Mataka@hhs.gov>; John M Vu <John.Vu@kp.org>
Subject: RE: Net Zero Event

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) c: 510 460 8260

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From: Sarvana, Adam (HHS/OASH) <Adam.Sarvana@hhs.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, May 18, 2022 6:30 AM
To: Boateng, Sarah (HHS/OASH) <Sarah.Boateng@hhs.gov>; Bechara Choucair <Bechara.Choucair@kp.org>
Cc: Fisher, Megan (HHS/OASH) <Megan.Fisher@hhs.gov>; Levine, Rachel (HHS/OASH) <Rachel.Levine@hhs.gov>; Mataka, Arsenio (HHS/OASH) <Arsenio.Mataka@hhs.gov>; Misty Rose Spencer <Misty-Rose.Spencer@kp.org>; John M Vu <John.Vu@kp.org>
Subject: RE: Net Zero Event

Caution: This email came from outside Kaiser Permanente. Do not open attachments or click on links if you do not recognize the sender.

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

Email: adam.sarvana@hhs.gov

Mobile: (b)(6)

Desk: (202) 795-7619

hhs.gov/ash



image005.png

From: Boateng, Sarah (HHS/OASH) <Sarah.Boateng@hhs.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, May 18, 2022 9:04 AM
To: Bechara.Choucair@kp.org
Cc: Fisher, Megan (HHS/OASH) <Megan.Fisher@hhs.gov>; Levine, Rachel (HHS/OASH)

<Rachel.Levine@hhs.gov>; Mataka, Arsenio (HHS/OASH) <Arsenio.Mataka@hhs.gov>; Sarvana, Adam (HHS/OASH) <Adam.Sarvana@hhs.gov>; Misty-Rose.Spencer@kp.org; 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

Mobile: (b)(6)

Desk: (202) 401-7003



image006.jpg

From: Bechara Choucair <Bechara.Choucair@kp.org>
Sent: Tuesday, May 17, 2022 9:45 PM
To: Levine, Rachel (HHS/OASH) <Rachel.Levine@hhs.gov>
Cc: John M Vu <John.Vu@kp.org>; Misty Rose Spencer <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) c: (b)(6)

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Sender: Sarvana, Adam (HHS/OASH) /O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=CEF02713EDBB48E9A5D823EE64466ED9-SARVANA, AD <Adam.Sarvana@hhs.gov>

Recipient: Cure, Kelly (OS/OASH) (CTR) /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=565a5e448d8341ba9b12dda3befd0787-Cure, Kelly <Kelly.Cure@hhs.gov>; Fisher, Megan (HHS/OASH) /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=ac4a8e3790f240e189f97ec0830ac093-Fisher, Meg <Megan.Fisher@hhs.gov>; Gray, Oneika (HHS/OASH) /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=b7c446d71dac4354a8218c8e08bfd51-Gray, Oneik <Oneika.Gray@hhs.gov>

Sent Date: 2022/06/02 10:51:27

Delivered Date: 2022/06/02 10:53:56

From: Buchholz, Joey (Reuters) <Joanna.Buchholz@thomsonreuters.com>
To: Cure, Kelly (OS/OASH) (CTR) /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=565a5e448d8341ba9b12dda3befd0787-Cure, Kelly <Kelly.Cure@hhs.gov>
Broido, Tara (HHS/OASH) /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=2c3cd5c5afe049b6a8b48c25324c7465-Broido, Tara <Tara.Broido@hhs.gov>; Fisher, Megan (HHS/OASH) /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=ac4a8e3790f240e189f97ec0830ac093-Fisher, Meg <Megan.Fisher@hhs.gov>; Lee, Kinbo (HHS/OASH) /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=25da49a3105c470a9cd2be9b83c57458-Lee, Kinbo <Kinbo.Lee@hhs.gov>; Gray, Oneika (HHS/OASH) /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=b7c446d71dac4354a8218c8e08bfd51-Gray, Oneik <Oneika.Gray@hhs.gov>; Boateng, Sarah (HHS/OASH) /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=d83ded642af84229a075d7e1f7b59a59-Boateng, Sa <Sarah.Boateng@hhs.gov>
CC:
Subject: RE: Total Health 2022
Date: 2022/07/25 11:51:48
Priority: Normal
Type: Note

Hi Kelly,

I hope you are well.

As a speaker at Total Health, Admiral Levine is entitled to **10 complimentary passes for colleagues to attend** (usually \$2499 per pass) but colleagues must register before **August 12th** in order to secure complimentary access.

To help share the opportunity with relevant colleagues, I have attached an email containing a brief summary of the event and registration info that can be shared via newsletters, internal social networks, as well as via email to specific teams.

Events are always best enjoyed with others and with multiple tracks and networking activities we certainly encourage that each organization sends a sizeable delegation.

The link again to register free (saving \$2499) is here: <https://bit.ly/3nQ52kb>.

We are also hosting an Employer Health Strategy track at Total Health, dedicated to senior HR leaders to discuss employee management and wellbeing. With care provider burnout a key challenge, and employers playing a large part in aiding access to health care with health plans, I thought this track would also be of interest to Admiral Levine's colleagues. **Who would be best to speak to regarding an invitation to Total Health or are you able to share the event with them as well? I'd also love to reach out to representatives of the Dept. of Labor and OPM, I don't suppose you're able to connect me with relevant teams?**

I have a brochure specifically for the employer track which I am happy to send across. Of course, if inviting colleagues from your teams as well as others, I am more than happy to increase the limit of 10 passes! I have attached a separate email draft relevant to the Employer Track for your convenience.

Any questions, please feel free to reach out.

Have a great week!

Joey

Joey Buchholz
Global Project Director
Healthcare
Reuters Events

Telephone: +44 20 3197 8222

Joanna.Buchholz@thomsonreuters.com

<https://events.reutersevents.com/healthcare/total-health-usa>



From: Cure, Kelly (OS/OASH) (CTR) <Kelly.Cure@hhs.gov>

Sent: 11 July 2022 19:18

To: Buchholz, Joey (Reuters) <Joanna.Buchholz@thomsonreuters.com>

Cc: Broido, Tara (HHS/OASH) <Tara.Broido@hhs.gov>; Fisher, Megan (HHS/OASH) <Megan.Fisher@hhs.gov>; Lee, Kinbo (HHS/OASH) <Kinbo.Lee@hhs.gov>; Gray, Oneika (HHS/OASH) <Oneika.Gray@hhs.gov>; Boateng, Sarah (HHS/OASH) <Sarah.Boateng@hhs.gov>; Cure, Kelly (OS/OASH) (CTR) <Kelly.Cure@hhs.gov>

Subject: [EXT] RE: Total Health 2022

External Email: Use caution with links and attachments.

Good afternoon Joey,

Thank you for this very helpful information. We look forward to working with you to make this event a success!

All my best,
Kelly

Kelly Cure

Executive Assistant to ADM Rachel Levine
Assistant Secretary for Health
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health

Email: kelly.cure@hhs.gov

Office: (202) 690-7694

hhs.gov/ash



From: Buchholz, Joey (Reuters) <Joanna.Buchholz@thomsonreuters.com>

Sent: Monday, July 11, 2022 6:04 AM

To: Cure, Kelly (OS/OASH) (CTR) <Kelly.Cure@hhs.gov>

Cc: Broido, Tara (HHS/OASH) <Tara.Broido@hhs.gov>; Fisher, Megan (HHS/OASH) <Megan.Fisher@hhs.gov>; Lee, Kinbo (HHS/OASH) <Kinbo.Lee@hhs.gov>; Gray, Oneika (HHS/OASH) <Oneika.Gray@hhs.gov>; Boateng, Sarah (HHS/OASH) <Sarah.Boateng@hhs.gov>

Subject: RE: Total Health 2022

Hi Kelly,

Here is the key information for Admiral Levine's moderating role at **Reuters Events: Total Health** (Chicago, October 20-21) so you have all key pieces of information in one place.

The email contains important information so please read carefully.

***Please confirm receipt of this email.**

Admiral Levine's panel

-
Theme

-
We currently have Rachel set to be a moderator on the topic outlines below:

Whole health and integration of Behavioral Healthcare

- From social workers to psychiatrists, discover how situating staff within primary care settings and promoting behavioral-medical integrated care will improve the care continuum and operational excellence, alleviate pressure, and reduce the care provider exhaustion.
- Recognize what could be missing in your care provision for substance misuse or suicide prevention. Gain insights into how collaborating with referral services could further alleviate strain on staff, improve services provided and reduce the financial burden on the healthcare system.
- Explore how data can be unified and made accessible to all, identifying the close relation between behavioral health and other chronic illnesses and reveal the bigger picture to remove the silo, and improve operational efficiency.

Confirmed Panellists

- Dr. Don Mordecai, National Leader for Mental Health and Wellness, **Kaiser Permanente**
- Manish Sapra, Executive Director, Behavioral Health Service Line, **Northwell Health**
- Dr. Eric Paul, President of Behavioral Health, **HCA Healthcare**

- • Sponsor panellist: **Calm**
- • Moderator: Admiral Rachel Levine, Assistant Secretary, **US Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)**

Format

- • In preparation, please find attached a copy of the 'speaker guidelines' – Rachel will not be expected to prepare notes or talking points as a moderator. After our panel prep call closer to the time, I will create a 'Chair Document' with all the suggested questions for Rachel to ask on the day.
- • 40 minute panel with time for Q&A with the audience

Timing and logistics

** Please note that timings are provisional at this stage and subject to change, so please use this as a guide*

- • **Time (CT)** 12.50 PM
- • **Date** – October 21
- • **Location** – Marriott Marquis Chicago

So you are aware of timelines and what to expect from us and when - please see an outline of information you can expect to receive in the buildup to October 20-21 to help with your preparation:

w/c July 25th

- Information on hotel bookings (and how to access the discounted rates we have negotiated)
- Free colleague pass reminder and instructions on how to access

w/c August 29th

- Dedicated Total Health social media promotion this week – reminder on banner, copy, links etc.

w/c September 5th:

- (Panelists only) – Information on panel prep call

w/c September 12th:

- (Presenters only) Reminder of your slide deck deadline of October 6th

w/c September 19th

- Your official Total Health ticket and final reminder on hotels and free colleague passes

w/c October 3rd

- Your final speaker checklist and what to bear in mind ahead of the event!

Promotion of your involvement (the earlier the better!)

Now is a great time to let colleagues and industry counterparts know about your participating in the event. To help, please find a media pack attached, containing:

- • **Banners for social media** –
 - • This banner attached will be what we also use for marketing purposes, please do let me know if you require different sizes for marketing at your end, or if you would like it to be changed.
- • **Social posts**

- • For Rachel's and the Dept of HHS' social media accounts – feel free to craft your own, these are just an idea. If you do post about your role at Total Health, please tag us #TotalHealth, so we can amplify your post to maximize expose
- • **Email communications**
 - • Other speakers have shared via newsletters, internal social networks, as well as via a simple email to specific teams – attached are two examples (one for Rachel to send and one to be shared within the US Dept of HHS' internal network)

Big thanks again for being involved – it's great to have Rachel with us for what is shaping up to be a fantastic event.

Please see the latest on the event here: <https://events.reutersevents.com/healthcare/total-health-usa>

Best,

Joey Buchholz
Global Project Director
Healthcare
Reuters Events

Telephone: +44 20 3197 8222
Joanna.Buchholz@thomsonreuters.com
<https://events.reutersevents.com/healthcare/total-health-usa>



From: Cure, Kelly (OS/OASH) (CTR) <Kelly.Cure@hhs.gov>
Sent: 01 April 2022 21:51
To: Buchholz, Joey (Reuters) <Joanna.Buchholz@thomsonreuters.com>
Cc: Broido, Tara (HHS/OASH) <Tara.Broido@hhs.gov>; Fisher, Megan (HHS/OASH) <Megan.Fisher@hhs.gov>; Lee, Kinbo (HHS/OASH) <Kinbo.Lee@hhs.gov>; Gray, Oneika (HHS/OASH) <Oneika.Gray@hhs.gov>; Cure, Kelly (OS/OASH) (CTR) <Kelly.Cure@hhs.gov>; Boateng, Sarah (HHS/OASH) <Sarah.Boateng@hhs.gov>
Subject: [EXT] RE: Total Health 2022

External Email: Use caution with links and attachments.

Good afternoon Joey,

After reviewing ADM Levine's schedule, I'm pleased to confirm her availability on Friday, October 21st. Could you please confirm the timing of her session?

As we get closer to the date, Ms. Tara Broido from OASH Communications, will follow up with you to set up a logistics call to further discuss ADM Levine's participation. Kindly forward any print material referencing ADM Levine to tara.broido@hhs.gov for clearance before it is made public.

We look forward to working with you.

All my best,
Kelly

Kelly Cure

Executive Assistant to ADM Rachel Levine
Assistant Secretary for Health
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health

Email: kelly.cure@hhs.gov
Office: (202) 690-7694
hhs.gov/ash



From: Buchholz, Joey (Reuters) <Joanna.Buchholz@thomsonreuters.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 29, 2022 10:49 AM
To: Gray, Oneika (HHS/OASH) <Oneika.Gray@hhs.gov>
Cc: Broido, Tara (HHS/OASH) <Tara.Broido@hhs.gov>; Cure, Kelly (OS/OASH) (CTR) <Kelly.Cure@hhs.gov>; Fisher, Megan (HHS/OASH) <Megan.Fisher@hhs.gov>; Lee, Kinbo (HHS/OASH) <Kinbo.Lee@hhs.gov>
Subject: RE: Total Health 2022

Hi Oneika,

I hope you are well and have enjoyed your weekend. I have an important update on the schedule of Total Health. It was previously communicated that the dates are October 19-20, but the dates are in fact **October 20-21**. We have just been informed by the venue that they had made an error in the original scheduling, hence the change and wanted to updated you ASAP.

In light of the venue amendments, we have been reviewing our agenda and the relevant audiences. We now have a track dedicated to interoperability and integration in healthcare which will have an audience with both Behavioral Health specialists, as well as senior decision makers who specifically work to transform healthcare delivery. These audience members are from all payers, providers, pharmaceutical companies, solution providers, policy makers and more, so we feel that the panel 'Whole Health and Integration of Behavioral Healthcare' would be best suited to this track.

Could you kindly confirm that this track session, which will be held on **October 21st**, works for Admiral Levine's schedule?

Sincerely, apologies again for any inconvenience caused. We are very reluctant to move dates but on this occasion have wanted to move to avoid the Yom Kippur Holiday and have had an unfortunate technical issue with the venue.

Thanks,

Joey

Joanna Buchholz
Global Project Director
Healthcare
Reuters Events

Telephone: +44 20 3197 8222
Joanna.Buchholz@thomsonreuters.com

From: Gray, Oneika (HHS/OASH) <Oneika.Gray@hhs.gov>
Sent: 16 March 2022 21:19
To: Buchholz, Joey (Reuters) <Joanna.Buchholz@thomsonreuters.com>
Cc: Broido, Tara (HHS/OASH) <Tara.Broido@hhs.gov>; Cure, Kelly (OS/OASH) (CTR) <Kelly.Cure@hhs.gov>; Fisher, Megan (HHS/OASH) <Megan.Fisher@hhs.gov>; Lee, Kinbo (HHS/OASH) <Kinbo.Lee@hhs.gov>; Gray, Oneika (HHS/OASH) <Oneika.Gray@hhs.gov>
Subject: [EXT] Total Health 2022

External Email: Use caution with links and attachments.

Dear Joey,

Admiral Rachel Levine, Assistant Secretary for Health is pleased to accept your invitation to participate as a *Moderator at **Total Health 2022*** scheduled for **Wednesday, October 19th in Chicago, IL**

Our Scheduling Team will follow up to set up a logistics call with to further discuss ADM Levine's participation.

Tara Broido from OASH Communications, along with Megan Fisher, Kelly Cure ,Oneika Gray and LCDR Kinbo Lee from the Immediate Office here in OASH will be your POCs for this event.

Kindly forward any print material referencing ADM Levine to tara.broido@hhs.gov for clearance before it is made public.

An official photo and brief biography for ADM Levine are attached. If we can be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Best,
Oneika

Oneika Gray (*She/Her*)
Executive Assistant
Immediate Office

Email: oneika.gray@gmail.com
Desk: 202-690-7694
www.hhs.gov/ash



Teamwork makes the TEAM WORK!

Sender: Buchholz, Joey (Reuters) <Joanna.Buchholz@thomsonreuters.com>
Cure, Kelly (OS/OASH) (CTR) /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=565a5e448d8341ba9b12dda3befd0787-Cure, Kelly <Kelly.Cure@hhs.gov>;
Broido, Tara (HHS/OASH) /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=2c3cd5c5afe049b6a8b48c25324c7465-Broido, Tara <Tara.Broido@hhs.gov>;
Fisher, Megan (HHS/OASH) /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=ac4a8e3790f240e189f97ec0830ac093-Fisher, Meg <Megan.Fisher@hhs.gov>;

Recipient: Lee, Kinbo (HHS/OASH) /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=25da49a3105c470a9cd2be9b83c57458-Lee, Kinbo <Kinbo.Lee@hhs.gov>;
Gray, Oneika (HHS/OASH) /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=b7c446d71dac4354a8218c8e08bffd51-Gray, Oneik <Oneika.Gray@hhs.gov>;
Boateng, Sarah (HHS/OASH) /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=d83ded642af84229a075d7e1f7b59a59-Boateng, Sa <Sarah.Boateng@hhs.gov>

Sent Date: 2022/07/25 11:51:27
Delivered Date: 2022/07/25 11:51:48
Subject: Exclusive offer to attend Reuters Events: Total Health 2022
Type: Note

Hi,

I'm delighted to announce that Reuters have kindly offered up to 10 colleagues the opportunity to attend their flagship healthcare conference, Total Health free of charge (passes are usually \$2499).

If you'd like to register for free you can [register here](#) before August 12th.

To give you a brief overview, the event combines interactive roundtables, keynotes and networking activities around themes such as Health Data, Remote Health, Health Security, Behavioral Health and Medical Innovation, and features leading speakers such as:

- **Brian Thompson, UnitedHealthcare CEO**
- **Eugene Woods, Atrium Health President & CEO**
- **Dr. Susan Turney, Marshfield Clinic President & CEO**
- **Dr. Jaewon Ryu, Geisinger Health System President & CEO**
- **Joanne Conroy, Dartmouth Health President & CEO**
- **Dr. Ralph De La Torre, Steward Health Care System CEO**
- **Kim Keck, Blue Cross Blue Shield Association President & CEO**
- **Jim Skogsbergh, Advocate Aurora Health President & CEO**

There are only **10 complimentary passes** available and you must **RSVP by August 12th**. If you'd like to accept the pass, please confirm ASAP.

For further information on the event, please see the website here:
<https://events.reutersevents.com/healthcare/total-health-usa>

Thanks,

Subject: Exclusive Invite to attend Employer Health Strategy at Total Health 2022
Type: Note

Hi,

I'm delighted to announce that Reuters have kindly offered up to 10 colleagues the opportunity to attend their flagship healthcare conference, Total Health free of charge (passes are usually \$2499) where they will be running an Employer Health Strategy track, dedicated to senior HR leaders and Health Plans to discuss the future of employee management, health and wellbeing.

If you'd like to register for free you can [register here](#) before August 12th.

To give you a brief overview, the event combines interactive roundtables, keynotes and networking activities around themes such as Change Management, Mindful Business Practices, Workforce Analytics and Behavioral Economics, Staff Burnout, Talent Retention, and more. The track features leading speakers from leading global firms, and 'Fortune's Best Companies to Work For', such as:

- • Cori Davis, SVP & Chief People Officer, **Genentech**
- • Holly May, EVP & Global Chief Human Resources Officer, **Walgreens Boots Alliance**
- • Ted Kezios, VP of Global Benefits, **Cisco**
- • Chris Brunson, VP Total Rewards, **General Mills**
- • Christy Sinnott, SVP Talent Management, **Hyatt Hotels**
- • Renee Wiggins, Head of Global Benefits and Wellbeing, **Thomson Reuters**

There are only **10 complimentary passes** available and you must **RSVP by August 12th**. If you'd like to accept the pass, please confirm ASAP.

For further information on the event, please see the website here:
<https://events.reutersevents.com/healthcare/total-health-usa>

Thanks,

From: Cure, Kelly (OS/OASH) (CTR) /O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=565A5E448D8341BA9B12DDA3BEFD0787-CURE, KELLY <Kelly.Cure@hhs.gov>

Boateng, Sarah (HHS/OASH) /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=d83ded642af84229a075d7e1f7b59a59-Boateng, Sa <Sarah.Boateng@hhs.gov>;

To: Oh, Kathy (OS/OASH) /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=2c7d2ccfd4bb4a74877eba68f09777ed-Kathy, Oh <Kathy.Oh@hhs.gov>;
Balbus, John MD, MPH (OS/OASH/OCCHE) /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=e8ec6cdd4b094cdfb6d36d72aba61bc8-Balbus, Joh <John.Balbus@hhs.gov>

Brown, Michele (HHS/OASH) /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=2fd29a6d9f574b10a995205ab9ffc494-Brown, Mich <Michele.Brown@hhs.gov>;

CC: Lee, Kinbo (HHS/OASH) /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=25da49a3105c470a9cd2be9b83c57458-Lee, Kinbo <Kinbo.Lee@hhs.gov>;
Carlson, Chris (HHS/OASH) /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=5c1e2923b0884ac0bd4a7c4c65eb0946-7cdf9525-1f <Chris.Carlson@hhs.gov>;
Gray, Oneika (HHS/OASH) /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=b7c446d71dac4354a8218c8e08bf51-Gray, Oneik <Oneika.Gray@hhs.gov>

Subject: RE: Save the date: Connecting Climate Change and Health Event - June 7, 2023

Date: 2023/05/10 14:17:52

Priority: Normal

Type: Note

Correct – invite is to attend only.

Kelly

From: Boateng, Sarah (HHS/OASH) <Sarah.Boateng@hhs.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, May 10, 2023 2:16 PM
To: Cure, Kelly (OS/OASH) (CTR) <Kelly.Cure@hhs.gov>; Oh, Kathy (OS/OASH) <Kathy.Oh@hhs.gov>; Balbus, John MD, MPH (OS/OASH/OCCHE) <John.Balbus@hhs.gov>
Cc: Brown, Michele (HHS/OASH) <Michele.Brown@hhs.gov>; Lee, Kinbo (HHS/OASH) <Kinbo.Lee@hhs.gov>; Carlson, Chris (HHS/OASH) <Chris.Carlson@hhs.gov>; Gray, Oneika (HHS/OASH) <Oneika.Gray@hhs.gov>
Subject: RE: Save the date: Connecting Climate Change and Health Event - June 7, 2023

It looks like an invite to attend - not speak, correct? See attached for more information. If no speaking role I suggest she stay with LCCC and perhaps an delegate from OCCHE can attend meeting. CAPT OH, John – thoughts?

Sarah

From: Cure, Kelly (OS/OASH) (CTR) <Kelly.Cure@hhs.gov>

Sent: Wednesday, May 10, 2023 11:39 AM

To: Boateng, Sarah (HHS/OASH) <Sarah.Boateng@hhs.gov>; Oh, Kathy (OS/OASH) <Kathy.Oh@hhs.gov>; Balbus, John MD, MPH (OS/OASH/OCCHE) <John.Balbus@hhs.gov>

Cc: Brown, Michele (HHS/OASH) <Michele.Brown@hhs.gov>; Lee, Kinbo (HHS/OASH) <Kinbo.Lee@hhs.gov>; Carlson, Chris (HHS/OASH) <Chris.Carlson@hhs.gov>; Gray, Oneika (HHS/OASH) <Oneika.Gray@hhs.gov>; Cure, Kelly (OS/OASH) (CTR) <Kelly.Cure@hhs.gov>

Subject: Save the date: Connecting Climate Change and Health Event - June 7, 2023


FYSA - Please see invite below which conflicts with the Long COVID Coordinating Council from 11am-12pm on Wednesday, June 7th.

From: Bechara Choucair, MD, SVP & Chief Health Officer, Kaiser Permanente <ccchhub@splash.events>

Sent: Wednesday, May 10, 2023 11:09 AM

To: Cure, Kelly (OS/OASH) (CTR) <Kelly.Cure@hhs.gov>

Subject: Save the date: Connecting Climate Change and Health Event



Connecting Climate
Change and Health

SAVE THE DATE!

Launch of Connecting Climate Change and Health Series

Dear Kelly,

I hope you can join us on Wednesday, June 7 as Kaiser Permanente and the World Economic Forum launch our Connecting Climate Change and Health series, where we

will highlight critical topics such as air quality, extreme heat and weather, and the impacts on individual and community health, and health equity.

In this first event, we will be joined by special guests from prominent organizations who will discuss how national business leaders across different industries can prioritize health and health equity as part of climate action planning. We welcome your participation in these important discussions.

DATE

June 7, 2023

TIME

8-9:30 a.m. PDT / 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. EDT

LOCATION

Virtual

Live stream link will be provided upon registration.

In-person

Kaiser Permanente Center for Total Health
700 Second St. NE
Washington DC 20002

Please save the date. A formal invitation and registration for this event are coming soon.

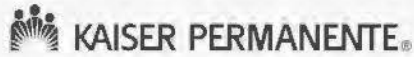
We hope to see you there!

Sincerely,

Bechara Choucair, MD

SVP & Chief Health Officer

Kaiser Permanente



[Unsubscribe](#)

Sender: Cure, Kelly (OS/OASH) (CTR) /o=EXCHANGELABS/ou=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=RECIPIENTS/cn=565A5E448D8341BA9B12DDA3BEFD0787-CURE, KELLY <Kelly.Cure@hhs.gov>

Boateng, Sarah (HHS/OASH) /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=d83ded642af84229a075d7e1f7b59a59-Boateng, Sa <Sarah.Boateng@hhs.gov>;

Oh, Kathy (OS/OASH) /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=2c7d2ccfd4bb4a74877eba68f09777ed-Kathy, Oh <Kathy.Oh@hhs.gov>;

Balbus, John MD, MPH (OS/OASH/OCHE) /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=e8ec6cdd4b094cdfb6d36d72aba61bc8-Balbus, Joh <John.Balbus@hhs.gov>;

Recipient: Brown, Michele (HHS/OASH) /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=2fd29a6d9f574b10a995205ab9ffc494-Brown, Mich <Michele.Brown@hhs.gov>;

Lee, Kinbo (HHS/OASH) /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=25da49a3105c470a9cd2be9b83c57458-Lee, Kinbo <Kinbo.Lee@hhs.gov>;

Carlson, Chris (HHS/OASH) /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=5c1e2923b0884ac0bd4a7c4c65eb0946-7cdf9525-1f <Chris.Carlson@hhs.gov>;

Gray, Oneika (HHS/OASH) /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=b7c446d71dac4354a8218c8e08bfd51-Gray, Oneik <Oneika.Gray@hhs.gov>

Sent Date: 2023/05/10 14:17:50

Delivered Date: 2023/05/10 14:17:52

From: Hayes, Kaye (HHS/OASH) /O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=325E577483DC469DBA2A7E975ABB21F4-HAYES, KAYE <Kaye.Hayes@hhs.gov>

To: Boateng, Sarah (HHS/OASH) /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=d83ded642af84229a075d7e1f7b59a59-Boateng, Sa <Sarah.Boateng@hhs.gov>

CC: Harrison, Timothy (HHS/OASH) /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=e6a36bc2a38c41f6929c69dc13a2615e-Harrison, T <Timothy.Harrison@hhs.gov>

Subject: RE: upcoming vaccine safety datalink research paper

Date: 2022/09/12 10:04:43

Priority: Normal

Type: Note

Hi, Sarah –

Sure thing.... Give me a sec.

Kaye

From: Boateng, Sarah (HHS/OASH) <Sarah.Boateng@hhs.gov>
Sent: Sunday, September 11, 2022 10:11 AM
To: Hayes, Kaye (HHS/OASH) <Kaye.Hayes@hhs.gov>
Cc: Harrison, Timothy (HHS/OASH) <Timothy.Harrison@hhs.gov>
Subject: FW: upcoming vaccine safety datalink research paper

Kaye and Tim

Could your team provide ADM Levine a note on how many routine childhood vaccines continue to have aluminum in them?

Sarah

From: Boateng, Sarah (HHS/OASH)
Sent: Saturday, September 10, 2022 8:26 AM
To: Arsenio Mataka (Arsenio.Mataka@hhs.gov) <Arsenio.Mataka@hhs.gov>; Hayes, Kaye (HHS/OASH) <Kaye.Hayes@hhs.gov>; Levine, Rachel (HHS/OASH) <Rachel.Levine@hhs.gov>; Iademarco, Michael (HHS/OASH) <Michael.Iademarco@hhs.gov>; Richmond, Alicia (HHS/OASH) <Alicia.Richmond@hhs.gov>; Oh, Kathy (OS/OASH) <Kathy.Oh@hhs.gov>
Subject: FW: upcoming vaccine safety datalink research paper

Lets discuss

From: Despres, Sarah (HHS/IOS) <Sarah.Despres@hhs.gov>
Sent: Friday, September 9, 2022 5:30 PM

To: Tierney, Julia (FDA/OC) (b)(6) 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:

A new study suggests an association between exposure to aluminum in some childhood vaccines and development of persistent asthma in children, prompting CDC to call for further investigation. Small amounts of aluminum are added to some vaccines to help the body build stronger immunity. Aluminum adjuvants are included in many routine childhood vaccines, but are not used in COVID-19 vaccines. CDC agrees with the authors that this single study with important limitations does not provide enough evidence to prove that aluminum in vaccines can cause development of asthma. This well-done study, funded by CDC, has limitations, and shows that further investigation is needed to explore the risk of aluminum exposure from routine childhood vaccines on the development of persistent asthma in children; these efforts are already underway.

We recognize these results sound concerning, but there continues to be overwhelming evidence of the benefits of vaccines, and we would not want to undo these life-saving benefits. CDC is not changing the current routine childhood vaccination recommendations based on this single study. CDC, FDA, and our partners continue to monitor the safety of all vaccines and will explore opportunities to collaborate with other researchers and attempt to confirm these findings. CDC will continue to share information in a timely and transparent manner as it becomes available.

Key findings:

- • A new observational study analyzed information in health records from a group of 326,991 children born between January 1, 2008 and December 31, 2014 who received care at 7 Vaccine Safety Datalink (VSD) sites.
- • Researchers found a positive association between the total amount of aluminum children received from vaccines given before age 2 years and the development of persistent asthma between ages 2 to 6 years.
- • For this analysis, researchers looked at differences between children with and without eczema, because eczema is strongly associated with asthma risk. Therefore, a child with eczema is more likely to develop asthma in general.
 - • For both children with and without eczema, the average amount of aluminum received from vaccines was about 4 mg.

- • Among children **without eczema**, each additional 1 mg of aluminum received from vaccines was associated with a **1.2 times higher rate** of persistent asthma.
- • The authors found similar results among children with eczema. Among children **with eczema**, each additional 1 mg of aluminum received from vaccines was associated with a **1.3 times higher rate** of persistent asthma.

What CDC is doing:

Given that these findings have been identified in this single study, CDC has been reaching out to other partners to that may have similar data that can be analyzed to see if this signal is also present there. This effort is ongoing, but CDC hopes to have additional information on this to share in the coming months. CDC will also be supporting a literature review to identify any other studies that may be related and relevant to this analysis. Finally, CDC, FDA, and NIH are discussing additional studies that can help investigate the potential risk of aluminum exposure from routine childhood vaccines on the development of persistent asthma in children.

Sender:	Hayes, Kaye (HHS/OASH) /O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=325E577483DC469DBA2A7E975ABB21F4-HAYES, KAYE <Kaye.Hayes@hhs.gov>
Recipient:	Boateng, Sarah (HHS/OASH) /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=d83ded642af84229a075d7e1f7b59a59-Boateng, Sa <Sarah.Boateng@hhs.gov>; Harrison, Timothy (HHS/OASH) /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=e6a36bc2a38c41f6929c69dc13a2615e-Harrison, T <Timothy.Harrison@hhs.gov>
Sent Date:	2022/09/12 10:04:41
Delivered Date:	2022/09/12 10:04:43

From: Sarvana, Adam (HHS/OASH) /O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=CEF02713EDBB48E9A5D823EE64466ED9-SARVANA, AD <Adam.Sarvana@hhs.gov>

To: Tara L Herberth <Tara.L.Herberth@kp.org>;
John M Vu <John.Vu@kp.org>

Seema S Wadhwa <Seema.S.Wadhwa@kp.org>;
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>;

CC: Mccannon, Joseph (AHRQ/IOD) /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=63157885dc05437fa3b497210c5132ea-Mccannon, J <Joseph.Mccannon@ahrq.hhs.gov>;
Boateng, Sarah (HHS/OASH) /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=d83ded642af84229a075d7e1f7b59a59-Boateng, Sa <Sarah.Boateng@hhs.gov>;
Balbus, John MD, MPH (OS/OASH/OCHE) /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=e8ec6cdd4b094cdfb6d36d72aba61bc8-Balbus, Joh <John.Balbus@hhs.gov>

Subject: Re: Net Zero Event

Date: 2022/06/01 00:01:35

Priority: Normal

Type: Note

She's usually styled. . .

ADM Rachel Levine
Assistant Secretary for Health

One or two lines depending on the circumstances - we'll trust y'all to know which is which.

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From: Tara L Herberth <Tara.L.Herberth@kp.org>
Sent: Tuesday, May 31, 2022 11:10 PM
To: Sarvana, Adam (HHS/OASH) <Adam.Sarvana@hhs.gov>; John M Vu <John.Vu@kp.org>
Cc: Seema S Wadhwa <Seema.S.Wadhwa@kp.org>; Fisher, Megan (HHS/OASH) <Megan.Fisher@hhs.gov>; Mataka, Arsenio (HHS/OASH) <Arsenio.Mataka@hhs.gov>; Mccannon, Joseph (AHRQ/IOD) <Joseph.Mccannon@ahrq.hhs.gov>; Boateng, Sarah (HHS/OASH) <Sarah.Boateng@hhs.gov>; Balbus, John MD, MPH (OS/OASH/OCHE) <John.Balbus@hhs.gov>
Subject: RE: Net Zero Event

Thanks so much and we'll plan on that approach. Quick question – how would you like Admiral Levine's name and title to appear in our promotional materials? I will share them with you ASAP. Tara

From: Sarvana, Adam (HHS/OASH) <Adam.Sarvana@hhs.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, May 31, 2022 5:35 PM
To: Tara L Herberth <Tara.L.Herberth@kp.org>; John M Vu <John.Vu@kp.org>
Cc: Seema S Wadhwa <Seema.S.Wadhwa@kp.org>; Fisher, Megan (HHS/OASH) <Megan.Fisher@hhs.gov>; Mataka, Arsenio (HHS/OASH) <Arsenio.Mataka@hhs.gov>; Mccannon, Joseph (AHRQ/IOD) <Joseph.Mccannon@ahrq.hhs.gov>; Boateng, Sarah (HHS/OASH) <Sarah.Boateng@hhs.gov>; Balbus, John MD, MPH (OS/OASH/OCCHE) <John.Balbus@hhs.gov>
Subject: Re: Net Zero Event

It's unlikely we'll be able to visit, leave and come back - if we could have a 12:30 conversation that ends at 12:50 (?) for tech check and then start rolling at 1:00, that would probably be the best way to make the most of the time.

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

From: Tara L Herberth <Tara.L.Herberth@kp.org>
Sent: Tuesday, May 31, 2022 8:16 PM
To: Sarvana, Adam (HHS/OASH) <Adam.Sarvana@hhs.gov>; John M Vu <John.Vu@kp.org>
Cc: Seema S Wadhwa <Seema.S.Wadhwa@kp.org>; Fisher, Megan (HHS/OASH) <Megan.Fisher@hhs.gov>; Mataka, Arsenio (HHS/OASH) <Arsenio.Mataka@hhs.gov>; Mccannon, Joseph (AHRQ/IOD) <Joseph.Mccannon@ahrq.hhs.gov>; Boateng, Sarah (HHS/OASH) <Sarah.Boateng@hhs.gov>; Balbus, John MD, MPH (OS/OASH/OCCHE) <John.Balbus@hhs.gov>
Subject: RE: Net Zero Event

Hi Adam -- I know our executives would very much appreciate some time to talk about KP's environmental agenda as well as discuss trends and other work we should be considering.

Are you still thinking Admiral Levine could get together from 3:30-5 (or a sub-set of that time)? If so, we'll make the 12:30-1 pre-event alignment and hold the environmental agenda discussion to later in the afternoon.

If that's not possible, we'll be sure we carve out time to cover that discussion prior to the 1 pm. If we go that route and it's possible for you to come a bit earlier (maybe 15 minutes or so), we'll have more time for that discussion. But no matter what, we'll make it work.

Thanks so much! Tara

From: Sarvana, Adam (HHS/OASH) <Adam.Sarvana@hhs.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, May 31, 2022 3:40 PM
To: Tara L Herberth <Tara.L.Herberth@kp.org>; John M Vu <John.Vu@kp.org>
Cc: Seema S Wadhwa <Seema.S.Wadhwa@kp.org>; Fisher, Megan (HHS/OASH) <Megan.Fisher@hhs.gov>; Mataka, Arsenio (HHS/OASH) <Arsenio.Mataka@hhs.gov>; Mccannon, Joseph (AHRQ/IOD) <Joseph.Mccannon@ahrq.hhs.gov>; Boateng, Sarah (HHS/OASH) <Sarah.Boateng@hhs.gov>; Balbus, John MD, MPH (OS/OASH/OCCHE) <John.Balbus@hhs.gov>
Subject: Re: Net Zero Event

Just so we have our own schedule straight, what's the plan for 12:30 - 1:00? (If it's just informal chat and getting comfortable, that's fine by us.) We want to make the most of the time, so if there's anyone there who would be able to give even a brief in-person overview of your environmental agenda, I'm sure she'd appreciate it. Having some practices and ideas to share in future conversations is always helpful.

I'm at (b)(6) if anyone ever needs to get a hold of me.

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

From: Tara L Herberth <Tara.L.Herberth@kp.org>
Sent: Tuesday, May 31, 2022 6:24 PM
To: John M Vu <John.Vu@kp.org>; Sarvana, Adam (HHS/OASH) <Adam.Sarvana@hhs.gov>
Cc: Seema S Wadhwa <Seema.S.Wadhwa@kp.org>; Fisher, Megan (HHS/OASH) <Megan.Fisher@hhs.gov>; Mataka, Arsenio (HHS/OASH) <Arsenio.Mataka@hhs.gov>; Mccannon, Joseph (AHRQ/IOD) <Joseph.Mccannon@ahrq.hhs.gov>; Boateng, Sarah (HHS/OASH) <Sarah.Boateng@hhs.gov>; Balbus, John MD, MPH (OS/OASH/OCCHE) <John.Balbus@hhs.gov>; Fisher, Megan (HHS/OASH) <Megan.Fisher@hhs.gov>
Subject: RE: Net Zero Event

Hello -- Thank you so much for that terrific news! Per John's email below, I will be your point person on partnering re: the chat topics, sharing invite materials, coordinating on social, event logistics, etc., and look forward to working with you and Megan. As John mentioned, the event details are as follows:

Thursday, June 9 (Pacific Times below)

1-1:15 pm: Fireside chat with Admiral Levine (live in our NCAL studio/Oakland – we follow all COVID protocols)

1:15-1:45 pm: Panel w/Q&A (remote)

We appreciate you being available from 12:30-1:15 so we have some time together to have Admiral Levine get comfortable with the studio and answer any last-minute items before the event begins.

More to come; in the meantime, please don't hesitate to reach out if you have any immediate questions. Tara

From: John M Vu <John.Vu@kp.org>
Sent: Tuesday, May 31, 2022 3:22 PM
To: Sarvana, Adam (HHS/OASH) <Adam.Sarvana@hhs.gov>
Cc: Tara L Herberth <Tara.L.Herberth@kp.org>; Seema S Wadhwa <Seema.S.Wadhwa@kp.org>; Fisher, Megan (HHS/OASH) <Megan.Fisher@hhs.gov>; Mataka, Arsenio (HHS/OASH) <Arsenio.Mataka@hhs.gov>; Mccannon, Joseph (AHRQ/IOD) <Joseph.Mccannon@ahrq.hhs.gov>; Boateng, Sarah (HHS/OASH) <Sarah.Boateng@hhs.gov>; Balbus, John MD, MPH (OS/OASH/OCCHE) <John.Balbus@hhs.gov>; Fisher, Megan (HHS/OASH) <Megan.Fisher@hhs.gov>
Subject: RE: Net Zero Event

Fantastic! Thank you so much for your flexibility and willingness to work with us on this. We also saw the news today about the Office of Environmental Justice within OCCHE. That aligns so well with the

objectives for the event we had in mind next week and our ongoing commitment to lifting up community and voices for health equity.

Tara will be following up with more to coordinate the visit and the event. We just need to dust off our red carpet now. 😊

-John

From: Sarvana, Adam (HHS/OASH) <Adam.Sarvana@hhs.gov>

Sent: Tuesday, May 31, 2022 3:00 PM

To: John M Vu <John.Vu@kp.org>

Cc: Tara L Herberth <Tara.L.Herberth@kp.org>; Fisher, Megan (HHS/OASH) <Megan.Fisher@hhs.gov>; Mataka, Arsenio (HHS/OASH) <Arsenio.Mataka@hhs.gov>; Mccannon, Joseph (AHRQ/IOD) <Joseph.Mccannon@ahrq.hhs.gov>; Boateng, Sarah (HHS/OASH) <Sarah.Boateng@hhs.gov>; Balbus, John MD, MPH (OS/OASH/OCCHE) <John.Balbus@hhs.gov>; Fisher, Megan (HHS/OASH) <Megan.Fisher@hhs.gov>

Subject: RE: Net Zero Event

Yes, we can make those times work – I just made a call to verify, and we're all set. We'll have had lunch already, but thanks for the offer. What should we know about parking, being met at the door, and any other basic logistics? Megan Fisher, who's already on this thread, is graciously helping with logistics for the trip.

Adam Sarvana

Director of Communications

Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health

Email: adam.sarvana@hhs.gov

Mobile: (b)(6)

Desk: (202) 795-7619

hhs.gov/ash



From: John M Vu <John.Vu@kp.org>

Sent: Tuesday, May 31, 2022 4:46 PM

To: Sarvana, Adam (HHS/OASH) <Adam.Sarvana@hhs.gov>

Cc: Tara L Herberth <Tara.L.Herberth@kp.org>; Fisher, Megan (HHS/OASH) <Megan.Fisher@hhs.gov>; Mataka, Arsenio (HHS/OASH) <Arsenio.Mataka@hhs.gov>;

Mccannon, Joseph (AHRQ/IOD) <Joseph.Mccannon@ahrq.hhs.gov>; Boateng, Sarah (HHS/OASH) <Sarah.Boateng@hhs.gov>; Balbus, John MD, MPH (OS/OASH/OCCHE)

<John.Balbus@hhs.gov>; Fisher, Megan (HHS/OASH) <Megan.Fisher@hhs.gov>

Subject: RE: Net Zero Event

Adam -- Thank you for the response and offer. I've included Tara here who is heading up our Communications plan for the event and can help with the ongoing coordination and planning. Also including Seema who is our national director on environmental stewardship work overall (and whom Joe and John know). And moving Bechara to bcc.

We can make the afternoon of June 9 work...but want to check one other possibility if there's any chance to meet a little earlier in the afternoon. The event we are envisioning is to have the Admiral engaged in a "fireside chat" for about 15 min with either our CEO or our Chief Health Officer.. The focus would be on the need for the healthcare sector to decarbonize and really center it on the impacts to our communities and major health equity issues. We can partner with you on the questions/topics. We are not planning an open Q&A. A KP leader would do a quick welcome at the beginning and then we'll turn to the fireside chat. Admiral Levine is free to depart after the fireside chat. (And we are pulling together another set of speakers for a panel that would follow the fireside chat.)

We are hoping to livestream the event. We have an overall social plan and channel and were not planning on using yours. We are hoping to capture as much of an audience as possible to tune in, so it would be more ideal to hold it earlier in the afternoon so the event can fall within eastern time zone working hours. Would it be possible at all for Admiral Levine to be able to meet us in our Oakland office at 12:30pm, and then be ready to go live with the event at 1:00pm? She could be done at 1:15 which would hopefully allow you plenty of time to get to your 2:00pm meeting in Oakland.

So let us know if 12:30pm – 1:15pm would work on June 9. We'd be happy to have lunch and any other accommodations ready if that would be helpful. We appreciate your willingness to consider. Also we are happy to jump on the phone to discuss this live if it would be easier.

-John

(b)(6)



From: Sarvana, Adam (HHS/OASH) <Adam.Sarvana@hhs.gov>

Sent: Tuesday, May 31, 2022 12:00 PM

To: Bechara Choucair <Bechara.Choucair@kp.org>; Boateng, Sarah (HHS/OASH) <Sarah.Boateng@hhs.gov>

Cc: Fisher, Megan (HHS/OASH) <Megan.Fisher@hhs.gov>; Mataka, Arsenio (HHS/OASH) <Arsenio.Mataka@hhs.gov>; John M Vu <John.Vu@kp.org>; Mccannon, Joseph (AHRQ/IOD) <Joseph.Mccannon@ahrq.hhs.gov>; Balbus, John MD, MPH (OS/OASH/OCCHE) <John.Balbus@hhs.gov>; Fisher, Megan (HHS/OASH) <Megan.Fisher@hhs.gov>

Subject: RE: Net Zero Event

Hi, all. I've removed ADM Levine for the moment and added Joe McCannon and John Balbus on our climate team, plus ADM Levine's aide Megan Fisher. We can plan to be there around 3:30 p.m. on June 9, if that works, and then be there approx. 3:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. (or 5:00 p.m. if there's added programming; then we drive back). We have another meeting in Oakland at 2:00 p.m. that day that should take about an hour, so allowing for travel time, I think this is most feasible.

A few questions for you all, in no particular order, and bearing in mind that we're here at your invitation and happy to be pretty flexible with format. My climate colleagues may have others, but to start:

- • What would the substance of her appearance be? Should we come prepared with remarks? If so, of what length?
- • Would this be open dialogue with employees? Should/would we discuss questions in advance?
- • How much would KP figures want to talk about your means of reducing the company's environmental footprint?
- • If it's livestreamed, do you all have a social channel for the purpose, or are you contemplating using ours?

Thanks again. We're very interested in making this work.

Adam Sarvana

Director of Communications

Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health

Email: adam.sarvana@hhs.gov

Mobile: (b)(6)

Desk: (202) 795-7619

hhs.gov/ash



From: Bechara Choucair <Bechara.Choucair@kp.org>

Sent: Monday, May 30, 2022 1:00 PM

To: Sarvana, Adam (HHS/OASH) <Adam.Sarvana@hhs.gov>; Boateng, Sarah (HHS/OASH) <Sarah.Boateng@hhs.gov>; Levine, Rachel (HHS/OASH) <Rachel.Levine@hhs.gov>

Cc: Fisher, Megan (HHS/OASH) <Megan.Fisher@hhs.gov>; Mataka, Arsenio (HHS/OASH) <Arsenio.Mataka@hhs.gov>; John M Vu <John.Vu@kp.org>

Subject: RE: Net Zero Event

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) c: (b)(6)

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From: Sarvana, Adam (HHS/OASH) <Adam.Sarvana@hhs.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, May 18, 2022 6:30 AM
To: Boateng, Sarah (HHS/OASH) <Sarah.Boateng@hhs.gov>; Bechara Choucair <Bechara.Choucair@kp.org>
Cc: Fisher, Megan (HHS/OASH) <Megan.Fisher@hhs.gov>; Levine, Rachel (HHS/OASH) <Rachel.Levine@hhs.gov>; Mataka, Arsenio (HHS/OASH) <Arsenio.Mataka@hhs.gov>; Misty Rose Spencer <Misty-Rose.Spencer@kp.org>; John M Vu <John.Vu@kp.org>
Subject: RE: Net Zero Event

Caution: This email came from outside Kaiser Permanente. Do not open attachments or click on links if you do not recognize the sender.

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

Email: adam.sarvana@hhs.gov

Mobile: (b)(6)

Desk: (202) 795-7619

hhs.gov/ash



image005.png

From: Boateng, Sarah (HHS/OASH) <Sarah.Boateng@hhs.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, May 18, 2022 9:04 AM
To: Bechara.Choucair@kp.org
Cc: Fisher, Megan (HHS/OASH) <Megan.Fisher@hhs.gov>; Levine, Rachel (HHS/OASH) <Rachel.Levine@hhs.gov>; Mataka, Arsenio (HHS/OASH) <Arsenio.Mataka@hhs.gov>; Sarvana, Adam (HHS/OASH) <Adam.Sarvana@hhs.gov>; Misty-Rose.Spencer@kp.org; 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

Mobile: (b)(6)

Desk: (202) 401-7003



image006.jpg

From: Bechara Choucair <Bechara.Choucair@kp.org>
Sent: Tuesday, May 17, 2022 9:45 PM
To: Levine, Rachel (HHS/OASH) <Rachel.Levine@hhs.gov>
Cc: John M Vu <John.Vu@kp.org>; Misty Rose Spencer <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) c: (b)(6)

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Sender: Sarvana, Adam (HHS/OASH) /O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=CEF02713EDBB48E9A5D823EE64466ED9-SARVANA, AD <Adam.Sarvana@hhs.gov>

Recipient: Tara L Herberth <Tara.L.Herberth@kp.org>;
John M Vu <John.Vu@kp.org>;
Seema S Wadhwa <Seema.S.Wadhwa@kp.org>;
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>;
Mccannon, Joseph (AHRQ/IOD) /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=63157885dc05437fa3b497210c5132ea-Mccannon, J <Joseph.Mccannon@ahrq.hhs.gov>;
Boateng, Sarah (HHS/OASH) /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=d83ded642af84229a075d7e1f7b59a59-Boateng, Sa <Sarah.Boateng@hhs.gov>;
Balbus, John MD, MPH (OS/OASH/QCCHHE) /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=e8ec6cdd4b094cdfb6d36d72aba61bc8-Balbus, Joh <John.Balbus@hhs.gov>

Sent Date: 2022/06/01 00:01:32

Delivered Date: 2022/06/01 00:01:35

From: Cure, Kelly (OS/OASH) (CTR) /O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=565A5E448D8341BA9B12DDA3BEFD0787-CURE, KELLY <Kelly.Cure@hhs.gov>

To: Boateng, Sarah (HHS/OASH) /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=d83ded642af84229a075d7e1f7b59a59-Boateng, Sa <Sarah.Boateng@hhs.gov>; Sarvana, Adam (HHS/OASH) /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=cef02713edbb48e9a5d823ee64466ed9-Sarvana, Ad <Adam.Sarvana@hhs.gov>

Subject: RE: Net Zero Event -- social post approval

Date: 2022/06/02 13:31:48

Priority: Normal

Type: Note

Yes, that is correct. Sarah Danley is in the process of reviewing this now.

K

From: Boateng, Sarah (HHS/OASH) <Sarah.Boateng@hhs.gov>

Sent: Thursday, June 2, 2022 1:29 PM

To: Sarvana, Adam (HHS/OASH) <Adam.Sarvana@hhs.gov>; Cure, Kelly (OS/OASH) (CTR) <Kelly.Cure@hhs.gov>

Subject: FW: Net Zero Event -- social post approval

I think we are waiting on final legal sign off on this one

From: Tara L Herberth <Tara.L.Herberth@kp.org>

Sent: Wednesday, June 1, 2022 8:15 PM

To: Sarvana, Adam (HHS/OASH) <Adam.Sarvana@hhs.gov>

Cc: Seema S Wadhwa <Seema.S.Wadhwa@kp.org>; Fisher, Megan (HHS/OASH) <Megan.Fisher@hhs.gov>; Mataka, Arsenio (HHS/OASH) <Arsenio.Mataka@hhs.gov>; Mccannon, Joseph (AHRQ/IOD) <Joseph.Mccannon@ahrq.hhs.gov>; Boateng, Sarah (HHS/OASH) <Sarah.Boateng@hhs.gov>; Balbus, John MD, MPH (OS/OASH/OCCHE) <John.Balbus@hhs.gov>; John M Vu <John.Vu@kp.org>; Robyn Rothman <Robyn.Rothman@mboothhealth.com>

Subject: RE: Net Zero Event -- social post approval

Hi Adam...as promised, attached for your review are the social posts we are proposing as a initial step in the LinkedIn setup / promotion.

We are working on the Q&A, run of show, other promotional materials, and logistics to send your way but wanted to get this in front of you so we could post ASAP once we get your approval.

Thank you so much! Tara

From: Bechara Choucair <Bechara.Choucair@kp.org>

Sent: Monday, May 30, 2022 1:00 PM

To: Sarvana, Adam (HHS/OASH) <Adam.Sarvana@hhs.gov>; Boateng, Sarah (HHS/OASH) <Sarah.Boateng@hhs.gov>; Levine, Rachel (HHS/OASH) <Rachel.Levine@hhs.gov>
Cc: Fisher, Megan (HHS/OASH) <Megan.Fisher@hhs.gov>; Mataka, Arsenio (HHS/OASH) <Arsenio.Mataka@hhs.gov>; John M Vu <John.Vu@kp.org>
Subject: RE: Net Zero Event

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Bechara

Bechara Choucair, MD

SVP & Chief Health Officer

Kaiser Permanente

(b)(6) (mobile)

Executive Assistant: **Misty Rose Spencer** (Misty-Rose.Spencer@kp.org) c: (b)(6)

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From: Sarvana, Adam (HHS/OASH) <Adam.Sarvana@hhs.gov>

Sent: Wednesday, May 18, 2022 6:30 AM

To: Boateng, Sarah (HHS/OASH) <Sarah.Boateng@hhs.gov>; Bechara Choucair <Bechara.Choucair@kp.org>

Cc: Fisher, Megan (HHS/OASH) <Megan.Fisher@hhs.gov>; Levine, Rachel (HHS/OASH) <Rachel.Levine@hhs.gov>; Mataka, Arsenio (HHS/OASH) <Arsenio.Mataka@hhs.gov>; Misty Rose Spencer <Misty-Rose.Spencer@kp.org>; John M Vu <John.Vu@kp.org>

Subject: RE: Net Zero Event

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Adam Sarvana

Director of Communications
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health

Email: adam.sarvana@hhs.gov

Mobile: (b)(6)

Desk: (202) 795-7619

hhs.gov/ash



image005.png

From: Boateng, Sarah (HHS/OASH) <Sarah.Boateng@hhs.gov>

Sent: Wednesday, May 18, 2022 9:04 AM

To: Bechara.Choucair@kp.org

Cc: Fisher, Megan (HHS/OASH) <Megan.Fisher@hhs.gov>; Levine, Rachel (HHS/OASH) <Rachel.Levine@hhs.gov>; Mataka, Arsenio (HHS/OASH) <Arsenio.Mataka@hhs.gov>; Sarvana, Adam (HHS/OASH) <Adam.Sarvana@hhs.gov>; Misty-Rose.Spencer@kp.org; John.Vu@kp.org

Subject: RE: Net Zero Event

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Sarah

Sarah Newman Boateng (She/Her)

Chief of Staff
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health

Email: sarah.boateng@hhs.gov

Mobile: (b)(6)

Desk: (202) 401-7003



image006.jpg

From: Bechara Choucair <Bechara.Choucair@kp.org>
Sent: Tuesday, May 17, 2022 9:45 PM
To: Levine, Rachel (HHS/OASH) <Rachel.Levine@hhs.gov>
Cc: John M Vu <John.Vu@kp.org>; Misty Rose Spencer <Misty-Rose.Spencer@kp.org>
Subject: Net Zero Event

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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) c: (b)(6)

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Cure, Kelly (OS/OASH) (CTR) /O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP

Sender: (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=565A5E448D8341BA9B12DDA3BEFD0787-CURE, KELLY
<Kelly.Cure@hhs.gov>

Boateng, Sarah (HHS/OASH) /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group
(FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=d83ded642af84229a075d7e1f7b59a59-Boateng, Sa
<Sarah.Boateng@hhs.gov>;

Recipient: Sarvana, Adam (HHS/OASH) /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group
(FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=cef02713edbb48e9a5d823ee64466ed9-Sarvana, Ad
<Adam.Sarvana@hhs.gov>

Sent Date: 2022/06/02 13:31:47

Delivered Date: 2022/06/02 13:31:48

From: Balbus, John MD, MPH (OS/OASH/OCCHE) /O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=E8EC6CDD4B094CDFB6D36D72ABA61BC8-BALBUS, JOH <John.Balbus@hhs.gov>

To: Boateng, Sarah (HHS/OASH) /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=d83ded642af84229a075d7e1f7b59a59-Boateng, Sa <Sarah.Boateng@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>

CC: Brown, Michele (HHS/OASH) /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=2fd29a6d9f574b10a995205ab9ffc494-Brown, Mich <Michele.Brown@hhs.gov>;
Lee, Kinbo (HHS/OASH) /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=25da49a3105c470a9cd2be9b83c57458-Lee, Kinbo <Kinbo.Lee@hhs.gov>;
Carlson, Chris (HHS/OASH) /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=5c1e2923b0884ac0bd4a7c4c65eb0946-7cdf9525-1f <Chris.Carlson@hhs.gov>;
Gray, Oneika (HHS/OASH) /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=b7c446d71dac4354a8218c8e08bfd51-Gray, Oneik <Oneika.Gray@hhs.gov>

Subject: Re: Save the date: Connecting Climate Change and Health Event - June 7, 2023

Date: 2023/05/10 17:28:06

Priority: Normal

Type: Note

Actually I'm giving a talk at noon on the 7th. We will have OCCHE representation either way. Sent from my iPhone. Please forgive all thick thumb and auto fill errors.

From: Balbus, John MD, MPH (OS/OASH/OCCHE)

Sent: Wednesday, May 10, 2023 1:19:50 PM

To: Boateng, Sarah (HHS/OASH) <Sarah.Boateng@hhs.gov>; Cure, Kelly (OS/OASH) (CTR) <Kelly.Cure@hhs.gov>; Oh, Kathy (OS/OASH) <Kathy.Oh@hhs.gov>

Cc: Brown, Michele (HHS/OASH) <Michele.Brown@hhs.gov>; Lee, Kinbo (HHS/OASH) <Kinbo.Lee@hhs.gov>; Carlson, Chris (HHS/OASH) <Chris.Carlson@hhs.gov>; Gray, Oneika (HHS/OASH) <Oneika.Gray@hhs.gov>

Subject: RE: Save the date: Connecting Climate Change and Health Event - June 7, 2023

Thanks I also received an invitation and will most likely attend with your approval.

From: Boateng, Sarah (HHS/OASH) <Sarah.Boateng@hhs.gov>

Sent: Wednesday, May 10, 2023 2:16 PM

To: Cure, Kelly (OS/OASH) (CTR) <Kelly.Cure@hhs.gov>; Oh, Kathy (OS/OASH) <Kathy.Oh@hhs.gov>; Balbus, John MD, MPH (OS/OASH/OCCHE) <John.Balbus@hhs.gov>

Cc: Brown, Michele (HHS/OASH) <Michele.Brown@hhs.gov>; Lee, Kinbo (HHS/OASH) <Kinbo.Lee@hhs.gov>; Carlson, Chris (HHS/OASH) <Chris.Carlson@hhs.gov>; Gray, Oneika (HHS/OASH) <Oneika.Gray@hhs.gov>

Subject: RE: Save the date: Connecting Climate Change and Health Event - June 7, 2023

It looks like an invite to attend - not speak, correct? See attached for more information. If no speaking role I suggest she stay with LCCC and perhaps an delegate from OCCHE can attend meeting. CAPT OH, John – thoughts?

Sarah

From: Cure, Kelly (OS/OASH) (CTR) <Kelly.Cure@hhs.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, May 10, 2023 11:39 AM
To: Boateng, Sarah (HHS/OASH) <Sarah.Boateng@hhs.gov>; Oh, Kathy (OS/OASH) <Kathy.Oh@hhs.gov>; Balbus, John MD, MPH (OS/OASH/OCCHE) <John.Balbus@hhs.gov>
Cc: Brown, Michele (HHS/OASH) <Michele.Brown@hhs.gov>; Lee, Kinbo (HHS/OASH) <Kinbo.Lee@hhs.gov>; Carlson, Chris (HHS/OASH) <Chris.Carlson@hhs.gov>; Gray, Oneika (HHS/OASH) <Oneika.Gray@hhs.gov>; Cure, Kelly (OS/OASH) (CTR) <Kelly.Cure@hhs.gov>
Subject: Save the date: Connecting Climate Change and Health Event - June 7, 2023

FYSA - Please see invite below which conflicts with the Long COVID Coordinating Council from 11am-12pm on Wednesday, June 7th.

From: Bechara Choucair, MD, SVP & Chief Health Officer, Kaiser Permanente <ccchhub@splash.events>
Sent: Wednesday, May 10, 2023 11:09 AM
To: Cure, Kelly (OS/OASH) (CTR) <Kelly.Cure@hhs.gov>
Subject: Save the date: Connecting Climate Change and Health Event

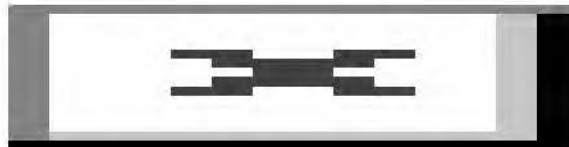


Image removed by sender.

SAVE THE DATE!

Launch of Connecting Climate Change and Health Series

Dear Kelly,

I hope you can join us on Wednesday, June 7 as Kaiser Permanente and the World Economic Forum launch our Connecting Climate Change and Health series, where we will highlight critical topics such as air quality, extreme heat and weather, and the impacts on individual and community health, and health equity.

In this first event, we will be joined by special guests from prominent organizations who will discuss how national business leaders across different industries can prioritize health and health equity as part of climate action planning. We welcome your participation in these important discussions.

DATE

June 7, 2023

TIME

8-9:30 a.m. PDT / 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. EDT

LOCATION

Virtual

Live stream link will be provided upon registration.

In-person

Kaiser Permanente Center for Total Health
700 Second St. NE
Washington DC 20002

Please save the date. A formal invitation and registration for this event are coming

soon.

We hope to see you there!

Sincerely,

Bechara Choucair, MD

SVP & Chief Health Officer

Kaiser Permanente



Image removed by sender.

Signature

Image removed by sender.

Sender: Balbus, John MD, MPH (OS/OASH/OCCHE) /O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=E8EC6CDD4B094CDFB6D36D72ABA61BC8-BALBUS, JOH <John.Balbus@hhs.gov>

Boateng, Sarah (HHS/OASH) /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=d83ded642af84229a075d7e1f7b59a59-Boateng, Sa <Sarah.Boateng@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>;

Recipient: Brown, Michele (HHS/OASH) /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=2fd29a6d9f574b10a995205ab9ffc494-Brown, Mich <Michele.Brown@hhs.gov>;

Lee, Kinbo (HHS/OASH) /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=25da49a3105c470a9cd2be9b83c57458-Lee, Kinbo <Kinbo.Lee@hhs.gov>;

Carlson, Chris (HHS/OASH) /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=5c1e2923b0884ac0bd4a7c4c65eb0946-7cdf9525-1f <Chris.Carlson@hhs.gov>;

Gray, Oneika (HHS/OASH) /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=b7c446d71dac4354a8218c8e08bfd51-Gray, Oneik <Oneika.Gray@hhs.gov>

Sent Date: 2023/05/10 17:28:02

Delivered Date: 2023/05/10 17:28:06

From: Hollinger, Janai (OS/ASFR) /O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=BE4BB1ED575A4A6BB6BD3397FD8A6386-HOLLINGER, <Janai.Hollinger@hhs.gov>

To: Boateng, Sarah (HHS/OASH) /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=d83ded642af84229a075d7e1f7b59a59-Boateng, Sa <Sarah.Boateng@hhs.gov>

Subject: RE: TA Request on Mesothelioma Language -- response requested by 10AM on 2/16

Date: 2022/02/14 15:37:05

Priority: Normal

Type: Note

Thank you!

From: Boateng, Sarah (HHS/OASH) <Sarah.Boateng@hhs.gov>

Sent: Monday, February 14, 2022 3:37 PM

To: Hollinger, Janai (OS/ASFR) <Janai.Hollinger@hhs.gov>

Cc: Sealy, Camille (HHS/ASFR) <Camille.Sealy@hhs.gov>; Kalinowski, Paul (HHS/ASFR) <Paul.Kalinowski@hhs.gov>; Tanen, Ezra (OS/ASFR) <Ezra.Tanen@hhs.gov>; Price, Taylor (OS/ASFR) <William.Price1@hhs.gov>; Calsyn, Maura (HHS/OASH) <Maura.Calsyn@hhs.gov>

Subject: RE: TA Request on Mesothelioma Language -- response requested by 10AM on 2/16

Received and checking with team

From: Hollinger, Janai (OS/ASFR) <Janai.Hollinger@hhs.gov>

Sent: Monday, February 14, 2022 3:15 PM

To: Boateng, Sarah (HHS/OASH) <Sarah.Boateng@hhs.gov>

Cc: Sealy, Camille (HHS/ASFR) <Camille.Sealy@hhs.gov>; Kalinowski, Paul (HHS/ASFR) <Paul.Kalinowski@hhs.gov>; Tanen, Ezra (OS/ASFR) <Ezra.Tanen@hhs.gov>; Price, Taylor (OS/ASFR) <William.Price1@hhs.gov>

Subject: TA Request on Mesothelioma Language -- response requested by 10AM on 2/16

Good Afternoon Sarah,

I hope this message finds you well after a nice weekend! We received a TA request from the Senate majority staff on the below language. Could OASH please provide any comments/TA on the language by **10AM on Wednesday, February 16th**? For your awareness, we are also sending this request ASPE in case they are able to provide any input. Please let me know if I can provide any further information that would be helpful. Thank you!

Coordinated Treatment for Mesothelioma Patients. Mesothelioma is an aggressive asbestos-related malignancy of the pleura that is often associated with poor prognosis. While a rare disease, mesothelioma is highly concentrated in regions predominated by industries with high

exposures to asbestos such as shipyards, aluminum plants and power generation. The agreement is concerned that many mesothelioma patients receive care from providers with little experience treating patients with rare malignancies, which leads to delays in diagnoses and use of outdated treatment modalities that may affect patient outcomes and quality of life. The agreement urges the Department to support comprehensive mesothelioma treatment programs in regional hospitals in areas of the country with exceptionally high rates of mesothelioma through which patients receive focused, individualized treatment, in a multimodality approach, by creating a comprehensive program bringing together experts in thoracic surgery, medical oncology, radiation oncology, rehabilitation medicine, pathology, physical therapy, palliative treatment and end-of-life care.

Best,
Janai

Hollinger, Janai (OS/ASFR) /O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP
Sender: (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=BE4BB1ED575A4A6BB6BD3397FD8A6386-HOLLINGER,
<Janai.Hollinger@hhs.gov>

Boateng, Sarah (HHS/OASH) /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group
Recipient: (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=d83ded642af84229a075d7e1f7b59a59-Boateng, Sa
<Sarah.Boateng@hhs.gov>

Sent Date: 2022/02/14 15:37:02

Delivered Date: 2022/02/14 15:37:05

From: Geoffrey Roche (b)(6)
To: Boateng, Sarah (HHS/OASH) /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=d83ded642af84229a075d7e1f7b59a59-Boateng, Sa <Sarah.Boateng@hhs.gov>
CC: Aliya Bhatia <aliya@vot-er.org>
Subject: Did you read this OpEd about CMS voter registration?
Date: 2023/03/30 10:22:55
Priority: Normal
Type: Note

Hi Sarah:

I just got forwarded this OpEd and wanted to send it your way:

<https://www.statnews.com/2023/03/21/healthcare-gov-voter-registration/>

What a brilliant idea to have a required question be added to the [healthcare.gov](https://www.healthcare.gov) enrollment process, just like the DMV. I was surprised to learn about the Biden executive order too. My colleague said that a report came out showing HHS was behind on the implementation and it sounds urgent in order to be ready for open enrollment voter reg this winter, impacting the 2024 election. Have you heard about any progress on implementing the required question on the HHS end?

Thank you!

Geoffrey M. Roche, MPA

SVP of National Health Care Practice and Workforce Partnerships

(b)(6) – Mobile (b)(6) | [LinkedIn.com/Geoffrey M. Roche](https://www.linkedin.com/in/GeoffreyM.Roche)



[wGZ+l3xBnPeCAAAAABJRU5ErkJggg==](https://www.wgzi.com/links/wGZ+l3xBnPeCAAAAABJRU5ErkJggg==)

201 N Union St., Suite 110, Alexandria, VA 22314 | (855) 959-3500 | Follow us: [LinkedIn](https://www.linkedin.com/company/core)

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Sender: Geoffrey Roche <groche@core.edu>
Recipient: Boateng, Sarah (HHS/OASH) /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=d83ded642af84229a075d7e1f7b59a59-Boateng, Sa <Sarah.Boateng@hhs.gov>; Aliya Bhatia <aliya@vot-er.org>
Sent Date: 2023/03/30 10:22:42
Delivered Date: 2023/03/30 10:22:55

From: POLITICO Playbook <politico@politico.com>

Boateng, Sarah (HHS/OASH) /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group

To: (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=d83ded642af84229a075d7e1f7b59a59-Boateng, Sa
<Sarah.Boateng@hhs.gov>

Subject: Yellen gears up for a Senate grilling

Date: 2023/03/16 06:13:24

Priority: Normal

Type: Note

View in browser

POLITICO Playbook

POLITICO Playbook

RYAN LIZZA RACHAEL BADE EUGENE DANIELS

Presented by TikTok

With help from Eli Okun and Garrett Ross



Janet Yellen speaking from a dais while holding up a printed copy of a report on President Joe Biden's budget.

All eyes will be on Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen today as she testifies before the Senate Finance Committee at 10 a.m. | Francis Chung/POLITICO



[Play audio](#) Listen to today's Daily Briefing

DRIVING THE DAY

WSJ SPANKS RON — “Ron DeSantis’s First Big Mistake: The Florida Governor toys with Trumpian retreat on Ukraine,” by the WSJ Editorial Board: “[W]hat if Russia swallows all or most of Ukraine? [VLADIMIR] PUTIN will then set up shop closer to the Polish border and be even stronger as a malign force in Europe. The U.S. will be drawn deeper into the continent’s problems, not free to focus on the threat posed by China, which in any event will conclude that the U.S. is weaker. Is that the world President [RON] DeSANTIS wants to inherit on Jan. 20, 2025?”

GIRLFRIEND, YOU ARE SO OFF — Lauren Egan has a blockbuster story out this morning on MARIANNE WILLIAMSON’s treatment of her staff, which finds that on her 2020 campaign the Democrat demonstrated “unpredictable, explosive episodes of anger,” quite at odds with her spiritually sanguine public persona. Staffers told Egan that “Williamson could be cruel and

demeaning ... far beyond the typical stress of a grueling presidential cycle.”

“It would be foaming, spitting, uncontrollable rage,” one person says, and could be sparked by something as simple as a hotel room having a shower instead of a bathtub. She threw her phone, hit a car so hard she had to go to urgent care and erupted so loudly that hotel staff checked in multiple times. Former staffers also recall her mocking people’s weight.

In response, Williamson calls the allegations “slanderous,” “categorically untrue” and an attempt “to deflect attention from the important issues facing the American people.”

ALL OVER BUT THE YELLEN (TESTIMONY) — All eyes will be on Treasury Secretary **JANET YELLEN** today as she testifies before the Senate Finance Committee at 10 a.m.

Yellen’s appearance was originally scheduled to discuss the Biden budget. But after the weekend rescue of Silicon Valley Bank, this will be senators’ first chance to cross-examine Yellen about the controversial actions she took on Sunday in concert with her colleagues at the Fed and FDIC.

A Treasury official offered this generic preview of the secretary’s testimony:

“Secretary Yellen will update Congress on the decisive and forceful actions the Administration has taken to strengthen public confidence in our banking system. She will say that our banking system remains sound and that Americans can feel confident that their deposits will be there when they need them.

“Secretary Yellen will also discuss the president’s fiscal year 2024 budget. She’ll highlight the resilience of the American economy thanks to the president’s economic plan, as well as the recent moderation we’ve seen in inflation, while acknowledging the work still left to do. And she will discuss how the president’s economic plan builds on that progress by making investments for long term economic growth, while asking corporations and the wealthiest Americans to pay their fair share.”

Not everything will be about SVB.

- • **Sen. BOB CASEY (D-Pa.) is preparing** “to ask her about when Treasury will finalize the

rules around tax breaks for companies who invest in 'energy communities' (i.e. communities that heavily relied on coal) from the Inflation Reduction Act," per a Casey aide. "It was one of his top priorities in IRA and something he wants to see implemented quickly so companies can start making plans to invest in coal communities in PA with new manufacturing jobs."

- • **Sen. BILL CASSIDY (R-La.)**, per an aide, will likely be fired up about Social Security, pressing Yellen for details on what Biden plans to do to shore up the system, which the CBO projects will be insolvent in a decade.

But the Biden team's response to the bank failures will dominate the meeting. And she is likely to feel the populist outrage bubbling up in Congress from both Democrats and Republicans.

- • **Sen. JIM LANKFORD (R-Okla.)**, who serves on the panel, offered a taste of what Yellen is in for: "Banks in Oklahoma in rural towns are about to pay a special fee to be able to bail out millionaires in San Francisco. Now, what Oklahoma banks and bankers had to do with that bank failure in San Francisco, I have no idea." (**FWIW**: SVB's headquarters are actually in Santa Clara.)
- • **Sen. ELIZABETH WARREN (D-Mass.)**, who is pushing a bill to tighten bank regulations, will also be worth watching. "It's time to put those regulations back in place," she said last night on Boston TV. "It's time to hold the Fed accountable, do a full investigation of what they've done. And it's time to send a very strong message to bank CEOs: you're not going to be able to load up on risk in order to juice your profits."

Some questions for Yellen on the minds of Democrats:

- • **What role did the 2018 financial deregulation bill play** in SVB's demise? (NB: The committee's roster reflects the party's split on the bill, with nine Democrats who opposed it, like Warren and Chair **RON WYDEN** (Ore.), and five who supported it, like Sens. **DEBBIE STABENOW** (Mich.) and **MARK WARNER** (Va.)
- • **Does the administration support** any of the new bank regulation bills floating around the Hill?
- • **What is the administration doing** to claw back bonuses from SVB's former executives?

- • **Does the administration support** universal deposit insurance?
- • **How many other banks** have unhealthy balance sheets similar to SVB's?

On the **GOP side, the Finance Committee** is notable for its relative lack of extreme partisan bomb-throwers. But one exception is Sen. **RON JOHNSON** (R-Wis.), who is preparing for fireworks. **"It's worth tuning in!"** said a Johnson aide.

Some questions for Yellen on the minds of Republicans:

- • **How did the Federal Reserve** and other bank examiners fail to anticipate SVB's balance sheet problems?
- • **What role did SVB's focus on social issues** play in its demise?
- • **Was the rescue of SVB depositors a special favor** to its Silicon Valley customers who also happen to be more aligned with Democrats?
- • **Won't the rescue just encourage** more risky behavior from banks?
- • **What should SVB's failure mean** for the Fed's approach to interest rates?

Yellen will also face questions about Credit Suisse, which on Wednesday reported "material weaknesses" and sought up to \$54 billion in assistance from Switzerland's central bank, a move that sent tremors through the markets. ***More on that from WaPo and NYT***

"I imagine the Credit Suisse news was the last news cycle thing they were hoping to be a part of," said a Senate aide.

More...

- • **NYT on how lawmakers are looking to regulate the banks: “Federal Reserve and Lawmakers Eye Bank Rules After Collapse.”**
- • **And Roll Call on why it’s unlikely to happen: “Lawmakers from both parties skeptical of legislation over SVB.”**

Good Thursday morning. Thanks for reading Playbook. What would *you* ask Yellen today? Drop us a line: **Rachael Bade, Eugene Daniels, Ryan Lizza.**

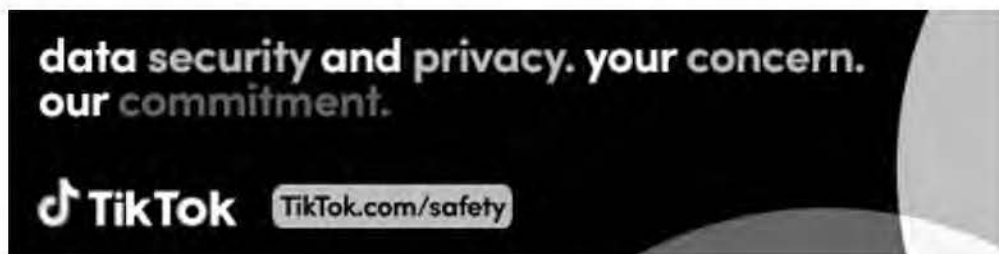
A message from TikTok:

TikTok is building systems tailor-made to address concerns around data security. What’s more, these systems will be managed by a U.S.-based team specifically tasked with managing all access to U.S. user data and securing the TikTok platform. It’s part of TikTok’s commitment to securing personal data while still giving the global TikTok experience people know and love. Learn more at <http://tiktok.com/safety>.

BIDEN ADMIN POKES DeSANTIS — “As U.S. education secretary, I want us to enrich public schools, not ban books and topics,” MIGUEL CARDONA writes in this morning’s Tampa Bay Times: “Parents don’t want politicians dictating what their children can learn, think and believe. That’s not how public education is supposed to work in a free country.”

NUMBERS VS. NARRATIVE — “Sharp drop in illegal border crossings continues in February,” by AP’s Rebecca Santana

A message from TikTok:



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data security and privacy. your concern. our commitment. Learn more at <http://tiktok.com/safety>.

BIDEN'S THURSDAY — The president will receive the President's Daily Brief at 10 a.m.

Press secretary **KARINE JEAN-PIERRE** will brief at 2 p.m.

VP KAMALA HARRIS' THURSDAY (all times Eastern):

9:20 a.m.: The VP and second gentleman **DOUG EMHOFF** will depart for Des Moines, Iowa, arriving at 12:05 p.m.

1:25 p.m.: Harris will lead a roundtable about protecting reproductive health care at Grand View University.

4:40 p.m.: Harris and Emhoff will leave Des Moines, getting back to Joint Base Andrews at 7 p.m.

THE SENATE will meet at 10 a.m. to take up **JESSICA CLARKE's** judicial nomination, with votes throughout the day. Around late morning, the Senate will vote on cloture for the motion to proceed to the Iraq authorizations for use of military force repeals. Agriculture Secretary **TOM VILSACK** will testify before the Agriculture Committee at 9:30 a.m. Yellen will testify before the Finance Committee at 10 a.m.

THE HOUSE is out.

We're spilling the tea (and drinking tons of it in our newsroom) in U.K. politics with our latest newsletter, London Playbook PM. Get to know all the movers and shakers in Westminster and never miss a beat of British politics with a free subscription. Don't miss out, we've got some exciting moves coming. [Sign up today.](#)

PHOTO OF THE DAY



LAS VEGAS, NEVADA - MARCH 15: U.S President Joe Biden speaks at UNLV on March 15, 2023 in Las Vegas, Nevada. Biden spoke about his plan to lower prescription drug costs. (Photo by Ethan Miller/Getty Images)

U.S. President Joe Biden speaks at UNLV on March 15, 2023 in Las Vegas, Nevada. | Ethan Miller/Getty Images

PLAYBOOK READS

2024 WATCH

THE DeSANTIS TIGHTROPE — David Siders, Sally Goldenberg and Gary Fineout catalog an interesting conundrum for DeSantis this morning: As he leans harder into ultra-conservative social policies on gender and race, his stock is rising in the primary — but his electability argument may be damaged as a result.

A big part of DeSantis' pitch is that he offers Trumpism without the baggage. But he's amassing some notable policy baggage of his own that could make it prove difficult to woo moderates — as with his support for a proposed six-week abortion ban. **Big picture:** “It’s a significant risk in a primary in which Republican voters ... are desperate to nominate a candidate who can win.”

Speaking of culture wars: “DeSantis to unveil alliance with 18 states to combat Biden’s

'woke' ESG agenda," by the Washington Examiner's Ryan King

Vibe check: "Much of the 2024 GOP field focuses on dark, apocalyptic themes," by WaPo's Ashley Parker: "[M]uch of the rhetoric from the declared and potential Republican candidates so far is remarkable for its dystopian tone. In many high-profile moments, these Republicans portray the nation as locked in an existential battle, where the stark combat lines denote not just policy disagreements but warring camps of saviors versus villains, and where political opponents are regularly demonized. They warn that Biden and a 'radical,' 'woke mob' of liberals are determined to 'destroy' and 'ruin' the nation."

SURVEY SAYS — A new Quinnipiac national poll finds **DONALD TRUMP** extending his lead over DeSantis in a multi-candidate Republican primary, 46% to 32%. (One on one, it's Trump 51%, DeSantis 40%.) But in a hypothetical general election, Biden leads both men among all registered voters — beating Trump, 49% to 45%, and DeSantis, 47% to 46%.

IN THE MIX — Former New Jersey Gov. **CHRIS CHRISTIE** told the Washington Examiner's Ryan King that he'll make a call on another presidential bid in the next 45 to 60 days.

JUST POSTED — "Trump's VP? Some in GOP already jockeying for consideration," by AP's Jill Colvin

THE WHITE HOUSE

TIKTOK ON THE CLOCK — In a significant change, the Biden administration is now telling Chinese parent company ByteDance that a national ban is possible if the owners don't sell their stakes in TikTok, WSJ's John McKinnon scooped. It could still take months to straighten out. "If protecting national security is the objective, divestment doesn't solve the problem: a change in ownership would not impose any new restrictions on data flows or access," TikTok fired back in a statement.

POTUS ON THE ROAD — "Biden, in preview of budget fight, hits GOP on health care," by WaPo's Matt Viser in Las Vegas

WHAT THE WHITE HOUSE WILL TOUT — "First Drugs Facing Medicare Price Penalty Are Named," by WSJ's Stephanie Armour and Jared Hopkins

MORE POLITICS

THE BREAUX CODE — “Former Sen. Breaux leads new push against Biden tax plan,” by Roll Call’s Laura Weiss: “A group that was set up to fight a prior Biden administration-backed tax increase on generational wealth transfers is launching a new campaign raising concerns about Democrats’ proposals to tax the richest households based on the value of unsold assets like stock, homes and art. The organization ... is running ads in 10 states and Washington, D.C.”

CONGRESS

WHISKEY TANGO FOXTROT — Serious questions have already been raised about freshman Rep. **ANDY OGLES** (R-Tenn.) misrepresenting or inflating his past accomplishments, but this is a new one: WTVF-TV’s Phil Williams reports that Ogles won’t say what happened to \$25,000 that was supposed to create a children’s burial garden.

The money, raised through a GoFundMe in 2014, was earmarked for a garden inspired by the loss of Ogles’ own stillborn baby. “Help us help other families,” his page implored. “No family should have to bury their child; no child should be alone.” The project was supposed to include “a life-size statue of Jesus watching over the children,” and “benches for families to sit while surrounded by flowers” — but the site doesn’t appear to have been created, and donors don’t know where their money went.

Ogles refused to answer any of WTVF’s questions, but released a statement after the segment aired, calling the reporting part of a “smear campaign” and claiming that after the project fell short of its fundraising goal, its “purpose evolved ... to direct financial support for families covering the cost of funeral expenses.”

L.A. MAN TAKES LONG ROUTE TO DESTINATION — “Eric Garcetti finally got the ambassadorship he wanted. Here’s how he did it,” by the L.A. Times’ Jennifer Haberkorn: “Ultimately, Biden’s unflinching loyalty to [ERIC] GARCETTI probably saved the former mayor’s confirmation. By refusing to abandon his ally ... and by allowing an important ambassadorship to sit vacant for a record amount of time, Biden created an unlikely standoff with Senate Democrats.” *More from Chris Cadelago and Marianne LeVine*

TOWN-GOWN LATEST — “House Oversight Committee Invites DC Officials To Testify On

DC Operations, Crime,” by The Daily Caller’s Henry Rodgers

A message from TikTok:



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data security and privacy. your concern. our commitment. Learn more at <http://tiktok.com/safety>.

TRUMP CARDS

THE INVESTIGATIONS — STORMY DANIELS met with Manhattan prosecutors yesterday as they pursue an investigation into a hush money payment to the porn star, who allegedly had sex with Trump, NYT’s Jonah Bromwich, William Rashbaum, Nate Schweber and Kate Christobek report. It’s just the latest sign of the serious legal trouble Trump may be in. But it didn’t appear that she’d testified before DA **ALVIN BRAGG’s** federal grand jury, as **MICHAEL COHEN** did again yesterday. “Stormy responded to questions and has agreed to make herself available as a witness, or for further inquiry if needed,” her lawyer **CLARK BREWSTER** tweeted. Daniels herself called it an “continuing fight for truth and justice.”

JUDICIARY SQUARE

BRACING FOR A BIG ABORTION RULING — Texas federal judge **MATTHEW KACSMARYK** heard more than four hours of arguments yesterday in the potentially seismic case that could curb access to abortion pills nationwide. **Kacsmaryk said his ruling would come “as soon as possible,”** without specifying a timetable. At issue is whether he’ll undo the FDA’s 2000 approval

of the abortion drug mifepristone.

And in Amarillo, different outlets had different interpretations of Kacsmayk's leanings: AP suggests that Kacsmayk "saved some of his most pointed questions for attorneys representing the alliance" trying to block the drug. But WaPo reports that he "seemed open to the argument that mifepristone had not been properly vetted."

JAN. 6 AND ITS AFTERMATH

HOW CLOSE WE CAME — "In the mob's eyeline: A senior Republican's close brush revealed in new Jan. 6 footage," by Kyle Cheney and Jordain Carney: "I wasn't aware of any of it,' [Sen. **CHUCK**] **GRASSLEY** said of his apparent near-encounter. 'They just said: "We've got to get you out of here.'""

THE NEXT WAVE — "DOJ Told Court to Expect a Deluge of New Jan. 6 Prosecutions," by Bloomberg's Zoe Tillman

WAR IN UKRAINE

FOREIGN POLICY FAULT LINE — "Wanted: A GOP presidential contender that supports Ukraine," by Burgess Everett and Anthony Adragna: "As former President Donald Trump and Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis air their disinterest in more U.S. aid to Ukraine, a number of Senate Republicans are open about wanting a GOP standard-bearer who takes a different approach."

— **"A Republican 'civil war' on Ukraine erupts as Reagan's example fades,"** by WaPo's Liz Goodwin, Isaac Arnsdorf and Marianna Sotomayor

THE NEXT PHASE — "Ukraine doesn't have any time to waste': U.S. races to prepare Kyiv for spring offensive," by Lara Seligman: "As spring approaches, U.S. officials are increasingly concerned about Ukraine's dwindling supply of ammunition, air defenses and experienced soldiers."

AMERICA AND THE WORLD

INTERCEPTION INCEPTION — "Russian leadership approved aggressive actions of jets that damaged U.S. drone, U.S. officials say," by NBC's Courtney Kube and Carol Lee: "Three

U.S. officials familiar with the intelligence said the highest levels of the Kremlin approved the aggressive actions.”

— **“Russia Makes a Habit of Harassing U.S. Planes, Pentagon Says,”** by WSJ’s Nancy Youssef, Evan Gershkovich and Thomas Grove

BLINKEN ABROAD — **“Blinken Calls for ‘Accountability’ on War Crimes in Ethiopia,”** by NYT’s Michael Crowley and Declan Walsh in Addis Ababa

MEDIAWATCH

THIS IS CNN — “On Tuesday morning, CNN chairman and C.E.O. **CHRIS LICHT** arrived at his network’s 9 a.m. editorial meeting with a surprise guest: his boss, **DAVID ZASLAV**,” Puck’s Dylan Byers reports. “Nearly one year in, it’s clear that Zaslav still believes in his vision for CNN as a nonpartisan, broadcast-style news digest, and still believes that Licht is his Captain Ahab, despite what has been an undeniably challenging run thus far.”

GUESS WHO’S BACK — **“OMG: Ousted Project Veritas founder James O’Keefe launches new media venture,”** by The Washington Times’ Victor Morton

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PLAYBOOKERS

Barack Obama announced his March Madness picks. His Final Four: Houston, UCLA, Baylor and (as national champion) Duke.

Mitt Romney hadn’t filled out his March Madness bracket as of yesterday afternoon.

Joe “Exotic” Maldonado-Passage of “Tiger King” fame announced from prison that he’s running for president.

Roy McGrath’s home in Naples, Fla., was raided by the FBI in “the latest event in the dayslong search for former [Maryland] Gov. **Larry Hogan’s** ex-chief-of-staff,” per The Baltimore Sun.

Nancy Pelosi will get an honorary doctorate from Ulster University ahead of the 25th anniversary of Northern Ireland’s Good Friday Agreement.

PLAYBOOK METRO SECTION — “USC opens a campus in Washington, D.C., to expand presence in nation’s capital,” L.A. Times

PLAYBOOK FASHION SECTION — “New Moon Suit for NASA’s Artemis Astronauts Unveiled,” NYT

PLAYBOOK ARTS SECTION — “Norman Rockwell Art Stolen and Hidden in White House for Decades, Lawsuit Claims,” WSJ ... Related West Wing Playbook from last summer

AND THE AWARD GOES TO — Engage announced its 2023 Engage Woman Award recipients, who will be honored at a reception later this month: SBA Administrator **Isabella Casillas Guzman**, Sen. **Joni Ernst** (R-Iowa), **Tammy Sun, Brooke** and **Breanna Bennett**, and **Emma Zafran**.

SPOTTED: **John Boehner** smoking outside the Capital Grille.

OUT AND ABOUT — Semafor’s **Justin Smith** hosted a reception at his Kalorama home last night for **Liz Hoffman’s** new book, “Crash Landing” (**\$30**), including a curated menu from chef **Chris Morgan**. **SPOTTED:** **Maya MacGuineas, Jason Oxman, Sally Quinn**, Singaporean Ambassador **Ashok Mirpuri, Steve Clemons, Steve Lombardo, Sam Feist, Josh Eastright, Zainab Usman, Wes Lowery, Barbara Humpton, Margaret Carlson, Daniel Lippman, Juleanna Glover, David Chavern, Jay Solomon, Brett McGurk, Christina Sevilla, Tevi Troy, Geo Saba, Kathleen Kennedy Townsend**, Slovak Ambassador **Radovan Javorčík**, Monaco Ambassador **Maguy Maccario Doyle, Paula Dobriansky**, Estonian Ambassador **Kristjan Prikk**, Omani Ambassador **Moosa Al Tai** and **Ron Bonjean**.

— MSNBC hosted a private dinner at Maydan last night for **Jen Psaki’s** new show launching

Sunday at noon. **SPOTTED: Rashida Jones, Greg Mecher, DHS Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas and Tanya Mayorkas, Kara Swisher, Wally Adeyemo, Anita Dunn, Andrea Mitchell, Rebecca Kutler, Symone Sanders, French Ambassador Laurent Bili, Jonathan Capehart, Dana Remus, Brett Holmgren, Rebecca Blumenstein, María Teresa Kumar, Jon Finer and Alex Lupica.**

— Responsibility.org hosted a “Responsible Happy Hour” last night at the National Press Club, featuring standard drink pours, mocktail options, ride-share discounts and a breathalyzer to promote responsible alcohol consumption. **SPOTTED: Brett Bruen, Leslie Kimball, Ben Leonard, Ted Johnson, Robert Schroeder and Darlene Superville.**

FIRST IN PLAYBOOK — Fox Corp. is promoting **Kristopher Jones** to EVP and head of government relations and **Jamie Gillespie** to EVP for government relations. Jones previously was SVP for government relations at FOX.

MEDIA MOVE — **Maureen Tkacik** will be investigations editor at The American Prospect. She currently is a senior fellow at the American Economic Liberties Project, an affiliation she’ll keep.

TRANSITIONS — **Olivia Coleman** is now press secretary for the House Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Pandemic. She previously was deputy press secretary for Sen. Ron Johnson (R-Wis.). ... **Brennan Johnson** is now Senate liaison for Alabama Gov. Kay Ivey. He most recently was general counsel for Sen. Richard Shelby (R-Ala.). ... **Charyssa Parent** is now comms director for Sen. Roger Marshall (R-Kan.). She previously was deputy comms director for the House Republican Conference. ...

... **Matthew Dybwad** is now SVP and head of political at IQM, a programmatic media buying and audience intelligence platform focused on politics. He previously was associate director at Xandr. ... **Lou Chiarella** is now senior counsel in Crowell & Moring’s government contracts group. He previously was deputy assistant general counsel at the GAO. ... **Megan Shea** is now scheduler for Rep. Jill Tokuda (D-Hawaii). She most recently was government relations manager at the News/Media Alliance.

WELCOME TO THE WORLD — **Elena Schneider**, a national political reporter at POLITICO, and **Eli Stokols**, a White House reporter and West Wing Playbook co-author at POLITICO, welcomed Ryne Herriot on Friday. He is named in honor of his great-grandmothers, came in at 21.5 inches, and joins big brother Charlie. ***Pic ... Another pic***

HAPPY BIRTHDAY: Rep. **Julia Letlow** (R-La.) ... NATO Secretary-General **Jens Stoltenberg** ... AP's **Julie Pace** ... MSNBC's **Amy Shuster** ... **Art Collins** ... **Jeff Nussbaum** ... former Reps. **Joe Crowley** (D-N.Y.), **Ron Kind** (D-Wis.) (6-0) and **Yvette Herrell** (R-N.M.) ... SKDK's **Jason Rosenbaum** ... **Andy Lewin** of BGR Group ... **Ian McCaleb** ... WaPo's **Dalton Bennett** and **Ellen McCarthy** ... **Scott Simon** ... Boeing's **Kevin Varney** ... **Adam Blickstein** ... TechNet's **Carl Holshouser** ... **Jordana Cutler** ... **Brian Young** ... NYT's **Neil Vigdor** and **Brian Rosenthal** ... **Gary Emerling** ... CTeL's **Ben Steinhafel**

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*Send Playbookers tips to playbook@politico.com or text us at **202-556-3307**. Playbook couldn't happen without our editor **Mike DeBonis**, deputy editor **Zack Stanton** and producers **Setota Hailemariam** and **Bethany Irvine**.*

A message from TikTok:

TikTok has partnered with a trusted, third-party U.S. cloud provider to keep all U.S. user data here on American soil. These are just some of the serious operational changes and investments TikTok has undertaken to ensure layers of protection and oversight. They're also a clear example of our commitment to protecting both personal data and the platform's integrity, while still allowing people to have the global experience they know and love. Learn more at tiktok.com/safety.

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POLITICO Playbook

POLITICO Playbook

BY RACHAEL BADE EUGENE DANIELS AND RYAN LIZZA

Presented by National Association of Realtors®

With help from Eli Okun and Garrett Ross



WASHINGTON, DC -
APRIL 28: Guests attend the 2018 White House Correspondents' Dinner at Washington Hilton on April 28, 2018 in Washington, DC. (Photo by Tasos Katopodis/Getty Images)

The White House Correspondents' Association dinner tonight will highlight the festivities of the weekend as official Washington mixes with celebrities to celebrate the First Amendment. | Getty Images

DRIVING THE DAY

TUNE IN — We are teaming up with our friends at CBS News tonight for a live show before the annual White House Correspondents' Association dinner. Ryan, host and executive producer of Playbook Deep Dive, will be joining CBS' Major Garrett, host of the The Takeout podcast, for an hour of special interviews from inside the Washington Hilton.

You can listen live from 6 to 7 p.m. tonight on SiriusXM POTUS Channel 124.

And if you happen to be joining us at the CBS-POLITICO pre-reception, please stop by Major and Ryan's radio setup and say hello. We just might put you on air!

BIDEN MEETS THE PRESS — Due to hangoveredness, we are going to keep things simple this morning. The president and the press will take center stage tonight at the WHCA Dinner. **JOE BIDEN** and **KAMALA HARRIS** will both be in attendance. Comedian **ROY WOOD JR.** will provide entertainment. Live coverage of the event will begin on C-SPAN at 8 p.m., with several other

outlets taking portions live on their streaming platforms. The main program starts at 9:30 p.m.

Heads up: Climate activists who want Biden to end fossil fuel extraction on public lands are organizing a “blockade” of the Hilton to protest Biden. “We are aware of the planned protest. There are security precautions in place,” NPR’s Tamara Keith, this year’s president of the WHCA, told ABC News.

Among the guests: **BRITNEY** and **CHERELLE GRINER** will attend with CBS, along with **ROSARIO DAWSON**, **BD WONG** and **JULIA FOX**. ... **YULIA NAVALNAYA** and **DASHA NAVALNAYA**, the wife and daughter of Russian dissident **ALEXEY NAVALNY**, will attend with CNN ... Ukrainian Ambassador **OKSANA MARKAROVA** will attend with USA Today, along with Wizards forward **KYLE KUZMA** and Maryland Gov. **WES MOORE** ... **JOHN LEGEND** and **CHRISSEY TEIGEN** will attend with NBC.

Here’s your pre-dinner reading list on all things Biden and the media:

- • **“How the Trump Years Weakened the Media,”** by John Harris in his latest Altitude column: “The reality is that the defining ethos of contemporary journalism is not confidence but insecurity — a reality that is expressed in everything from the business models of news organizations to the public personas and career arcs of reporters and editors. This is an apt weekend to examine the question.”
- • **“Requiem for the Newsroom,”** by NYT’s Maureen Dowd: “I don’t want this to be one of those pieces that bangs on about how things used to be better, and they’ll never be as good again. But, when it comes to newsrooms, it happens to be true.”
- • **“Inside a sweaty D.C. media tradition: Getting the cool kids to sit with you at nerd prom,”** by WaPo’s Ben Terris and Elahe Izadi: “Landing a Good Guest is a time-honored art form in Washington. A Good Guest can help validate the importance of a news organization, become a source for news, or — if their presence helps lure donors — a future source of revenue.”
- • **“Tucker Carlson and Don Lemon Are Out but Not Down,”** by Brian Stelter for Vanity Fair: “They have been texting back and forth in the past few days, according to two sources with knowledge of the relationship. By ‘relationship,’ I do not mean friendship. Far from it. The two men have never met, and they likely didn’t have much to discuss until recently.”
- • **“Top Fox Hosts Are Telling Friends They Could Be the Next to Go,”** by Rolling Stone’s Asawin Suebsaeng and Diana Falzone ... **“Biden huddles with top donors as 2024 effort kicks off,”** by AP’s Zeke Miller and Chris Megerian ... **“Biden’s old guy advantage with**

older voters,” by Steven Shepard

CLICKER — “The golden age of the White House correspondents’ dinner (yes, there was one),” by WaPo’s Amy Argetsinger and Roxanne Roberts

Good Saturday morning. Thanks for reading Playbook. Drop us a line and tell us what you’re seeing when you’re out and about this weekend: Rachael Bade, Eugene Daniels, Ryan Lizza.

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PARTY REVIEWS — An aspiring society reporter and good friend of Playbook sent us this (admittedly somewhat biased) recap of last night’s events:

- • **Semafor at Justin Smith’s home:** “the only real ‘house party’ of the whole weekend. Intimacy a plus. Rain spoiled use of garden.”
- • **Washington Diplomat at the Italian Embassy:** “‘bad prom,’ cavernous hall with bad music.”
- • **Axios/Live Nation at the National Building Museum:** “I didn’t attend, but I heard Axios party was opposite of its ‘Smart Brevity’ brand — vast football field, went for quantity over quality of people.”
- • **Qatar/Washingtonian at the Four Seasons:** “surprisingly the best wet bar in town. Iconic breakfast room turned into a gaudy Gulf salon. Good music, decent vibe.”
- • **UTA at Fiola Mare:** “most elite Friday nightcap, but at some point they gave up on door checks and it was hot and crowded. Bar closed earlier than expected. Ended with a whimper. ... Still ... nothing even came close to Thursday’s Playbook U.K. party!”

SPOTTED ...

— **At the UTA party at Fiola Mare: Don Lemon and Chris Licht** walking past each other and not

saying hello. ... **Brian Stelter** trailing Lemon as the latter left the party. (Stelter later [tweeted this pic.](#))

— **At the CAA party at The Henri:** **Doug Emhoff** and AMC President **Dan McDermott** talking about their neighborhood in L.A. ... **Emhoff** talking to The Atlantic's **Frank Foer** and CNN's **Dana Bash** about personal trainers in D.C. ... **Emhoff** asking N.Y. Mag's **Olivia Nuzzi** why she doesn't write more often. ... Rep. **Brian Fitzpatrick** (R-Pa.) talking about how he skipped a trip to Israel with Speaker **Kevin McCarthy** to attend the WHCD weekend festivities. ... Rep. **Ruben Gallego** (D-Ariz.) being told about a forthcoming NYT Mag piece on Sen. **Kyrsten Sinema** (I-Ariz.). ... Rep. **Eric Swalwell** (D-Calif.) chatting with former D.C. police officer **Michael Fanone**. [Pic](#) ... **Lisa Vanderpump** mingling with guests. [Pic](#)

— Rep. **Joaquin Castro** (D-Texas) asking if anyone had seen any food at the Voto Latino party at Decatur House last night.

— At the DC Improv: **Roy Wood Jr.** testing out tonight's material. (He tells Eugene this morning he made some tweaks and is feeling good about his set.)

Scroll on for much more party coverage ...

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PARTY FOUL — Multiple partygoers who had RSVP'd to Time's after-party tonight at the Swiss ambassador's residence were told yesterday that they were effectively uninvited. "Unfortunately, at this time, we cannot confirm you on the list," read an unsigned e-mail sent to one would-be guest. "We are one of many sponsors of the event and while you were confirmed on our invitation list, the host was unable to confirm you on the master list ... due to capacity limits and for security reasons." Party organizer **KIMBALL STROUD** confirmed a sponsor invited more than its allotted number of guests but denied the hosts disinvited anyone: "That's not how we roll." (In any case,

they'll be safe from the bees.)

FIRST IN PLAYBOOK — No surprise here, but MoveOn is out this morning with its endorsement of Biden, the earliest of a president in the group's 25-year history:

“President Biden and Vice President Harris have done what millions of MoveOn members sent them to Washington to do: protect our rights and freedoms and blunt right-wing extremism,” **RAHNA EPTING**, MoveOn's executive director, told Playbook in a statement. “This moment requires urgency to solidify behind President Biden and show unified resolve to defeat MAGA and build on the progress of the last two years.”

JOIN US IN Los Angeles as the race for the White House and campaign 2024 kicks into gear! POLITICO's Senior Political Columnist Jonathan Martin and Playbook Co-Author & MSNBC Political Analyst Eugene Daniels will lead conversation with veteran Democratic Strategist, the Ragin' Cajun James Carville following Day One of the Milken Conference Monday, on May 1 at 5:30pm at the Peninsula Beverly Hills. Is Biden/Trump II inevitable? What would a second term of either look like? What are the political fault lines that will determine the race for the next 18 months? Space is very limited, register for a chance to join here.

PHOTO OF THE DAY



Air Force quarterback Haaziq Daniels, left, and Air Force running back Brad Roberts, right, present President Joe Biden with a jersey during the presentation of the Commander-in-Chief's trophy to the Air Force Academy in the East Room of the White House, Friday, April 28, 2023, in Washington.

Air Force quarterback Haaziq Daniels and Air Force running back Brad Roberts give President Joe Biden with a jersey during the presentation of the Commander-in-Chief's trophy at the White House on Friday, April 28. | Evan Vucci/AP Photo

PLAYBOOK READS

9 THINGS THAT STUCK WITH US

1. DeSANTIS DOWNLOAD: [Our colleague Stefan Boscia in London has the readout](#) from Florida Gov. **RON DeSANTIS'** latest overseas stop, where he met with more than 50 representatives of major U.K. firms and business lobbying groups. The reports are rough for DeSantis: "One U.K. business figure said DeSantis 'looked bored' and 'stared at his feet' as he met with titans of British industry in an event co-hosted by Lloyd's of London — the world's largest insurance marketplace."

What they're saying: "He had been to five different countries in five days and he definitely looked spent, but his message wasn't presidential," one source told Stefan. "He was horrendous." **Said another:** "Nobody in the room was left thinking, 'this man's going places'"

2. SINEMATOGRAPHY: ["The Kyrsten Sinema Theory Of American Politics,"](#) by The Atlantic's McKay Coppins: "**KYRSTEN SINEMA** knows what everybody says about her. She pretends not to

read the press coverage — ‘I don’t really care’ — but she knows. She knows what her colleagues call her behind her back (‘egomaniac,’ ‘traitor’). She knows how many articles The New York Times has published about her wardrobe (five). She feels misunderstood, and she would like to explain herself.”

Not quite an open book: “Even in her private life, she tells me, she’s prone to slow, painstaking deliberation. I ask for an example. ‘It took me eight years to decide what to get for my first tattoo’ she offers. So what did you decide on? I ask. ‘I don’t actually want to share that.’”

3. SCOTUS WATCH: Supreme Court Justice **SAMUEL ALITO** gives a buzzy interview to WSJ’s James Taranto and David B. Rivkin Jr. on the publishing of the *Dobbs* draft decision: “Justice Alito says the marshal ‘did a good job with the resources that were available to her’ and agrees that the evidence was insufficient for a public accusation. ‘I personally have a pretty good idea who is responsible, but that’s different from the level of proof that is needed to name somebody,’ he says. He’s certain about the motive: ‘It was a part of an effort to prevent the *Dobbs* draft . . . from becoming the decision of the court. And that’s how it was used for those six weeks by people on the outside—as part of the campaign to try to intimidate the court.’”

4. WHAT THE WHITE HOUSE IS READING: “Republicans Effectively Voted to Raise Taxes. They’re Fine With That,” by WSJ’s Richard Rubin: “The bill, which passed in the GOP-controlled House and won’t survive the Democratic-led Senate, would repeal clean-energy tax credits that Congress created last year. . . . Still, their willingness to advance a bill that the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office says would raise tax revenue shows Republicans are less focused on official tax tallies and more determined to reverse Mr. Biden’s agenda.”

The administration view: “This is exactly what President Biden means when he says it’s no longer your grandparents’ Republican Party,” White House spox **ANDREW BATES** said in a statement to *Playbook*. “House Republicans are now cheering what they admit in their own words is a ‘tax increase’ — a tax increase the private sector warns will decimate the manufacturing jobs President Biden’s Inflation Reduction Act is bringing back to America.”

Related read: “Never mind that huge climate law — some greens are bashing Biden,” by Zack Colman

5. THE TALENTED MR. SANTOS: “George Santos, Instead of Shrinking From the Spotlight, Steps Into It,” by NYT’s Nicholas Fandos: “Colleagues refuse to work with him, dooming his

legislative priorities. His local party has vowed to defeat him. And a slew of law enforcement and ethics investigators are combing through his life and campaign finances. But rather than shrinking from the attention, the 34-year-old congressman is stepping ever more definitely toward the spotlight. [**GEORGE**] **SANTOS** seems eager to test whether he can make the journey from laughingstock to legitimacy by aligning himself with former President Donald J. Trump — or at least signaling that he’s in on the joke.”

6. INSIDE THE OPIOID CRISIS: “As fentanyl crisis grows, U.S.-Mexico divide deepens,” by WaPo’s Mary Beth Sheridan in Mexico City: “U.S. officials blame the flood of fentanyl crossing the border primarily on Mexican crime groups, and are pressing the government to do more to stop them. President **ANDRÉS MANUEL LÓPEZ OBRADOR**, however, insists that the main source of the synthetic drug is Asia. Mexican criminals, he says, merely stamp fentanyl powder into pills as it transits the country.”

7. UNLIKELY ALLIANCE: “Eric Adams is sounding a lot like Republicans on immigration,” by Julia Marsh and Joe Anuta: “GOP leaders lit up this month after hearing New York City Mayor **ERIC ADAMS** say President Joe Biden had ‘failed’ the city on immigration. New York, Adams said, ‘is being destroyed by the migrant crisis.’ ... Adams’ new rhetoric ... was even more eyebrow-raising given the moderate Democrat is a national surrogate for Biden.”

8. ON THE MARKET: “JPMorgan, PNC Bidding for First Republic as Part of FDIC Takeover,” by WSJ’s Andrew Ackerman, David Benoit and Rachel Louise Ensign

9. WHERE ARE THEY NOW: “He blew the whistle on Trump’s Truth Social. Now he works at Starbucks,” by WaPo’s Drew Harwell: “About six months ago, **WILL WILKERSON** was the executive vice president of operations for former president Donald Trump’s media business, a co-founder of Trump’s Truth Social website and a holder of stock options that might have one day made him a millionaire.

“**Today, he is a certified barista trainer at a Starbucks** inside a Harris Teeter grocery store, where he works 5:30 a.m. shifts in a green apron and slip-resistant shoes, making Frappuccinos for \$16 an hour. ‘It’s an honest day’s work,’ he says, sitting near the flower kiosk of the supermarket in a North Carolina suburb, which he asked not be named due to fears of harassment. ‘I love what I do.’”

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Advertisement Image

CLICKER — “The nation’s cartoonists on the week in politics,” edited by Matt Wuerker — **15**
funnies



Kallaugher

Cartoon by Kevin

Cartoon | Courtesy/Kevin Kallaugher

GREAT WEEKEND READS, curated by Ryan Lizza:

- **“When Flying Private Kills,”** by N.Y. Mag’s Jeff Wise: “The freak accident that killed a D.C. power broker.”
- **“For 40 years he blamed himself for a girl’s murder. Then came a shocking discovery,”** by the L.A. Times’ Max Kim in Ulsan, South Korea
- **“Salt Bae’s former employees describe tip theft, discrimination, and polyester uniforms within the memeable meat empire,”** by Insider’s Sophia Ankel: “The Instagram-famous butcher is known for his over-the-top antics. A string of lawsuits and interviews with former employees reveal a darker side.”
- **“Inside the Chaotic World of Kids Trying to Play Video Games on School Laptops,”** by Vice’s Patrick Klepek: “Most school children have a Chromebook, and every day, it’s a war between kids, teachers, and the developers trying to entertain bored students.”
- **“The Sad Dads of the National,”** by The New Yorker’s Amanda Petrusich: “For two decades,

the band has written music about the kind of sadness that feels quotidian and incremental — the slow accumulation of ordinary losses.”

— **“The deputy and the disappeared,”** by CNN’s Thomas Lake: “A Latino man and a Black man went missing three months apart in Florida. Both vanished after getting in a patrol car driven by the same White deputy sheriff.”

— **“Inside Superiority Burger: The Buzziest Restaurant in America,”** by GQ’s Brett Martin: “How did chef and former punk drummer Brooks Headley turn his all-vegetarian vision for a rock and roll diner into the season’s hottest new restaurant?”

HAPPENING NEXT WEEK! GO INSIDE THE 2023 MILKEN INSTITUTE GLOBAL CONFERENCE: POLITICO is proud to partner with the Milken Institute to produce a special edition “Global Insider” newsletter featuring exclusive coverage, insider nuggets and unparalleled insights from the 2023 Global Conference, which will convene leaders in health, finance, politics, philanthropy and entertainment from May 1-4. This year’s theme, *Advancing a Thriving World*, will challenge and inspire attendees to lean into building an optimistic coalition capable of tackling the issues and inequities we collectively face. Don’t miss a thing — subscribe today for a front row seat.

PLAYBOOKERS

Dan Crenshaw won an impromptu push-up challenge against visiting Scouts.

Vivek Ramaswamy and **Marianne Williamson** ran into each other at a hotel in South Carolina.

Gina Raimondo tried her hand at filmmaking.

Donald Trump and **Steve Bannon** are hanging out again.

OUT AND ABOUT — The White House Correspondents’ Association weekend blitz is on. Here’s a roundup of the action yesterday ...

— **SPOTTED** at the CAA party at The Henri: **Ariana Madix, Lala Kent, Jerry O’Connell, Roy Wood Jr., Ego Nwodim, Education Secretary Miguel Cardona, Naomi Biden, Wolf Blitzer, Yamiche Alcindor, Manu Raju, Chris Licht, Amy Entelis, Eric Sherling, Sam Feist, Olivia Nuzzi, Dan McDermott, Ben Haigh, Gina Mingacci, Kim Godwin, Derek Medina, Rebecca Blumenstein, Meghan Rafferty, Dana Bash, Jim Acosta, Robert Costa, Weijia Jiang, Andrea Mitchell, Audie Cornish, Abigail Crutchfield, Phil Mattingly, Jericka Duncan, Kylie Atwood, Anthony Bernal, Annie Tomasini, Drew Scott and Linda Phan, Peter Alexander, Mike Memoli, Jacqui Heinrich, KC Sullivan, Shaq Brewster, Dasha Burns, Yasmin Vossoughian, Susan Rice and Ian Cameron, Mary Bruce, Kris Coratti, Chloe Arensberg, Rebecca Kutler, Jonathan Greenberger, Ken Strickland, Mark Lima, Adam Verdugo, Lauren Fox, Jessica Dean, Kaitlan Collins, Meena Harris, Garrett Haake, Sara Sidner, Mark Kassen, Alison Pepper, Lis Smith, Kayla Tausche, Morgan Brennan, Carrie Budoff Brown, Jeff Zeleny, Simone Swink, Kate Bedingfield, Shawna Thomas, Cat McKenzie, Vlad Duthiers, Jonathan Lemire, Alayna Treene, Brian Stelter, Rachel Adler, Ali Spiesman, Mark McGrath, Michael Glantz, Brian Jacobs, Jeff Jacobs and Kyle Margolis.**

— **SPOTTED** at the UTA party at Fiola Mare: DHS Secretary **Alejandro Mayorkas**, Education Secretary **Miguel Cardona**, second gentleman **Doug Emhoff**, Sen. **Amy Klobuchar** (D-Minn.), California Gov. **Gavin Newsom**, **Larry Hogan, Naomi Biden and Peter Neal, Kara Swisher, Meghan McCain, Jodi Kantor, Anchi Wei, Anthony Mason, Ariana Maddix, Desus Nice, Billy Eichner, Rosario Dawson, Sophia Bush, Justin Theroux, Kal Penn, Chuck Todd, Cecilia Vega, Robert Costa, Chloe Akers, Cobie Smulders, Dana Bash, Eboni K. Williams, Harvey Mason Jr., Jen Psaki, Jerry O’Connell, Jim Acosta, John Leguizamo, John Quinones, Jonathan Swan, Jose Antonio Vargas, Kate Bennett, Kevin O’Leary, Lala Kent, Liev Schreiber, Margaret Brennan, Matt Friend, Meena Harris, Molly Jong-Fast, Norah O’Donnell, Rebecca Romijn, Nichole Francis Reynolds and Vladimir Duthiers.**

— **SPOTTED** at the Voto Latino party at Decatur House, where **Rashida Jones, Mónica Gil and Cecilia Vega** were honored with awards and guests were treated to a live performance from a mariachi band: HHS Secretary **Xavier Becerra**, SBA Administrator **Isabel Guzman, Maria Teresa Kumar, Cesar Conde, Rosario Dawson, John Leguizamo**, press secretary **Karine Jean-Pierre, Susan Rice, Gisele Fetterman, Andrea Mitchell, Katie Phang, Molly Jong-Fast, Jim Acosta, John Quiñones, Janet Murguía, Catherine Pino, Ingrid Duran, Yasmín Vossoughian, Eve O’Toole, Hector Sanchez, Nadine Farid Johnson and Indivar Dutta-Gupta.**

— The Motion Picture Association and SAG-AFTRA co-hosted a celebration at the MPA HQ last

night, where SAG-AFTRA President **Fran Drescher** announced the launch of the Green Council. **SPOTTED: Charles Rivkin, Bradley Whitford and Amy Landecker, Kyra Sedgwick, Sophia Bush, Rosario Dawson, Chris Colfer, Jennifer Beals, Alysia Reiner, Aida Rodriguez, Sarah Yarkin, Reps. Debbie Dingell (D-Mich.) and Brad Sherman (D-Calif.), Dutch Ambassador André Haspels, Monaco Ambassador Maguy Maccario Doyle, John Phillips, Gail MacKinnon, Emily Lenzner, David Hyman, Ruchi Bhowmick, Susan Fox, Liz Hart, Josh Stamberg, David Leavy, Alexa Verveer, Major Garrett, Peter Alexander, Kira Alvarez, Glen Roberts, Sena Fitzmaurice, Ted Johnson and Linda Douglass.**

— **SPOTTED** at Correspondents for the Culture at the Burns Brothers HQ D.C. House: **Roy Wood Jr., press secretary Karine Jean-Pierre, Education Secretary Miguel Cardona, Erica Loewe, Vincent Evans, April Ryan, Don Lemon, Tasha Cole, John Burns, Damon Jones, Nicole Collier, Trey Baker, Stephanie Young, Alencia Johnson, Luisana Perez Fernandez, Crystal Carson, Terrence Woodbury, Wendy Osefo, Brittany Packnett Cunningham, Ben Chavis, Mark Thompson, Ivan Bates, Nii-Quartelai Quartey, Tia Mitchell, Phillip Lewis, Kirstin Garriss, Nolan McCaskill, Brie Jackson, Jasmine Brand, Jasmine Sanders, Ebony McMorris, Michael Leach, Jason Johnson, Colby Redmond, Kamau Marshall, Cameron Trimble, Wintta Woldemariam and Alan Williams. Pic**

— ELLE magazine hosted the 2023 “Women of Impact” event honoring powerful women leaders at Ciel Social Club. **SPOTTED: first lady Jill Biden, Ashley Biden, Reps. Mary Peltola (D-Alaska), Ilhan Omar (D-Minn.) and Sheila Cherfilus-McCormick (D-Fla.), Sara Austin, Kayla Adler, Amanda Nguyen, Oriaku Njoku, Elena Velez, Gisele Fetterman, Julia Fox, Winnie Harlow, Meena Harris, Emily Ruhl, Vinoda Basnayake, Wendy Osefo, Rina Shah, Bill Barton, Patty Perreira, Kara Voght, Christina Sevilla and Dana Spaulding. Pic ... Another pic**

— Washingtonian CEO **Cathy Merrill** and Qatari Ambassador **Meshal bin Hamad Al Thani** hosted a party at the Four Seasons. **SPOTTED: British Ambassador Karen Pierce, Rep. Debbie Dingell (D-Mich.), Chuck Todd, Norah O’Donnell and Geoff Tracey, Molly Jong-Fast, Kevin O’Leary, Abby and Roy Blunt, Steve and Jean Case, Sam Feist, Jonathan and Betsy Fischer Martin, Bill Anaya, Anna Palmer, Liz Johnson, Heather Podesta, Ann Compton, Jackie Bradford, Josh Dawsey, Shane Harris, Steve Clemons, Ben Pauker, John McCarthy, Gloria Dittus, Marcus Goodwin, Teresa Carlson, Carol Melton, Marlene Malek, Grace Bender, Bart and Leslie Gordon and John Hudson.**

— **Kevin Sheekey** hosted his annual Friday dinner at Cafe Milano. **SPOTTED: Sen. Amy**

Klobuchar (D-Minn.), Commerce Secretary **Gina Raimondo** and **Andy Moffit**, Maryland Gov. **Wes Moore** and first lady **Dawn Moore**, Ukrainian Ambassador **Oksana Markarova**, French Ambassador **Laurent Bili**, **Shari Redstone**, **George Cheeks**, **Liev Schreiber**, **Justin Theroux**, **Kyra Sedgwick**, **Ruth Porat**, **Evan Ryan**, **Ben LaBolt**, **Jon Banner**, **Dave Bernad**, **Dave Clark**, **Gary Cohn**, **Kaitlan Collins**, **Pascal and Flore Confavreux**, **Mark Ein**, **Rufus Gifford**, **Lesli Linka Glatter**, **Tammy Haddad**, **Dara Khosrowshahi**, **Steve and Amy Ricchetti**, **Stephanie Ruhle**, **David Urban** and **Bradley Whitford**.

— WaPo and Bully Pulpit Interactive hosted top executives at an exclusive dinner at the Top of the Hay at the Hay-Adams Hotel last night, where guests dined on plates featuring famous moments covered by the Post. **SPOTTED: Fred Ryan, Kathy Baird, Philip Rucker, Toluse Olorunnipa, Andrew Bleeker, Scott Mulhauser, Robert Gibbs, Ben Coffey Clark, Bradley Akubuiro, Kim Axelrod, Ed Cohen, Casey Aden-Wasbury, April Boyd, Matt Bucci, Steve Clayton, Brent Colburn, Tucker Bounds, Jason Lilly, Mayra Macias, Sean Robbins, Katy Parsons, Nidhi Sinha, Erin Streeter, Meredith McPhillips, Yolanda DuCille and Derrick Plummer.**

— **SPOTTED** at the Politics &Inclusion dinner at Masseria Restaurant last night: **Abby Phillip, Lauren Wesley Wilson, Gayle King, April Ryan, Jonathan Capehart, Weijia Jiang, Geoff Bennett, Jim Acosta, Symone Sanders-Townsend, Cecilia Vega, Alicia Menendez, Rachel Scott** and **Astead Herndon**.

— Axios and Live Nation hosted a party at the National Building Museum, where country star **Lainey Wilson** with D.J. **D-Nice** performed. **SPOTTED: Reps. Dan Crenshaw (R-Texas), Sara Jacobs (D-Calif.), Kelly Armstrong (R-N.D.), Michael McCaul (R-Texas), Joaquin Castro (D-Texas) and Debbie Dingell (D-Mich.), SBA Administrator Isabel Guzman, press secretary Karine Jean-Pierre, British Ambassador Karen Pierce, Jim VandeHei, Mike Allen, Roy Schwartz, Evan and Aubrey Allen, Ruby Cramer, Olivia Nuzzi, Dan McDermott, Ben Haigh, Gina Mingacci, Joe Kernan, Alicia Menendez, Amna Nawaz, Didem Nisanci and Bruce Andrews, Lis Smith, Yasmin Vossoughian, Brian Walsh, Jon Banner, Kurt Bardella, Nick Barnicle, Alex Benard, Joe Berchtold, Christine Brennan, Dylan Byers, David Chalian, Steve Clemons, Cesar Conde, Charlotte Klein, Chris Licht, Reggie Love, Brennan Moss, Scott Mulhauser, Megan Murphy, Jeff Nussbaum, Ben Rose, Hilary Rosen, Jon Lovett, Jon Favreau, Rachel Roy, Ali Rubin, Maralee Schwartz, Jennifer Beals, Gene Sperling, Doug Thornell, Lynn Sweet, Margaret Talev, Steve Thomma, Leland Vittert and Rachel Putnam, Peter Watkins, Reed Werner, Jordan Zaslav and Robert Zirkelbach.**

— Semafor threw its second annual White House Correspondents' Dinner party hosted by **Justin Smith, Ben Smith, Gina Chua, Steve Clemons** and **Rachel Oppenheim** at Justin's Kalorama home. The evening featured music by Thievery Corporation co-founder and fellow Kalorama resident **Eric Hilton**. Food was curated by Michelin-star chef **Chris Morgan**. **SPOTTED:** Sen. **Peter Welch** (D-Vt.), **Chris Licht, Dylan Byers, Lucinda Treat, Karen Bhatia, Jim Bankoff, Goli Sheikholeslami, Matt Kaminski, Patrick Steel, Dan Pfeiffer, Mathias Döpfner**, Ecuadorian Ambassador **Ivonne A-Baki, Jan Bayer, Mark Leibovich, Shawn McCreech, Benjy Sarlin, Jessica Lessin, Subrata De, Herbie Ziskend, Juleanna Glover, Charlotte Klein, Katie Robertson, Jessica Rosenworcel, Molly Ball** and **David Kihara, Dave Weigel, Jordan Weissmann, Joseph Zeballos-Roig, Morgan Chalfant, Jennifer Khoury, Madeleine Haeringer, Steve Clayton, Max Tani** and **Meera Pattni**.

— **SPOTTED** at the Creative Coalition's #RightToBearArts benefit dinner gala last night at the Madison Hotel: Reps. **Suzanne Bonamici** (D-Ore.), **Debbie Dingell** (D-Mich.), **Jamaal Bowman** (D-N.Y.), **Shontel Brown** (D-Ohio) and **Sydney Kamlager-Dove** (D-Calif.), **Tim Daly, Robin Bronk, Billy Eichner, Cobie Smulders, Yvette Nicole Brown, Jon Levy, Raegan Revord, Justin Hartley, Sofia Pernas, Wendie Malick, Jason Isaacs, Emily Swallow, BD Wong, Marie Royce, Grace Caroline Currey, Vincent de Paul, Wendy Federman, Clark Gregg, Gloria Calderón Kellett, Tommy Oliver, Chris Samuels, Max Jordan** and **Nikki Schwab**.

— Crooked Media, MoveOn and HIT Strategies hosted a reception at Dauphine's last night. Guests enjoyed hors d'oeuvres and specialty cocktails, including Pimm's Cups and New Orleans Bucks. **SPOTTED:** **Jon Favreau, Jon Lovett, Dan Pfeiffer, Lucinda Treat, Shaniqua McClendon, Karine Jean-Pierre, Jen Psaki, Billy Eichner, Susan Rice, Cody Keenan, Perry Bacon, Mehdi Hasan, Juanita Tolliver, Cenk Uygur, Richard Wolffe, V Spehar, Steve Clemons, Shawna Thomas, Gene Sperling, Charlotte Klein, Christine Delargy, Karen Tumulty, Marty Kady, James Hohmann, Virginia Chamlee, Kyler Alford, Kevin Robillard, Nick Wu** and **Ian Kullgren**.

Pic

TRANSITIONS — The U.S. Cannabis Council has added **Edward Conklin** as executive director and **David Culver** as SVP. Conklin previously was SVP of government relations at Curaleaf. Culver previously was VP of government relations at Canopy Growth.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY: **Quinn Bradlee** (41) ... Sen. **Debbie Stabenow** (D-Mich.) ... Reps. **Steven Horsford** (D-Nev.) (5-0) and **Joe Morelle** (D-N.Y.) ... NBC's **Hallie Jackson** ... **Lynne Weil** of the Center for Security and Emerging Technology, celebrating with a night in NYC and a Broadway

show ... **Vincent Evans** of the Congressional Black Caucus ... **Peter Kiley** of C-SPAN ... Akin Gump's **Ed Pagano** ... **Anne Brachman** ... **Eric Pierce** of Lockheed Martin ... **Allison Zelman** ... **Emily Graeter** of Rep. Mike Carey's (R-Ohio) office ... **Dawn Kopecki** ... **Gentry Collins** ... **Nadeam Elshami** of Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck ... U.Va.'s **Melody Barnes** ... **Ari Isaacman Bevacqua** ... **Richard Goodstein** ... **David Gaidamak** ... **Josh Sharp** of Advoc8 ... **Holly Morris** ... WaPo's **Melina Mara** ... **Geng Ngarmboonanant** ... **Rob Bassin** ... Bracewell's **Scott Segal** ... **Cara Morris Stern** ... **Meghan Pennington** of Penta ... former Reps. **Jim Ryun** (R-Kan.), **Mo Brooks** (R-Ala.) and **Rodney Frelinghuysen** (R-N.J.) ... **Geoff Earle** of the Daily Mail ... **Jasleen Vig** of Rep. Ilhan Omar's (D-Minn.) office ... **Nolen Bivens** of Americans for the Arts ... **Rick Rosen** ... CAP's **Graham Griffin**

THE SHOWS ([Full Sunday show listings here](#)):

ABC "This Week": House Majority Leader Steve Scalise ... Sen. Chris Coons (D-Del.). **Panel:** Donna Brazile, Will Hurd, Jonathan Martin and Asma Khalid.

CBS "Face the Nation": Rep. Nancy Mace (R-S.C.) ... Rep. Ro Khanna (D-Calif.) ... Rep. Tony Gonzales (R-Texas) ... Gary Cohn.

CNN "State of the Union": Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.) ... House Majority Whip Tom Emmer (R-Minn.) ... Asa Hutchinson. **Panel:** Adam Kinzinger, Lis Smith, David Urban and Ashley Allison.

FOX "Fox News Sunday": RNC Chair Ronna McDaniel ... Sen. Chris Van Hollen (D-Md.). **Panel:** Jason Chaffetz, Horace Cooper, Marie Harf and Josh Kraushaar. **Panel:** Carrie Severino, Stephen Saltzburg, Megan Wold and Elizabeth Wydra.

NBC "Meet the Press": DHS Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas ... Vivek Ramaswamy ... Luke Russert. **Panel:** Yamiche Alcindor, Lanhee Chen, Claire McCaskill and Ryan Nobles.

MSNBC "Inside with Jen Psaki": British Ambassador Karen Pierce ... Rep. Katherine Clark (D-Mass.) ... Ron Klain.

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*Send Playbookers tips to playbook@politico.com or text us at **202-556-3307**. Playbook couldn't happen without our editor **Mike DeBonis**, deputy editor **Zack Stanton** and producers **Setota***

Hailemariam and Bethany Irvine.

Corrections: Yesterday's Playbook misstated Karoun Demirjian's employer. She works for the NYT. It also misspelled the names of Abby Phillip, Weijia Jiang, Rep. Kat Cammack (R-Fla.) and Andrew Solender.

A message from National Association of Realtors®:

REALTORS® know an open housing market free from discrimination benefits consumers, communities, and the American economy. Yet, 55 years after passage of the federal Fair Housing Act, the homeownership rates for African Americans, Hispanic Americans, and Asian Americans lag behind that of White Americans. NAR is committed to the enforcement of fair housing laws and to policies that remove historic barriers to homeownership. Find out how at [FlyIn.Realtor](#)

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Apr 12, 2023

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POLITICO Playbook

POLITICO Playbook

BY RACHAEL BADE, EUGENE DANIELS AND RYAN LIZZA

Presented by  Airlines
for America

With help from Eli Okun and Garrett Ross



FILE - In this Tuesday, Feb. 4, 2020, file photo, Supreme Court Chief Justice John Roberts arrives before President Donald Trump delivers his State of the Union address to a joint session of Congress on Capitol Hill in Washington. A divided Supreme Court on Friday, May 29, 2020, rejected an emergency appeal by a California church that challenged state limits on attendance at worship services that have been imposed to contain the spread of the coronavirus. Over the dissent of the four more conservative justices, Roberts joined the court's four liberals in turning away a request from the South Bay United Pentecostal Church in Chula Vista, California, in the San Diego area.

In a letter to John Roberts this week, Senate Judiciary Chair Dick Durbin (D-Ill.) implored the Supreme Court chief justice to tackle two major accountability items. | Leah Millis/Pool via AP



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DRIVING THE DAY

NEW FROM JMART — “How Tennessee Became the Poster State for Political Meltdown,” by

Jonathan Martin in Nashville: “Today, Tennessee represents the grim culmination of the forces corroding state politics: the nationalization of elections and governance, the tribalism between the two parties, the collapse of local media and internet-accelerated siloing of news and the incentive structure wrought by extreme gerrymandering. Also, if we’re being honest, the transition from pragmatists anchored in their communities to partisans more fixated on what’s said online than at their local Rotary Club.”

TRUMP ON TUCKER — Former President **DONALD TRUMP** sat down with Fox News' **TUCKER CARLSON** last night, his first interview since his arraignment. **Some eyebrow-raisers:**

- • **He claimed the Manhattan courthouse was rife with tears:** “I’ll tell you, people were crying. People that work there. ... It’s a tough, tough place and they were crying. They were actually crying. They said, ‘I’m sorry ... 2024, sir, 2024.’ ... So in one sense, it was beautiful.”
- • **Asked by Carlson if he would ever consider dropping out** of the race for president due to legal woes, he said no: “I’d never drop out; it’s not my thing.”
- • **And he had this recollection of his meeting with Chinese President XI JINPING:** “He had an incredible — I’m not allowed to say it, because it’s politically incorrect — a beautiful female interpreter.”

DOUBTING (ACTION ON) THOMAS — In a letter to **JOHN ROBERTS** this week, Senate Judiciary Chair **DICK DURBIN** (D-Ill.) implored the Supreme Court chief justice to tackle two major accountability items:

1. Open an investigation of Justice CLARENCE THOMAS, who failed to disclose millions of dollars’ worth of luxury vacations on the dime of GOP donor **HARLAN CROW**, according to a blockbuster ProPublica story.

2. Have the justices adopt the same code of conduct that currently governs the behavior of all other federal judges.

Those requests might sound like no-brainers for Roberts, who has long stressed the importance of upholding impartiality and preserving public trust in the courts. But there’s good reason to think Durbin’s requests will fall on deaf ears. That’s according to SCOTUS whisperer Josh Gerstein, who told us last night why he’s skeptical Roberts will act.

— **A COURT UNBOUND:** First off, it’s important to note that while Roberts has generally insisted Supreme Court justices follow the same rules as judges in lower courts, they’re not bound by them.

Said Josh: “If you have a complaint about a circuit court judge or a district court judge, there is a procedure: There’s a committee in each circuit that you can take that complaint to. And if it’s a conflict of interest, they’ll assign it to a judge or judges in another circuit to investigate and rule on. But when you’re talking about the Supreme Court, they have ... argued that it’s really not proper for

their inferior judges to basically sit in judgment of them.”

— **NOT MUCH PRECEDENT:** When Congress has complained in the past about alleged improprieties involving a justice, they often call on Roberts to investigate — and threaten to do so themselves if he doesn’t. Roberts never has before, and Josh doesn’t expect things to be different now. The odds of that changing for Thomas are “pretty close to zero,” he told us.

In fact, it’s not even clear Roberts could act if he wanted to. While the chief justice has a well-established role in assigning opinions, managing court operations and even presiding over impeachment trials, Roberts technically doesn’t have any disciplinary powers over his colleagues. “It would be a sort of strange thing for him to do,” Josh said. “And I think because of the blowback he could face, that might be one of the reasons he’s never done it.”

— **THE HONOR SYSTEM:** So when a controversy breaks out, Josh said it’s usually up to the justice under scrutiny to decide how to respond or even whether to respond. Last year, for instance, Justice **SAMUEL ALITO** authorized the court to issue a statement responding to allegations regarding his socializing with people interested in influencing the court.

After two lawmakers pressed the issue, Josh told us, “The court [writes] back saying, ‘Well, here’s some of the facts that we’ve gotten from the justice involved, and have a nice day.’” And that’s that.

— **GOTTA HAVE A CODE:** Durbin’s demand for some semblance of an ethics regime isn’t the first such request. In fact, the members of the court acknowledged they were considering it in 2019, when Justices **ELENA KAGAN** and Alito told appropriators that they were working on a code of conduct.

But nothing has come of those talks four years later, and WaPo reported earlier this year that the justices had essentially abandoned the effort amid disagreements over what it should look like.

— **WHERE’S CONGRESS?** Josh said it’s fair to ask why lawmakers haven’t done more on this issue. Controversies surrounding the justices emerge every so often, and whenever they do, there’s always outrage over the lack of an accountability process beyond sending a slew of letters.

Lawmakers could in theory try to pass legislation imposing some rules on the justices, and a number of such bills have been filed over the past year. But, Josh noted, it’s not clear if they’d be

constitutional: Roberts has suggested that separation of powers limits Congress's ability to police the high court.

Still, Congress has nudged the court to make smaller reforms in the name of transparency — from tightening some financial disclosure rules to disclosing stock trades in real time and putting financial disclosures for justices online in a public database.

That may be “nibbling around the edges of the problem,” as Josh put it. But while lawmakers of both parties have expressed interest over the years in increasing Supreme Court transparency, the reality is that bipartisanship will be hard to find as long as it's only a conservative justice under the microscope.

“These are areas where I could see Congress actually reaching a consensus, but it's very hard to do in a situation where a specific justice is on the ropes,” Josh said.

Related read: “Jet-Setting With Clarence Thomas Puts Spotlight on an Eccentric Billionaire,” by NYT's Abbie VanSickle: “Mr. Crow gives few interviews and rarely speaks in public. ‘I wouldn't care if John Q. Public had never heard of me,’ he told The Times in 1996. ‘In fact, I'd prefer that John Q. Public hadn't heard of me. It's not a **HOWARD HUGHES** privacy thing. It's a what's-the-point thing.’”

Good Wednesday morning. Thanks for reading Playbook. Drop us a line: **Rachael Bade**, **Eugene Daniels**, **Ryan Lizza**.

A message from Airlines for America:

*Did you know? Every day **more than 780,000 workers** in America make our industry go. Last year alone, airlines helped **50,000 new careers** take flight. That's thousands of new jobs – pilots, flight attendants, mechanics and others – every month. In fact, job growth in the U.S. passenger airline industry is significantly outpacing overall U.S. job growth – and we are still hiring. Learn more: www.airlines.org/jobs.*



A gif shows headshots of various mayors from around the country.

NEW THIS MORNING — Welcome to POLITICO’s Mayors Club, a first-of-its-kind roundtable of 50 mayors, one from each state. Our colleagues convened this group of mayors to tell us how they’re tackling the issues their own voters are demanding action on — and what they’re pushing state and national leaders for. The project marks a commitment from this newsroom to look beyond Washington and dig into state and local policy.

Throughout the year, we will survey and interview these leaders on a variety of key issues plaguing cities and towns across the country — and what solutions mayors are rolling out. You’ll hear more of their stories as the project unfolds. [**Read the introduction by Liz Crampton**](#)

Check out the first two installments:

- • [**“50 mayors open up about their battles with crime, gun violence”**](#)
- • [**“We asked 50 mayors: What keeps you up at night?”**](#)

FIRST IN PLAYBOOK — The Partnership for Public Service is releasing the 2022 Best Places to Work in the Federal Government: “The rankings and accompanying data provide a means of holding federal leaders accountable for the health of their organizations, shining the spotlight on agencies that are successfully engaging employees as well as on those that are falling short,” a

summary says. [See the full rankings and analysis](#)

The Top Five: 1. National Aeronautics and Space Administration ... 2. Department of Health and Human Services ... 3. Intelligence Community ... 4. Department of Commerce ... 5. Department of Veterans Affairs

A message from Airlines for America:



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PRESIDENT JOE BIDEN'S WEDNESDAY (all times Eastern):

6:15 a.m.: The president will meet with British PM **RISHI SUNAK** in Belfast.

8 a.m.: Biden will deliver remarks on the 25th anniversary of the Belfast/Good Friday Agreement.

9:20 a.m.: Biden will depart Belfast en route to County Louth, Ireland.

11:50 a.m.: Biden will visit Kilwirra Cemetary.

12:20 p.m.: Biden will tour Carlingford Castle.

1:45 p.m.: Biden will visit Dundalk and participate in a community gathering.

4:05 p.m.: Biden will depart County Louth en route to Dublin.

VP KAMALA HARRIS' WEDNESDAY — The VP will convene the Task Force on Reproductive Health Care Access at 2:45 p.m.

THE HOUSE and **SENATE** are out.

GO INSIDE THE 2023 MILKEN INSTITUTE GLOBAL CONFERENCE: POLITICO is proud to partner with the Milken Institute to produce a special edition "Global Insider" newsletter featuring exclusive coverage, insider nuggets and unparalleled insights from the 2023 Global Conference, which will convene leaders in health, finance, politics, philanthropy and entertainment from April 30-May 3. This year's theme, *Advancing a Thriving World*, will challenge and inspire attendees to lean into building an optimistic coalition capable of tackling the issues and inequities we collectively face. [Don't miss a thing — subscribe today for a front row seat.](#)

PHOTO OF THE DAY



President Joe Biden is greeted by British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak, left, and US Ambassador to the United Kingdom

Jane Hartley, center, he steps off Air Force One at Belfast International Airport in Belfast, Northern Ireland, Tuesday, April 11, 2023. Biden is visiting the United Kingdom and Ireland in part to help celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Good Friday Agreement. At right is United States Special Envoy for Northern Ireland Joe Kennedy III.

President Joe Biden is greeted by British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak, left, and US Ambassador to the United Kingdom Jane Hartley, center, as he steps off Air Force One at Belfast International Airport in Belfast, Northern Ireland, Tuesday, April 11, 2023. | Patrick Semansky/AP Photo

PLAYBOOK READS

2024 WATCH

DeSANTIS DOWNLOAD — “Why Ron DeSantis Is Taking Aim at the Federal Reserve,” by NYT’s Jeanna Smialek and Linda Qiu: Florida Gov. **RON DeSANTIS** “has begun to criticize **JEROME H. POWELL**, the Fed chair, in speeches and news conferences. He has alleged without evidence that the Biden administration is about to introduce a central bank digital currency — which neither the White House nor the politically independent Fed has decided to do — in a bid to surveil Americans and control their spending on gas. He has quoted the Fed’s Twitter posts disparagingly. His critiques echo a familiar playbook from the Trump administration.”

MORE POLITICS

UNDER PRESSURE — “Republicans facing a reckoning later this week,” by Adam Wren, Natalie Allison and Meridith McGraw: “Days after a mass shooting in Louisville, Ky., many declared and undeclared 2024 candidates will be brandishing their Second Amendment bona fides at the National Rifle Association’s annual leadership forum in Indianapolis. From there, a number of the candidates will travel south on I-65, where they will make their cases to Republican National Committee grandees for a gathering in Nashville — the site not only of another mass shooting, but also the state GOP-led ejection of two Black Democratic lawmakers last week.”

MASTER OF PUPPETS — “Inside Chicago’s intense, behind-the-scenes effort to secure the DNC,” by Shia Kapos, Christopher Cadelago and Sally Goldenberg: “Illinois and Chicago elected officials were fearful that Biden’s sentimentality about Atlanta would win out. And so they and their neighbors made a full-court press of their own. When the DNC came to Chicago to discuss the city’s bid, they happened to be there during Lollapalooza’s kickoff. Mayor **LORI LIGHTFOOT** took

them to watch Metallica warm up in an empty Grant Park.”

Georgia takes it well: “It’s your loss, DNC!” The Atlanta Journal-Constitution’s Patricia Murphy writes

FIRST IN PLAYBOOK — Arizona GOP Senate candidate **MARK LAMB**, who entered the race for independent Sen. **KYRSTEN SINEMA**’s seat, is rolling out his campaign infrastructure and we got a sneak peek. **PAT AQUILINA** will be political director for the campaign, after serving as campaign manager for Rep. **ELI CRANE** (R-Ariz.) in 2022. The campaign will employ Lincoln Strategy Group as general consultant, FP1 for media, The Morning Group for national fundraising, PUSH Digital for digital and online fundraising and Cygnal for polling.

IF IT TALKS LIKE A CANDIDATE — **“Sen. Tim Scott takes another White House step: Launching 2024 exploratory committee,”** by the Post and Courier’s Caitlin Byrd: The South Carolina Republican “plans to launch a presidential exploratory committee on April 12 — the same day he plans to be in Iowa, the leadoff state in the presidential nominating process. He will travel to New Hampshire the very next day before returning to South Carolina on April 14.”

IF IT WALKS LIKE A CANDIDATE — **“It sure looks like a Biden aide is running for Congress in Rhode Island,”** by Boston Globe’s Dan McGowan: **“GABE AMO** isn’t a household name in Rhode Island politics, but it’s increasingly likely that the Moses Brown graduate and former aide to **GINA RAIMONDO** is going to join the field seeking to replace US Representative **DAVID CICILLINE** in the First Congressional District.”

CALIFORNIA DREAMIN’ — **“GOP attorney Eric Early announces Senate campaign,”** by L.A. Times’ Seema Mehta: “The 64-year-old has run for office multiple times, losing to incumbent Democratic Rep. **ADAM SCHIFF** in a 2020 congressional contest, and failing to advance past the primaries in the 2022 and 2018 attorney general race.”

JUST POSTED — **“After Texas Ruling, Democratic States Move to Stockpile Abortion Pills,”** by NYT’s David Chen and Ava Sasani

THE WHITE HOUSE

BIDEN ABROAD — **“Biden to Celebrate Diplomacy, and His Own Irish Roots, in Belfast,”** by NYT’s Michael Shear and Katie Rogers: “Even White House officials have made little effort to

describe Mr. Biden's trip as a policy one. It is personal for the president, they said, and most of his time will be spent in the countryside — with his sister and his son among the scores of staff, Secret Service and media in the long presidential motorcade.”

CONGRESS

KNOWING YOUNG KIM — “This Korean American Republican is trying to educate her party — in the U.S. and abroad,” by Olivia Beavers and Nicholas Wu in Seoul: Rep. **YOUNG KIM's** (R-Calif.) “bridge-building remains aspirational in many respects. With a Democrat in the White House, Kim is not an influential voice in shaping U.S. foreign and national security policy. But she has sought out opportunities to serve as a link between America's Conservative Party and the right-wing government in Seoul.”

The challenge: “She is a prominent Asian American in a party struggling to allay fears among voters of color, including Asian Americans, that Republicans are focused on white voters and overly tolerant of racial bigotry and xenophobia.”

BRAGG FIRES BACK AT JORDAN — Manhattan DA **ALVIN BRAGG** yesterday ratcheted up the standoff between his office and House Judiciary Chair **JIM JORDAN** (R-Ohio), filing a lawsuit with the intention of barring a former employee from complying with a subpoena issued by House Republicans. “In a 50-page lawsuit, Bragg slammed House GOP efforts to compel the testimony of his former lieutenant, **MARK POMERANTZ**, as a ‘brazen and unconstitutional attack,’” our colleagues Kyle Cheney, Josh Gerstein and Jordain Carney write. [Read the lawsuit](#)

OUT WITH THE OLD — “New Pressure to End Old Senate Practice After Mississippi Judicial Pick Is Blocked,” by NYT's Carl Hulse: “Republicans abandoned the blue-slip process for appeals court judges after gaining control of the Senate in 2015. ... But the practice was retained for district court judges, and Durbin has been reluctant to jettison it, fearing Republicans would retaliate by bringing the confirmation process to a standstill.”

CHANGING HIS TUNE — “Lindsey Graham meets with Saudi crown prince, reversing past criticism,” by WaPo's Mariana Alfaro

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POLICY CORNER

TEST DRIVE — “Biden makes huge push for electric vehicles. Is America ready?” by Tanya Snyder, James Bikales and Alex Guillén: “By pushing the industry to make the transition faster, Biden could risk a backlash from unwilling consumers, complicate questions about China’s dominance of electric vehicle supplies, and escalate his administration’s legal fight with the oil industry and GOP governors who oppose his efforts to phase out internal combustion engines.”

EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW — “Education Secretary Cardona: focus on banning assault

weapons, not books,” by Reuters

FOR THOSE KEEPING TRACK — “Biden Administration Proposes Evenly Cutting Water Allotments From Colorado River,” by NYT’s Christopher Flavelle

RIPPLE EFFECT — “Obamacare ruling, Medicaid overhaul could trigger an HIV resurgence,” by Alice Miranda Ollstein

AMERICA AND THE WORLD

LEAK LATEST — “U.S. Officials Speak to Ukrainians After Document Leaks,” by NYT’s Michael Crowley: “In their first public comments since the documents appeared online several weeks ago, Defense Secretary **LLOYD J. AUSTIN III** and Secretary of State **ANTONY J. BLINKEN** said they had spoken to their Ukrainian counterparts. Mr. Blinken also said he had spoken to unnamed American allies to ‘reassure them about our own commitment to safeguarding intelligence.’”

***Related read:* “An Online Meme Group Is at the Center of Uproar Over Leaked Military Secrets,”** by NYT’s Kellen Browning and Stuart Thompson

GERSHKOVICH LATEST — “U.S. Officials in Moscow Haven’t Been Allowed to Visit WSJ Reporter Evan Gershkovich,” by WSJ’s Louise Radnofsky and William Mauldin: “The U.S. has frequently accused Russia of ignoring international law in depriving Americans of proper diplomatic representation, and its language is becoming increasingly blunt.”

FOR YOUR RADAR — “Biden aide, Saudi prince see ‘progress’ toward Yemen war end,” by AP’s Aamer Madhani and Matthew Lee

MEDIAWATCH

FOX IN THE DOG HOUSE — “Fox attorneys in libel case reveal dual roles for Murdoch,” by AP’s Randall Chase in Wilmington, Del.: “Fox Corp. had asserted since Dominion filed its lawsuit in 2021 that **RUPERT MURDOCH** had no official role at Fox News. In its filings, it had listed Fox News officers as **SUZANNE SCOTT, JAY WALLACE** and **JOE DORREGO**. But on Easter Sunday, Fox disclosed to Dominion’s attorneys that Murdoch also is ‘executive chair’ at Fox News.”

The context: “The disclosure came after Superior Court Judge **ERIC DAVIS** wondered aloud during a status conference last week who Fox News’ officers were. ... Davis suggested that had he known of Murdoch’s dual role at Fox Corp. and Fox News, he might have reached different conclusions in a summary judgment ruling he issued last month.”

The Fox News statement: “Rupert Murdoch has been listed as executive chairman of FOX News in our SEC filings since 2019 and this filing was referenced by Dominion’s own attorney during his deposition.”

Related reads: [“Judge Limits Fox’s Options for Defense in Dominion Trial,”](#) by NYT’s Jeremy Peters ... [“Rupert Murdoch and Fox Corp. board members sued by investor over ‘stolen election claims,’”](#) by NBC’s Jane Timm

VALLEY TALK

MUSK READ — [“Elon Musk says he’s sleeping on a couch at Twitter and his dog is in charge,”](#) by WaPo’s Faiz Siddiqui: “The billionaire made the comments in an interview with the BBC on Tuesday night over the company’s live audio feature, Twitter Spaces. In the interview, Musk said Twitter would tweak a new label it has added to accounts including NPR and the BBC referring to them as state-affiliated media — highlighting instead their reliance on public funding.

“But Musk also contested that misinformation and hate speech were more prevalent on the site, after the journalist was unable to name a specific example of the phenomenon.”

STEP INSIDE THE WEST WING: What's really happening in West Wing offices? Find out who's up, who's down, and who really has the president's ear in our West Wing Playbook newsletter, the insider's guide to the Biden White House and Cabinet. [For buzzy nuggets and details that you won't find anywhere else, subscribe today.](#)

PLAYBOOKERS

Joe Biden and **Joe Kennedy III** called **Ethel Kennedy** [from Air Force One](#) to wish her a happy

95th birthday.

Ted Cruz apparently gets quite the law enforcement greeting every time he flies through O'Hare International Airport.

Elon Musk swears you're losing your check mark if you don't pay up by next week.

FIRST IN PLAYBOOK — Rob Engstrom is joining Bullpen Strategy Group as a senior adviser. He previously was chief political strategist at the American Bankers Association and is a Chamber of Commerce alum.

— **David Frulla** is now comms director for Rep. John Duarte (R-Calif.). He most recently was comms director at the Republican Main Street Partnership, and is a Western Caucus Foundation alum.

— **Molly Mitchell** is launching Mitchell Media, a PR firm focused on politics and startups. She previously was marketing director at Bully Pulpit Interactive, and is a National Democratic Redistricting Committee and DCCC alum.

— **Theo Menon** is now legislative director at Republican Main Street Partnership. He most recently was a government affairs associate at R Street Institute.

MEDIA MOVES — Dan Merica and **Aneeta Mathur-Ashton** are joining The Messenger. Merica will be a national political reporter and previously was a national political reporter at CNN. Mathur-Ashton will be a political breaking news reporter and previously was a writing associate producer at MSNBC. ... **Adam Wollner** is now an editor at The Messenger. He previously was an editor at CNN.

TRANSITIONS — Stephen Schatz is now SVP at Drumfire Public Affairs. He previously was deputy chief of staff and director of intergovernmental affairs for Maryland Gov. Larry Hogan. ... The House Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Pandemic is adding **Giancarlo Pellegrini** as Democratic chief counsel and **Kelly O'Keeffe** as Democratic comms director and senior adviser. Pellegrini previously was Democratic elections counsel for the House Administration Committee. O'Keeffe previously was comms director for Rep. Raul Ruiz (D-Calif.). ... **Alex Cohen** will be government affairs director at the Alaska Wilderness League. He most recently was senior political

strategist at Sierra Club. ...

... **Amanda Fuchs Miller** is now deputy assistant secretary for higher education programs in the Education Department's Office of Postsecondary Education. She previously was general counsel for Sen. Brian Schatz (D-Hawaii). ... **Brittany Grimm** is now founder and president of Arrowhead Strategies, a new political fundraising consulting firm. She most recently was director of development at New Media Ventures, and is a DCCC alum. ... **Andrea Goodman** is now CEO at I AM ALS. She previously was SVP of patient support and research strategy at the Colorectal Cancer Alliance.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY: Reps. **Tim Walberg** (R-Mich.) and **Jesús "Chuy" García** (D-Ill.) ... **Fred Ryan** ... former Rep. **Tulsi Gabbard** (D-Hawaii) ... **Christian Datoc** ... **Mindy Myers** ... **Brad Elkins** ... CBS' **Rita Braver** ... **Jack Pandol Jr.** ... **Katherine Rodriguez** of DoorDash ... **Gretchen Andersen** ... **Sindy Benavides** ... **Anthony Bellmon** ... **Peter Scher** of JPMorgan Chase ... **Corry Robb** ... **John Athon** of Safespill Systems (4-0) ... POLITICO's **Yohannes Gurmu** ... **Laly Rivera Perez** ... **Nick Iacovella** ... National Student Legal Defense Network's **Aaron Ament** ... **Audra McGeorge** ... **Chris Gorud** of Sen. Sheldon Whitehouse's (D-R.I.) office ... **Reed Galen** ... ABC's **Eric Ortega** ... **Shalla Ross** ... WaPo's **Carrie Camillo** ... AARP's **Timothy Gearan** ... CNN's **Greg Clary** ... **Woody Johnson** ... **Eric Leckey**

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*Send Playbookers tips to playbook@politico.com or text us at **202-556-3307**. Playbook couldn't happen without our editor **Mike DeBonis**, deputy editor **Zack Stanton** and producers **Setota Hailemariam** and **Bethany Irvine**.*

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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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To: John M Vu <John.Vu@kp.org>;
Tara L Herberth <Tara.L.Herberth@kp.org>

Seema S Wadhwa <Seema.S.Wadhwa@kp.org>;
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>;

CC: Mccannon, Joseph (AHRQ/IOD) /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=63157885dc05437fa3b497210c5132ea-Mccannon, J <Joseph.Mccannon@ahrq.hhs.gov>;
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Balbus, John MD, MPH (OS/OASH/OCCHE) /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=e8ec6cdd4b094cdfb6d36d72aba61bc8-Balbus, Joh <John.Balbus@hhs.gov>

Subject: RE: Net Zero Event

Date: 2022/06/02 13:09:35

Priority: Normal

Type: Note

The rest of our party will be me, Lieutenant Commander (LCDR) Kinbo Lee and Commander (CDR) Matthew Johns.

Adam Sarvana

Director of Communications

Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health

.....

Email: adam.sarvana@hhs.gov

Mobile: (b)(6)

Desk: (202) 795-7619

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From: John M Vu <John.Vu@kp.org>

Sent: Thursday, June 2, 2022 11:22 AM

To: Sarvana, Adam (HHS/OASH) <Adam.Sarvana@hhs.gov>; Tara L Herberth <Tara.L.Herberth@kp.org>

Cc: Seema S Wadhwa <Seema.S.Wadhwa@kp.org>; Fisher, Megan (HHS/OASH)

<Megan.Fisher@hhs.gov>; Mataka, Arsenio (HHS/OASH) <Arsenio.Mataka@hhs.gov>; Mccannon, Joseph (AHRQ/IOD) <Joseph.Mccannon@ahrq.hhs.gov>; Boateng, Sarah (HHS/OASH) <Sarah.Boateng@hhs.gov>; Balbus, John MD, MPH (OS/OASH/OCCE) <John.Balbus@hhs.gov>
Subject: RE: Net Zero Event

Thank you Adam for looking into and building the extra 15 min after the fireside chat. Really appreciate your flexibility and accommodations. We definitely will put together an overview of the visit, with a specific agenda that will break down 12:30 – 1:30 and include whom from Kaiser Permanente will be involved and engaging with you.

Also, who else from Admiral Levine's team will be in attendance?

Thanks.

From: Sarvana, Adam (HHS/OASH) <Adam.Sarvana@hhs.gov>
Sent: Thursday, June 2, 2022 8:05 AM
To: John M Vu <John.Vu@kp.org>; Tara L Herberth <Tara.L.Herberth@kp.org>
Cc: Seema S Wadhwa <Seema.S.Wadhwa@kp.org>; Fisher, Megan (HHS/OASH) <Megan.Fisher@hhs.gov>; Mataka, Arsenio (HHS/OASH) <Arsenio.Mataka@hhs.gov>; Mccannon, Joseph (AHRQ/IOD) <Joseph.Mccannon@ahrq.hhs.gov>; Boateng, Sarah (HHS/OASH) <Sarah.Boateng@hhs.gov>; Balbus, John MD, MPH (OS/OASH/OCCE) <John.Balbus@hhs.gov>
Subject: RE: Net Zero Event

And – perhaps needless to say – we'd be grateful for a tick-tock and names of attendees for each part of her appearance, in part for our internal procedures.

Adam Sarvana

Director of Communications

Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health

Email: adam.sarvana@hhs.gov

Mobile: (b)(6)

Desk: (202) 795-7619

hhs.gov/ash



From: Sarvana, Adam (HHS/OASH)

Sent: Thursday, June 2, 2022 10:56 AM

To: John M Vu <John.Vu@kp.org>; Tara L Herberth <Tara.L.Herberth@kp.org>

Cc: Seema S Wadhwa <Seema.S.Wadhwa@kp.org>; Fisher, Megan (HHS/OASH) <Megan.Fisher@hhs.gov>; Mataka, Arsenio (HHS/OASH) <Arsenio.Mataka@hhs.gov>; Mccannon, Joseph (AHRQ/IOD) <Joseph.Mccannon@ahrq.hhs.gov>; Boateng, Sarah (HHS/OASH)

<Sarah.Boateng@hhs.gov>; Balbus, John MD, MPH (OS/OASH/OCHE) <John.Balbus@hhs.gov>

Subject: RE: Net Zero Event

The drive is about 10 minutes to our next meeting, so she can stay 15 minutes over (i.e., to 1:30 p.m.)
Needless to say, we don't want to be circling the block looking for parking and running late, but I think a short additional conversation with leadership would work. I'll update our calendar.

Adam Sarvana

Director of Communications

Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health

Email: adam.sarvana@hhs.gov

Mobile: (b)(6)

Desk: (202) 795-7619

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From: John M Vu <John.Vu@kp.org>

Sent: Wednesday, June 1, 2022 6:08 PM

To: Sarvana, Adam (HHS/OASH) <Adam.Sarvana@hhs.gov>; Tara L Herberth <Tara.L.Herberth@kp.org>

Cc: Seema S Wadhwa <Seema.S.Wadhwa@kp.org>; Fisher, Megan (HHS/OASH)

<Megan.Fisher@hhs.gov>; Mataka, Arsenio (HHS/OASH) <Arsenio.Mataka@hhs.gov>; Mccannon,

Joseph (AHRQ/IOD) <Joseph.Mccannon@ahrq.hhs.gov>; Boateng, Sarah (HHS/OASH)

<Sarah.Boateng@hhs.gov>; Balbus, John MD, MPH (OS/OASH/OCCHE) <John.Balbus@hhs.gov>

Subject: RE: Net Zero Event

Hi Adam – One more thing to check on. The fireside chat will end at 1:15. Would it be possible to have Admiral Levine stay with us for another 15-20 minutes for a meeting with some key executives and a little discussion? If you left our offices in downtown Oakland by 1:35pm, could that be enough cushion to get to your 2:00pm in Oakland? Our event is at 1950 Franklin St, Oakland, 94612. If leaving at 1:35pm doesn't work, we'll squeeze everything in from 12:30 – 12:50. Sorry to be a pain with all these questions. Let us know. Thanks! -John

From: Sarvana, Adam (HHS/OASH) <Adam.Sarvana@hhs.gov>

Sent: Tuesday, May 31, 2022 5:35 PM

To: Tara L Herberth <Tara.L.Herberth@kp.org>; John M Vu <John.Vu@kp.org>

Cc: Seema S Wadhwa <Seema.S.Wadhwa@kp.org>; Fisher, Megan (HHS/OASH)

<Megan.Fisher@hhs.gov>; Mataka, Arsenio (HHS/OASH) <Arsenio.Mataka@hhs.gov>; Mccannon,

Joseph (AHRQ/IOD) <Joseph.Mccannon@ahrq.hhs.gov>; Boateng, Sarah (HHS/OASH)

<Sarah.Boateng@hhs.gov>; Balbus, John MD, MPH (OS/OASH/OCCHE) <John.Balbus@hhs.gov>

Subject: Re: Net Zero Event

It's unlikely we'll be able to visit, leave and come back - if we could have a 12:30 conversation that ends at 12:50 (?) for tech check and then start rolling at 1:00, that would probably be the best way to make the most of the time.

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From: Tara L Herberth <Tara.L.Herberth@kp.org>

Sent: Tuesday, May 31, 2022 8:16 PM

To: Sarvana, Adam (HHS/OASH) <Adam.Sarvana@hhs.gov>; John M Vu <John.Vu@kp.org>

Cc: Seema S Wadhwa <Seema.S.Wadhwa@kp.org>; Fisher, Megan (HHS/OASH)

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Joseph (AHRQ/IOD) <Joseph.Mccannon@ahrq.hhs.gov>; Boateng, Sarah (HHS/OASH)

<Sarah.Boateng@hhs.gov>; Balbus, John MD, MPH (OS/OASH/OCCE) <John.Balbus@hhs.gov>

Subject: RE: Net Zero Event

Hi Adam -- I know our executives would very much appreciate some time to talk about KP's environmental agenda as well as discuss trends and other work we should be considering.

Are you still thinking Admiral Levine could get together from 3:30-5 (or a sub-set of that time)? If so, we'll make the 12:30-1 pre-event alignment and hold the environmental agenda discussion to later in the afternoon.

If that's not possible, we'll be sure we carve out time to cover that discussion prior to the 1 pm. If we go that route and it's possible for you to come a bit earlier (maybe 15 minutes or so), we'll have more time for that discussion. But no matter what, we'll make it work.

Thanks so much! Tara

From: Sarvana, Adam (HHS/OASH) <Adam.Sarvana@hhs.gov>

Sent: Tuesday, May 31, 2022 3:40 PM

To: Tara L Herberth <Tara.L.Herberth@kp.org>; John M Vu <John.Vu@kp.org>

Cc: Seema S Wadhwa <Seema.S.Wadhwa@kp.org>; Fisher, Megan (HHS/OASH)

<Megan.Fisher@hhs.gov>; Mataka, Arsenio (HHS/OASH) <Arsenio.Mataka@hhs.gov>; Mccannon,

Joseph (AHRQ/IOD) <Joseph.Mccannon@ahrq.hhs.gov>; Boateng, Sarah (HHS/OASH)

<Sarah.Boateng@hhs.gov>; Balbus, John MD, MPH (OS/OASH/OCCE) <John.Balbus@hhs.gov>

Subject: Re: Net Zero Event

Just so we have our own schedule straight, what's the plan for 12:30 - 1:00? (If it's just informal chat and getting comfortable, that's fine by us.) We want to make the most of the time, so if there's anyone there who would be able to give even a brief in-person overview of your environmental agenda, I'm sure she'd appreciate it. Having some practices and ideas to share in future conversations is always helpful.

I'm at (b)(6) if anyone ever needs to get a hold of me.

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From: Tara L Herberth <Tara.L.Herberth@kp.org>

Sent: Tuesday, May 31, 2022 6:24 PM

To: John M Vu <John.Vu@kp.org>; Sarvana, Adam (HHS/OASH) <Adam.Sarvana@hhs.gov>

Cc: Seema S Wadhwa <Seema.S.Wadhwa@kp.org>; Fisher, Megan (HHS/OASH)

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Joseph (AHRQ/IOD) <Joseph.Mccannon@ahrq.hhs.gov>; Boateng, Sarah (HHS/OASH)

<Sarah.Boateng@hhs.gov>; Balbus, John MD, MPH (OS/OASH/OCCE) <John.Balbus@hhs.gov>; Fisher,

Megan (HHS/OASH) <Megan.Fisher@hhs.gov>

Subject: RE: Net Zero Event

Hello -- Thank you so much for that terrific news! Per John's email below, I will be your point person on partnering re: the chat topics, sharing invite materials, coordinating on social, event logistics, etc., and look forward to working with you and Megan. As John mentioned, the event details are as follows:

Thursday, June 9 (Pacific Times below)

1-1:15 pm: Fireside chat with Admiral Levine (live in our NCAL studio/Oakland – we follow all COVID protocols)

1:15-1:45 pm: Panel w/Q&A (remote)

We appreciate you being available from 12:30-1:15 so we have some time together to have Admiral Levine get comfortable with the studio and answer any last-minute items before the event begins.

More to come; in the meantime, please don't hesitate to reach out if you have any immediate questions. Tara

From: John M Vu <John.Vu@kp.org>

Sent: Tuesday, May 31, 2022 3:22 PM

To: Sarvana, Adam (HHS/OASH) <Adam.Sarvana@hhs.gov>

Cc: Tara L Herberth <Tara.L.Herberth@kp.org>; Seema S Wadhwa <Seema.S.Wadhwa@kp.org>; Fisher, Megan (HHS/OASH) <Megan.Fisher@hhs.gov>; Mataka, Arsenio (HHS/OASH)

<Arsenio.Mataka@hhs.gov>; Mccannon, Joseph (AHRQ/IOD) <Joseph.Mccannon@ahrq.hhs.gov>;

Boateng, Sarah (HHS/OASH) <Sarah.Boateng@hhs.gov>; Balbus, John MD, MPH (OS/OASH/OCCHE)

<John.Balbus@hhs.gov>; Fisher, Megan (HHS/OASH) <Megan.Fisher@hhs.gov>

Subject: RE: Net Zero Event

Fantastic! Thank you so much for your flexibility and willingness to work with us on this. We also saw the news today about the Office of Environmental Justice within OCCHE. That aligns so well with the objectives for the event we had in mind next week and our ongoing commitment to lifting up community and voices for health equity.

Tara will be following up with more to coordinate the visit and the event. We just need to dust off our red carpet now. 😊

-John

From: Sarvana, Adam (HHS/OASH) <Adam.Sarvana@hhs.gov>

Sent: Tuesday, May 31, 2022 3:00 PM

To: John M Vu <John.Vu@kp.org>

Cc: Tara L Herberth <Tara.L.Herberth@kp.org>; Fisher, Megan (HHS/OASH) <Megan.Fisher@hhs.gov>; Mataka, Arsenio (HHS/OASH) <Arsenio.Mataka@hhs.gov>; Mccannon, Joseph (AHRQ/IOD)

<Joseph.Mccannon@ahrq.hhs.gov>; Boateng, Sarah (HHS/OASH) <Sarah.Boateng@hhs.gov>; Balbus,

John MD, MPH (OS/OASH/OCCHE) <John.Balbus@hhs.gov>; Fisher, Megan (HHS/OASH)

<Megan.Fisher@hhs.gov>

Subject: RE: Net Zero Event

Yes, we can make those times work – I just made a call to verify, and we're all set. We'll have had lunch already, but thanks for the offer. What should we know about parking, being met at the door, and any other basic logistics? Megan Fisher, who's already on this thread, is graciously helping with logistics for the trip.

Adam Sarvana

Director of Communications

Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health

Email: adam.sarvana@hhs.gov

Mobile: (b)(6)

Desk: (202) 795-7619

hhs.gov/ash



From: John M Vu <John.Vu@kp.org>

Sent: Tuesday, May 31, 2022 4:46 PM

To: Sarvana, Adam (HHS/OASH) <Adam.Sarvana@hhs.gov>

Cc: Tara L Herberth <Tara.L.Herberth@kp.org>; Fisher, Megan (HHS/OASH) <Megan.Fisher@hhs.gov>;

Mataka, Arsenio (HHS/OASH) <Arsenio.Mataka@hhs.gov>; Mccannon, Joseph (AHRQ/IOD)

<Joseph.Mccannon@ahrq.hhs.gov>; Boateng, Sarah (HHS/OASH) <Sarah.Boateng@hhs.gov>; Balbus,

John MD, MPH (OS/OASH/OCHE) <John.Balbus@hhs.gov>; Fisher, Megan (HHS/OASH)

<Megan.Fisher@hhs.gov>

Subject: RE: Net Zero Event

Adam -- Thank you for the response and offer. I've included Tara here who is heading up our Communications plan for the event and can help with the ongoing coordination and planning. Also including Seema who is our national director on environmental stewardship work overall (and whom Joe and John know). And moving Bechara to bcc.

We can make the afternoon of June 9 work...but want to check one other possibility if there's any chance to meet a little earlier in the afternoon. The event we are envisioning is to have the Admiral engaged in a "fireside chat" for about 15 min with either our CEO or our Chief Health Officer.. The focus would be on the need for the healthcare sector to decarbonize and really center it on the impacts to our communities and major health equity issues. We can partner with you on the questions/topics. We are not planning an open Q&A. A KP leader would do a quick welcome at the beginning and then we'll turn to the fireside chat. Admiral Levine is free to depart after the fireside chat. (And we are pulling together another set of speakers for a panel that would follow the fireside chat.)

We are hoping to livestream the event. We have an overall social plan and channel and were not planning on using yours. We are hoping to capture as much of an audience as possible to tune in, so it would be more ideal to hold it earlier in the afternoon so the event can fall within eastern time zone working hours. Would it be possible at all for Admiral Levine to be able to meet us in our Oakland office at 12:30pm, and then be ready to go live with the event at 1:00pm? She could be done at 1:15 which would hopefully allow you plenty of time to get to your 2:00pm meeting in Oakland.

So let us know if 12:30pm – 1:15pm would work on June 9. We'd be happy to have lunch and any other accommodations ready if that would be helpful. We appreciate your willingness to consider. Also we are happy to jump on the phone to discuss this live if it would be easier.

-John

(b)(6)

From: Sarvana, Adam (HHS/OASH) <Adam.Sarvana@hhs.gov>

Sent: Tuesday, May 31, 2022 12:00 PM

To: Bechara Choucair <Bechara.Choucair@kp.org>; Boateng, Sarah (HHS/OASH) <Sarah.Boateng@hhs.gov>

Cc: Fisher, Megan (HHS/OASH) <Megan.Fisher@hhs.gov>; Mataka, Arsenio (HHS/OASH) <Arsenio.Mataka@hhs.gov>; John M Vu <John.Vu@kp.org>; Mccannon, Joseph (AHRQ/IOD) <Joseph.Mccannon@ahrq.hhs.gov>; Balbus, John MD, MPH (OS/OASH/OCCHE) <John.Balbus@hhs.gov>; Fisher, Megan (HHS/OASH) <Megan.Fisher@hhs.gov>

Subject: RE: Net Zero Event

Hi, all. I've removed ADM Levine for the moment and added Joe McCannon and John Balbus on our climate team, plus ADM Levine's aide Megan Fisher. We can plan to be there around 3:30 p.m. on June 9, if that works, and then be there approx. 3:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. (or 5:00 p.m. if there's added programming; then we drive back). We have another meeting in Oakland at 2:00 p.m. that day that should take about an hour, so allowing for travel time, I think this is most feasible.

A few questions for you all, in no particular order, and bearing in mind that we're here at your invitation and happy to be pretty flexible with format. My climate colleagues may have others, but to start:

- • What would the substance of her appearance be? Should we come prepared with remarks? If so, of what length?
- • Would this be open dialogue with employees? Should/would we discuss questions in advance?
- • How much would KP figures want to talk about your means of reducing the company's environmental footprint?
- • If it's livestreamed, do you all have a social channel for the purpose, or are you contemplating using ours?

Thanks again. We're very interested in making this work.

Adam Sarvana

Director of Communications

Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health

Email: adam.sarvana@hhs.gov

Mobile: (b)(6)

Desk: (202) 795-7619

hhs.gov/ash



From: Bechara Choucair <Bechara.Choucair@kp.org>

Sent: Monday, May 30, 2022 1:00 PM

To: Sarvana, Adam (HHS/OASH) <Adam.Sarvana@hhs.gov>; Boateng, Sarah (HHS/OASH) <Sarah.Boateng@hhs.gov>; Levine, Rachel (HHS/OASH) <Rachel.Levine@hhs.gov>

Cc: Fisher, Megan (HHS/OASH) <Megan.Fisher@hhs.gov>; Mataka, Arsenio (HHS/OASH) <Arsenio.Mataka@hhs.gov>; John M Vu <John.Vu@kp.org>

Subject: RE: Net Zero Event

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) c: (b)(6)

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From: Sarvana, Adam (HHS/OASH) <Adam.Sarvana@hhs.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, May 18, 2022 6:30 AM
To: Boateng, Sarah (HHS/OASH) <Sarah.Boateng@hhs.gov>; Bechara Choucair <Bechara.Choucair@kp.org>
Cc: Fisher, Megan (HHS/OASH) <Megan.Fisher@hhs.gov>; Levine, Rachel (HHS/OASH) <Rachel.Levine@hhs.gov>; Mataka, Arsenio (HHS/OASH) <Arsenio.Mataka@hhs.gov>; Misty Rose Spencer <Misty-Rose.Spencer@kp.org>; John M Vu <John.Vu@kp.org>
Subject: RE: Net Zero Event

Caution: This email came from outside Kaiser Permanente. Do not open attachments or click on links if you do not recognize the sender.

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

Email: adam.sarvana@hhs.gov

Mobile: (b)(6)

Desk: (202) 795-7619

hhs.gov/ash



image005.png

From: Boateng, Sarah (HHS/OASH) <Sarah.Boateng@hhs.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, May 18, 2022 9:04 AM
To: Bechara.Choucair@kp.org
Cc: Fisher, Megan (HHS/OASH) <Megan.Fisher@hhs.gov>; Levine, Rachel (HHS/OASH) <Rachel.Levine@hhs.gov>; Mataka, Arsenio (HHS/OASH) <Arsenio.Mataka@hhs.gov>; Sarvana, Adam (HHS/OASH) <Adam.Sarvana@hhs.gov>; Misty-Rose.Spencer@kp.org; 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

Mobile: (b)(6)

Desk: (202) 401-7003



image006.jpg

From: Bechara Choucair <Bechara.Choucair@kp.org>
Sent: Tuesday, May 17, 2022 9:45 PM
To: Levine, Rachel (HHS/OASH) <Rachel.Levine@hhs.gov>
Cc: John M Vu <John.Vu@kp.org>; Misty Rose Spencer <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) c (b)(6)

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Sender: Sarvana, Adam (HHS/OASH) /O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=CEF02713EDBB48E9A5D823EE64466ED9-SARVANA, AD <Adam.Sarvana@hhs.gov>

Recipient: John M Vu <John.Vu@kp.org>;
Tara L Herberth <Tara.L.Herberth@kp.org>;
Seema S Wadhwa <Seema.S.Wadhwa@kp.org>;
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>;
Mccannon, Joseph (AHRQ/IOD) /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=63157885dc05437fa3b497210c5132ea-Mccannon, J <Joseph.Mccannon@ahrq.hhs.gov>;
Boateng, Sarah (HHS/OASH) /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=d83ded642af84229a075d7e1f7b59a59-Boateng, Sa <Sarah.Boateng@hhs.gov>;
Balbus, John MD, MPH (OS/OASH/OCCHE) /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=e8ec6cdd4b094cdfb6d36d72aba61bc8-Balbus, Joh <John.Balbus@hhs.gov>

Sent Date: 2022/06/02 13:09:29

Delivered Date: 2022/06/02 13:09:35

From: OS Secretarys Operations Center /O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=32B1F28D808B43B6903C00083291303E-SECRETARYS <hhs.soc@hhs.gov>

To: OS Secretarys Operations Center /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=32b1f28d808b43b6903c00083291303e-Secretarys <hhs.soc@hhs.gov>

Subject: HHS R5/R7 FYSA: 2022 Recycling Warehouse Fire, Madison, IL (Update #2)

Date: 2022/08/10 17:32:34

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, CO₂ 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:

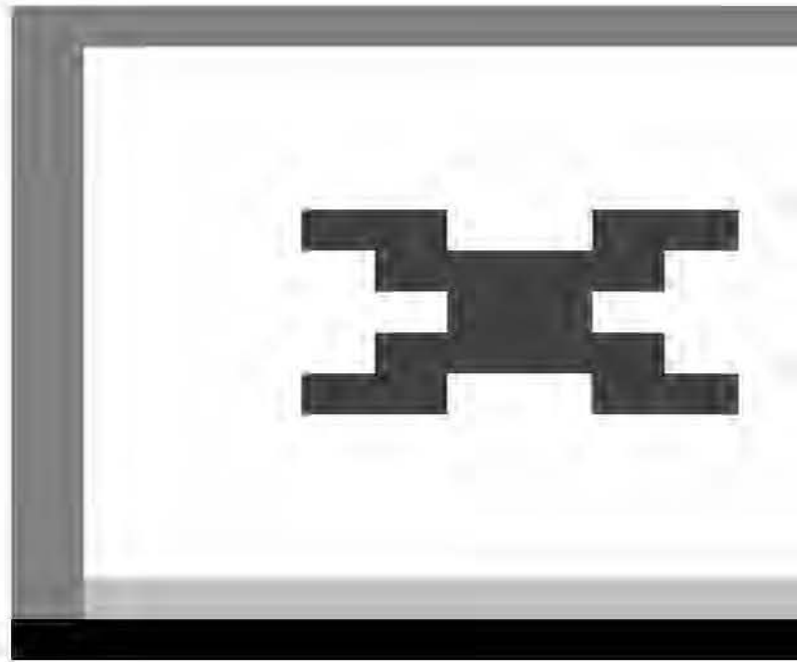
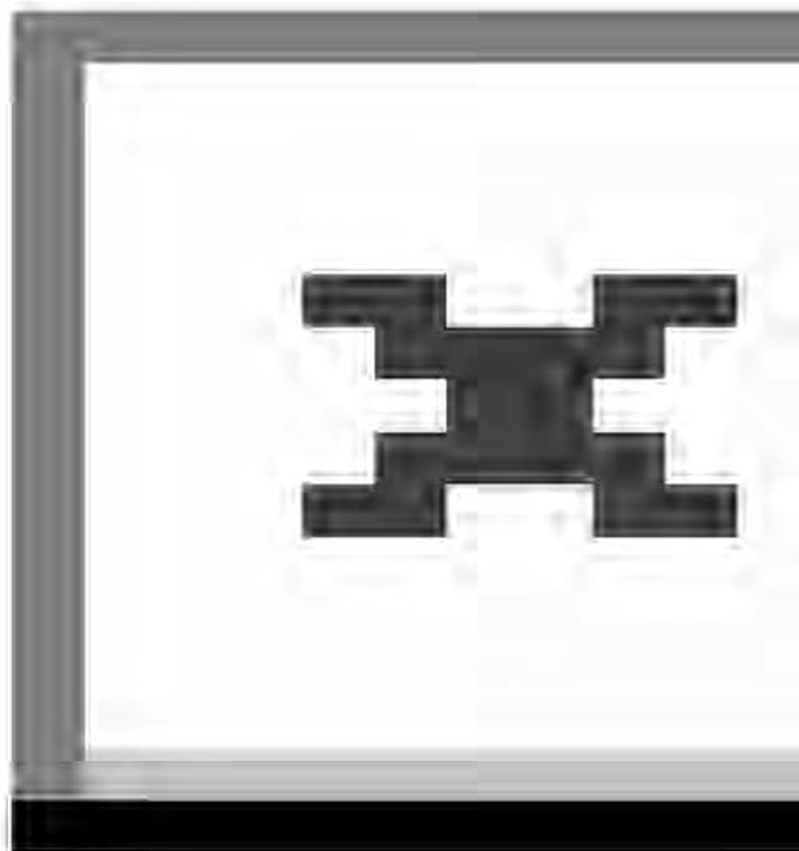


Image Courtesy of GeoHealth:



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
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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>

Sent Date: 2022/08/10 17:32:03

Delivered Date: 2022/08/10 17:32:34

From: Carie Brannam <user@voterveoice.net>
To: Mccluskie, Sean (HHS/IOS) /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=2357b6b202dd4e049b1ea05d63172060-Mccluskie, <Sean.Mccluskie@hhs.gov>
Subject: [Suspect Message: Embedded URLs have been modified] REJECT the Pfizer EUA for kids younger than 5
Date: 2022/03/20 00:41:31
Priority: Normal
Type: Note

Dear Secretary Becerra,

Please reject Pfizer's application for an emergency use authorization when they reapply in April. There is no evidence that use of the Pfizer mRNA Covid injection in children under five will prevent more harm than if causes

There is no Covid emergency for children under five years old.

Children have a 99.995% recovery rate and a body of medical literature indicates that almost zero healthy children under five years old have died from Covid.

- A large study conducted in Germany showed zero deaths for children under 5 and a case fatality rate of three out of a million in children without comorbidities.

https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fsecure-web.cisco.com%2Ffigz-FBr3_T17vpLA3hUIPgytX2oy8sUsXanb0VMn_pVdpbN-uf9uR_92UyhzyFukyB5HIOzAvsJZ5OGSMqPWXDJCMeueYDfnvrGk9mQmcO4MA8LeGN0EZ-yEruAsDI07-MRvfkGpVvXEtlgQ91gWBD9TdJnHWcqImKNaGw4tThFSYsjUGuUkegd5SRWmpvVR0sTsN9KMXWQ01UkUCIUubyXxNNUFYCEj42Jy6vX782p3pSKnzPNeosTllZK5hXKc4F5lyQhrYqVM2OoNb4QZHkQ%2Fhttps%253A%252F%252Fwww.medrxiv.org%252Fcontent%252F10.1101%252F2021.11.30.21267048v1&data=04%7C01%7CSean.Mccluskie%40hhs.gov%7CE94caed6ecc14ed25eb708da0a2bb8ff%7Cd58addea50534a808499ba4d944910df%7C0%7C0%7C637833480918340765%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWljojMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTiI6IklhaWwiLCJXVCi6Mn0%3D%7C2000&data=Hza6%2BQB%2FPLdNnt7t5d0nDvxbABUveQ5v1%2Bx6hkN9DAY%3D&reserved=0

- A Johns Hopkins study monitoring 48,000 children diagnosed with Covid showed a zero mortality rate in children under 18 without comorbidities.

https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fsecure-web.cisco.com%2F1B-WY4dqJEiLjyiWH77RzAvCBsotA4OwgHY_tfTiOhSU1HDVgWcRz6WxIq4RV220Ad7SxCp2QMzirQq7vJ4mBVIUgmntXCin24qJ_9ZIVdQ-30eElWFNOccKUN6BDeahcOUSu9frNDRhAIHUPWU8wAlVOuBuw2PhWmrAz14ggDDKCJEbx_OMfC2Dfa6sh_V7ccBC50MfnZkH-5TWkEllohHVlPdAbGsxCJy62CTimOmFNdKYog6SVeJHFkf6DMvtjkuU9cFF0ChdMD2bH10yBeLg%2Fhttps%253A%252F%252Fcollections.nlm.nih.gov%252Fcatalog%252Fnlm%253Anlmuid-101774952-pdf&data=04%7C01%7CSean.Mccluskie%40hhs.gov%7CE94caed6ecc14ed25eb708da0a2bb8ff%7Cd58addea50534a808499ba4d944910df%7C0%7C0%7C637833480918340765%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWljojMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTiI6IklhaWwiLCJXVCi6Mn0%3D%7C2000&data=KwDcvs0GwUmlR%2Bjkw%2FMpu8Lymvm4%2FZoKHDIgoot9B18%3D&r

eserved=0

•A study in Nature demonstrated that children under 18 with no comorbidities have virtually no risk of death.

https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fsecure-web.cisco.com%2F1GnTzk7qRscDEYSwT8ToRH4ey18DEqJvGYd7yZ6IThO02-OtKBtau81aWrYnCWgg08RHVoP8J0g3m6CQtfNl6QwmQp9IiBSOfdaL710gKHfk9HV75zjzYBi1AokyWQV35fX4C-4mqmUJzYY9_1J7IH9GS9RonIzUI83asRzxiCUTcONJtzXsONZi5uEgtsL74hchOywEXfr_aEVBzBA7Er6HnMppzaJdAvFdOGZynDQAU5jGJZLEtx1E5my6j7IvNUIDX9E6P6jHfX7ZpbN9hw%2Fhttps%253A%252F%252Fwww.nature.com%252Farticles%252Fs41591-021-01578-1&data=04%7C01%7CSean.Mccluskie%40hhs.gov%7Ce94caed6ecc14ed25eb708da0a2bb8ff%7Cd58addea50534a808499ba4d944910df%7C0%7C0%7C637833480918340765%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTiI6IklhaWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C2000&data=19gpJScN5mFr1Y28S9d5VaolSgm380saWfjjMpvkT3g%3D&reserved=0

2. The Pfizer mRNA shot does not work very well in kids.

The Pfizer clinical trial in kids 6 months to four years old failed in December 2021 and failed again in February 2022. Adding a third dose is not going to solve the underlying problems with this vaccine in this age group.

<https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fsecure-web.cisco.com%2F1xXlZAYwO-1KPKRQKMU3rzc46jE-8v5TpZWl32468c9EyEX1H0DcZLMuEPsX5-F2liHIjD-ejEOI47xxXaPfgG83H114ZEDTzKyh1w-g0W9W0aAgqLDAkV15KZhoxnNxFv4toq7HoxdkRwvj5YwGxy7sn4MOxopBTpRk1DWCa4SAgNrvSfBqe69nrED-TOrEvXyoRMIGZdsvkIqWdDcPY0yF5BG8GoT4pJslE0AFNV9VCZhKGwCyloLCMTPkJILFnhS7S9hFS6ZnrBJqmLSZAB-w%2Fhttps%253A%252F%252Fwww.pfizer.com%252Fnews%252Fpress-release%252Fpress-release-detail%252Fpfizer-and-biontech-provide-update-ongoing-studies-covid-19&data=04%7C01%7CSean.Mccluskie%40hhs.gov%7Ce94caed6ecc14ed25eb708da0a2bb8ff%7Cd58addea50534a808499ba4d944910df%7C0%7C0%7C637833480918340765%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTiI6IklhaWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C2000&data=9c8dsIzImFTjJS0qjTReC4tiOdgHvjpHYh3oRaeloJ8%3D&reserved=0>

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The FDA and CDC claimed that the Pfizer shot was 90% effective in kids 5 to 11. Recently released data show that it was only 12% effective against the Omicron variant. So all of the FDA and CDC risk benefit calculations were wrong.

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Yg_hLpNokbnPAmpkpQS1aM9KkvGb49NxpFA%2Fhttps%253A%252F%252Fwww.cnn.com%252F2022%252F02%252F28%252Fpfizer-covid-vaccine-was-just-12percent-effective-against-omicron-in-kids-5-to-11-study-finds.html&data=04%7C01%7CSean.Mccluskie%40hhs.gov%7Ce94caed6ecc14ed25eb708da0a2bb8ff%7Cd58addea50534a808499ba4d944910df%7C0%7C0%7C637833480918340765%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6IklhaWwiLCJXVCi6Mn0%3D%7C2000&data=OKKJiEB4K4E9IkuHYbs200kz%2FN%2BbvLtlolcpwr323%2F8%3D&reserved=0

By contrast, there are more than 1,500 studies in connection with about twenty off-the-shelf medicines that are safe and effective. Prophylaxis and early treatment with these medicines offer a better alternative than risky mRNA shots.

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3. The harms from the Pfizer mRNA shot in children are catastrophic.

There are now 4,376 VAERS reports of adverse events in children following Covid shots. These reports likely understate harms by a factor of 41 to 100.

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lQp4%3D&reserved=0

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There are troubling reports of fatalities in children following Covid shots:

https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fsecure-web.cisco.com%2F10WF7eTgJvXdgD-7uXGw5nWREwPPG2_hz6s_TaqREwbjZSzQmH_NGYiT_VLhHZGi7kMMX7tcxIiDPRECheMI6dRhcfrRg25JcsLUDeAhuSvuYRaZYmw0pzUNodT5XMn9bmaesHWaQUPqJ042N1pDT114bEM_EFkbFzoVBcICfz2ZpZDzGHaHevZoblmsy-od3KuimrBQR9fImFJierzv8OcwFydGD2jgG82vcc_2TALwQq_PoxDls6GJp-7bB15nCB5rbCwpQzFTrCPgIl3uCeQ%2Fhttps%253A%252F%252Fopenvaers.com%252F covid-data%252Fchild-reports%252F1975356&data=04%7C01%7CSean.Mccluskie%40hhs.gov%7Ce94caed6ecc14ed25eb708da0a2bb8ff%7Cd58addea50534a808499ba4d944910df%7C0%7C0%7C637833480918340765%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWljoimc4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTiI6IklhaWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C2000&sdata=KxpdNO0CdQtebBVua%2Fqy%2FWOBKPxnx25nObko3c4M6Z8%3D&reserved=0

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VCI6Mn0%3D%7C2000&sdata=uvo3QJCPXR7MoxAAQENWzmjOKcwB9sRE9tuefolFXOE%3D&reserved=0
https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fsecure-web.cisco.com%2F1h6aTRb86IYZz1AZc4AaafvwwCTI2QxnmHrU-zuxSSZkWEohmFaTvRbwDWOhs_FwYYPXCFod10vhykSPDJ3ylxOAM5u1Nlf6Jw-SqpaYCrDjuTE97X29a211g9PwhhcXGv-jobL1YMF0GDOVqoQaDszi7eQdp3OdLuxLDWDJ4wtZKKqT4kIQB4B94POkvRVegtWS2Z8sOVwOB4ARBPPwXl_QyjqH-KXn8wCRTgMpcSQUWT9ogpPx7YKFBjhCkr4yJ5O6Qsd_h3X9-wpxznByyPQ%2Fhttps%253A%252F%252Fwww.icandecide.org%252Fican_press%252Freport-of-toddlers-death-disappears-from-vaers-and-cdc-has-no-records-as-to-why%252F&data=04%7C01%7CSean.Mccluskie%40hhs.gov%7Ce94caed6ecc14ed25eb708da0a2bb8ff%7Cd58addea50534a808499ba4d944910df%7C0%7C0%7C637833480918340765%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTil6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C2000&sdata=03w%2FwhlqMiDyhfVhmEyow7Kd9ud9TG4JaEr5pwTJ5GQ%3D&reserved=0

Everyone knows that FDA approval will result in the CDC adding it to the childhood schedule with liability protection for Pfizer and medical services workers liability protection which will result in state mandates and widespread iatrogenic injury.

You have a professional and moral obligation to reject Pfizer's EUA application for kids 6 months to 4 years old.

Sincerely,

Carie Brannam

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

Sender: Carie Brannam <user@votervoice.net>
Mccluskie, Sean (HHS/IOS) /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group
Recipient: (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=2357b6b202dd4e049b1ea05d63172060-Mccluskie, <Sean.Mccluskie@hhs.gov>
Sent Date: 2022/03/20 00:07:10
Delivered Date: 2022/03/20 00:41:31
Message Flags: Unread

From: Vaccines Summit-2022 <venky@sciresgroup.net>
Mclluskie, Sean (HHS/IOS) /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group
To: (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=2357b6b202dd4e049b1ea05d63172060-Mclluskie, <Sean.Mclluskie@hhs.gov>
Subject: Please acknowledge our email
Date: 2022/04/21 10:59:57
Sensitivity: Company Confidential
Importance: High
Priority: Urgent
Type: Note

Dear Dr. Xavier Becerra,

Vaccines Summit-2022 are really excited to announce that global vaccine leaders have confirmed their attendance, and we are looking forward to meeting them!

Here are some of our attendees!

- Stanley Plotkin, MD Consultant and Emeritus Professor, University of Pennsylvania, Vaxconsult, LLP
- Paul Offit, MD Director, Vaccine Education Center, Division of Infectious Diseases, Children's Hospital of Philadelphia
- Karin Bok, MS, PhD, Director of Pandemic Preparedness and Emergency Response, Vaccine Research Center, NIAID, NIH
- William C. Gruber, MD, SVP Vaccine Clinical Research and Development, Pfizer Inc
- Drew Weissman, MD, PhD, Professor, Department of Medicine, Director of Vaccine Research, Infectious Diseases Division, Perelman School of Medicine, University of Pennsylvania
- Kizzmekia S. Corbett, PhD, Assistant Professor of Immunology and Infectious Diseases, Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health
- Kayvon Modjarrad, MD, PhD, Director, Emerging Infectious Diseases Branch, Walter Reed Army Institute of Research
- Ruxandra Draghia-Akli, MD, PhD, Global Head, Global Public Health R&D, Johnson & Johnson
- Roxana Rustomjee, Senior VP, R&D, Sabin Vaccine Institute
- James E. Crowe Jr, MD, Director, Vanderbilt Vaccine Center
- David Weiner, MD, PhD, Executive Vice President, Director, Vaccine & Immunotherapy Center, The Wistar Institute
- Alessandro Sette, DR BIOL SCI, Professor and Member, Infectious Disease and Vaccine Center, La Jolla Institute for Immunology
- Dan Barouch, MD, PhD, William Bosworth Castle Professor of Medicine, Harvard Medical School, Director, Center for Virology and Vaccine Research, BIDMC
- Ralph S. Baric, PhD, University of North Carolina Kenan Distinguished Professor, Epidemiology, Gillings School of Global Public Health and Microbiology and Immunology, School of Medicine

We've had an unprecedented interest this year, so the meeting tickets are selling out fast! Book your team & Save- we have generous group offers available! Select "Group Package" when booking.

<https://scientiameetings.com/conferences/vaccines/buy-tickets>

Feel free to contact me for any further assistance. Please acknowledge our email.

Respectfully,
Venky
Project Director
Vaccines Summit-2022
Oct 11-13 | Washington DC
E: venky@sciresgroup.net

Sender: Vaccines Summit-2022 <venky@sciresgroup.net>

Mcluskie, Sean (HHS/IOS) /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group
Recipient: (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=2357b6b202dd4e049b1ea05d63172060-Mcluskie,
<Sean.Mcluskie@hhs.gov>

Sent Date: 2022/04/21 10:54:25

Delivered Date: 2022/04/21 10:59:57

Message Flags: Unread

From: Ernestine Leech <user@voterveoice.net>
Mccuskie, Sean (HHS/IOS) /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group To: (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=2357b6b202dd4e049b1ea05d63172060-Mccuskie, <Sean.Mccuskie@hhs.gov>
Subject: : PLEASE! REJECT the Moderna and Pfizer EUA applications to inject mRNA into little kids
Date: 2022/06/17 13:31:02
Priority: Normal
Type: Note

Dear Secretary Becerra,

Save my grandchildren from this ludicrous shots for babies under 5! There is no data suggesting there is any emergency for this age group, let alone any age at this point! Our kids are subjected to toxic levels of aluminum injected directly into their bodies and it is causing harm to them due to no longer term studies of safety and no liability for the pharmaceutical companies that make them! Please stop all of this!

There is no Covid emergency for children under five years old.

Children have a 99.997% recovery rate and a body of medical literature indicates that almost zero healthy children under five years old have died from Covid.

A large study conducted in Germany showed zero deaths for children under 5 and a case fatality rate of three out of a million in children without comorbidities.

A Johns Hopkins study monitoring 48,000 children diagnosed with Covid showed a zero mortality rate in children under 18 without comorbidities.

A study in Nature demonstrated that children under 18 with no comorbidities have virtually no risk of death.

2. The data in connection with the Moderna and Pfizer EUA applications in kids is abysmal

The Pfizer clinical trial in kids 6 months to four years old failed in December 2021 and failed again in February 2022. Adding a third dose did not solve the underlying problems with this shot in this age group.

Against the Omicron variant, after one month, the Pfizer shot was only 12% effective in kids 5 to 11, after 6 weeks vaccine effectiveness was a shocking MINUS 41% (vaccinated kids were significantly more likely to catch Covid than the unvaccinated). Recommending a vaccine with negative efficacy is insanity.

Finland, Sweden, Denmark, and Norway have all suspended the use of the Moderna shot in young people because it leads to myocarditis. The FDA risk benefit assessment cited 26 studies showing that mRNA shots in general, and Moderna in particular, increase the risk of myocarditis.

3. The harms from mRNA shots in children are catastrophic.

There are now 49,283 VAERS reports of adverse events in children following Covid shots including 114 reports of death, 457 reports of permanent disability, and 1,326 reports of myocarditis.

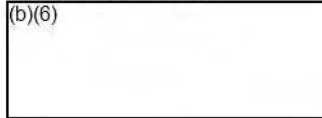
These reports likely understate harms by a factor of 41 to 100.

You have a professional and moral obligation to reject the Moderna and Pfizer EUA applications to inject mRNA into little kids.

Sincerely,

Ernestine Leech

(b)(6)



Sender: Ernestine Leech <user@votervoice.net>

Recipient: Mccluskie, Sean (HHS/IOS) /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group
(FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=2357b6b202dd4e049b1ea05d63172060-Mccluskie,
<Sean.Mccluskie@hhs.gov>

Sent Date: 2022/06/17 13:22:07

Delivered Date: 2022/06/17 13:31:02

Message Flags: Unread

From: Mehrtash Olson <info@alignact.com>
Mccluskie, Sean (HHS/IOS) /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group To: (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=2357b6b202dd4e049b1ea05d63172060-Mccluskie, <Sean.Mccluskie@hhs.gov>
Subject: Follow the Science: COVID Shots Do NOT Belong on the Childhood Schedule
Date: 2022/10/23 10:44:04
Priority: Normal
Type: Note

Despite immense blowback, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) voted unanimously to add COVID-19 injections to its recommended vaccine schedule for infants, children and adolescents. This is a declaration of war on our children and it's your job as elected and public health officials to protect the health and well-being of our children.

The risks demonstrably outweigh the benefits of COVID-19 vaccination in children. We need your support to ensure the COVID-19 injection doesn't become a mandated vaccine for children to attend school in our state.

If you don't act now our state will universally adopt the CDC's recommended vaccination schedule. It would be irresponsible to recommend these injections when it is known they don't prevent transmission or infection of COVID-19, provide no significant benefit and pose serious risks, such as myocarditis. Another concern to consider is these vaccines haven't had long-term studies and are currently in clinical trials.

Proceeding with COVID-19 vaccine mandates is a blatant disregard for our children's long term health. As you consider adding COVID-19 injections to the required list of childhood vaccines to attend school, please take a look at the science:

► There is no COVID-19 emergency for children.

Children under 18 with no comorbidities have virtually no risk of death or serious illness. They have a 99.95% recovery rate and the vast majority of children have minimal symptoms. A study published in Nature describes how children mount effective, robust and sustained immune responses to COVID-19. And the CDC's own data show that at least 85% of children already have this superior natural immunity.

► mRNA shots offer little in the way of protection.

There is no clinically significant health benefit from the shots. Preliminary data showed the shots were only about 44% effective at preventing symptomatic infection in children 6 months to 2 years old, and 37% effective in children ages 2 to 5 — both below the 50% level that regulators had generally called the minimum level for EUA approval in 2020. In New York, officials observed that Pfizer's efficacy against Omicron plummeted from 68% to 12% after 7 weeks in children ages 5 to 11.

► Injuries from COVID-19 shots in children are catastrophic.

Vaccinated children face a substantial risk of myocarditis. Moderna's EUA application, originally filed in June 2021, was delayed due to a clear safety signal for myocarditis, which has already prompted a number of European countries to prohibit its use in young people. Additionally, the Vaccine Adverse Events Reporting System (VAERS) already has over 58,500 reports of adverse events in children, including 163 deaths (as of Oct. 7, 2022) and a growing number of reports of encephalopathies, clotting issues, diabetes and neurological issues in children following COVID-19 shots.

▶ □ Several other countries are limiting or suspending the use of mRNA shots in children and adolescents.

Germany, France, Sweden, Finland, Norway, Denmark, UK and Australia have changed policies and many are no longer recommending the COVID-19 injection to younger age groups without comorbidities.

Pharmaceutical products that cannot meet standard efficacy thresholds and have been linked to serious harm in thousands of children, including death, are unnecessary for an illness that healthy children can easily recover from.

I strongly urge you to keep COVID-19 shots off of the required list of immunizations to attend school. Our children deserve better.

Thank you!

Mehrtash Olson

(b)(6)



Sender: Mehrtash Olson <info@alignact.com>

Mccluskie, Sean (HHS/IOS) /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group

Recipient: (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=2357b6b202dd4e049b1ea05d63172060-Mccluskie, <Sean.Mccluskie@hhs.gov>

Sent Date: 2022/10/23 10:43:35

Delivered Date: 2022/10/23 10:44:04

Message Flags: Unread

From: Mehrtash Olson <user@voterveoice.net>
Mccluskie, Sean (HHS/IOS) /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group
To: (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=2357b6b202dd4e049b1ea05d63172060-Mccluskie, <Sean.Mccluskie@hhs.gov>
Subject: Stop the WHO Power Grab!
Date: 2023/05/26 10:20:31
Priority: Normal
Type: Note

Dear Secretary Becerra,

The World Health Organization (WHO) is preparing amendments to the International Health Regulations (IHR). If adopted, the amendments threaten to surrender U.S. public health emergency authority to the WHO:

WHO plans to:

- Change IHR from “non-binding” to binding
- Introduce digital health certificates, including vaccine passports
- Require surveillance of “misinformation and disinformation”
- Enforce lockdown measures at the discretion of WHO Director-General
- Allow WHO to declare an emergency at will
- Remove critical language granting “full respect for the dignity, human rights and fundamental freedoms of persons”
- Commandeer medical supplies and require nations to use only certain medications

I urge you to STOP all negotiations of the proposed amendments to the IHR. We ask you to invoke Article 61 of the IHR to REJECT the amendment to Article 59 adopted by the World Health Assembly on May 27, 2022.

Sincerely,

Mehrtash Olson

(b)(6)

Sender: Mehrtash Olson <user@voterveoice.net>
Mccluskie, Sean (HHS/IOS) /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group
Recipient: (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=2357b6b202dd4e049b1ea05d63172060-Mccluskie, <Sean.Mccluskie@hhs.gov>
Sent Date: 2023/05/26 10:16:16
Delivered Date: 2023/05/26 10:20:31
Message Flags: Unread

From: Daniela Dorazio <user@voterveoice.net>
Mccluskie, Sean (HHS/IOS) /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group
To: (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=2357b6b202dd4e049b1ea05d63172060-Mccluskie, <Sean.Mccluskie@hhs.gov>
Subject: Stop the WHO Power Grab!
Date: 2023/05/22 22:00:06
Priority: Normal
Type: Note

Dear Secretary Becerra,

The World Health Organization (WHO) is preparing amendments to the International Health Regulations (IHR). If adopted, the amendments threaten to surrender U.S. public health emergency authority to the WHO:

WHO plans to:

- Change IHR from “non-binding” to binding
- Introduce digital health certificates, including vaccine passports
- Require surveillance of “misinformation and disinformation”
- Enforce lockdown measures at the discretion of WHO Director-General
- Allow WHO to declare an emergency at will
- Remove critical language granting “full respect for the dignity, human rights and fundamental freedoms of persons”
- Commandeer medical supplies and require nations to use only certain medications

I urge you to STOP all negotiations of the proposed amendments to the IHR. We ask you to invoke Article 61 of the IHR to REJECT the amendment to Article 59 adopted by the World Health Assembly on May 27, 2022.

Sincerely,

Daniela Dorazio

(b)(6)

Sender: Daniela Dorazio <user@voterveoice.net>
Mccluskie, Sean (HHS/IOS) /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group
Recipient: (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=2357b6b202dd4e049b1ea05d63172060-Mccluskie, <Sean.Mccluskie@hhs.gov>
Sent Date: 2023/05/22 21:51:08
Delivered Date: 2023/05/22 22:00:06
Message Flags: Unread

From: Mehrtash Olson <(b)(6)>
Mccluskie, Sean (HHS/IOS) /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group
To: (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=2357b6b202dd4e049b1ea05d63172060-Mccluskie, <Sean.Mccluskie@hhs.gov>
Subject: Don't grant EUA status to COVID shots for infants and young children
Date: 2022/02/09 14:32:42
Priority: Normal
Type: Note

Dear Xavier Becerra,

I'm writing to address serious concerns regarding the Emergency Use Authorization request for Pfizer's mRNA vaccine for children under five. As part of the decision-making process, you have a grave responsibility ahead of you. A growing number of concerned citizens—who realize that healthy children are not at risk of complications from COVID—will be watching your actions very closely.

There is no data to support granting EUA approval for experimental COVID-19 vaccines that may pose more risk than benefit to the nearly 20 million American infants and preschool-aged children that will be eligible.

Data released from Pfizer's clinical trial in December showed that two doses failed to produce the desired immune response in 2 to 4 year-olds. While Pfizer has suggested that three shots may be sufficient, this experiment on our children is still in progress and preliminary data isn't expected until March. Breakthrough infections and hospitalizations have become commonplace among the vaccinated and we don't know whether additional doses will increase the likelihood of adverse events.

There is no public health emergency for this age group. Children are at extremely low risk of serious outcomes from COVID. They are also far less likely to contribute to disease transmission. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) data indicates that deaths among children make up a fraction of a percentage of those who have died from COVID.

A COVID study conducted by Johns Hopkins showed a mortality rate of zero among 48,000 children without preexisting conditions and a large COVID study conducted in Germany found the case fatality rate among children is three out of a million, and zero deaths occurred in children under five.

A Hong Kong study showed 1 out of 2,700 boys got myocarditis after receiving the Comirnaty vaccine. Among male adolescents, the incidence of myocarditis after the second dose was 37.32% per 100,000 people vaccinated.

Other countries have been wise to exercise caution. Health regulators in Sweden and the UK have refrained from opening vaccine eligibility for younger children, only allowing shots to children 5 to 11 if they have serious pre-existing medical conditions.

The Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System has recorded over 1,000,000 adverse events following Covid-19 vaccinations: 31,545 of those were in children 17 and under. Of the over 23,000 reported deaths, 62 were children. VAERS also lists 829 cases of myocarditis and pericarditis in children following COVID shots.

With long-term health impacts still unknown and growing evidence of risks of myocarditis, neurological events, thrombosis and other serious side effects, the potential risks to our children likely outweigh any potential benefits. It would be criminally irresponsible to approve Pfizer's experimental product for use in children. Please do not violate the Nuremberg Code's prohibitions against illegal medical experiments by granting this emergency authorization

Sincerely,

(b)(6)

[Redacted signature box]

Sender: Mehrtash Olson <(b)(6)>

Mcluskie, Sean (HHS/IOS) /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group

Recipient: (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=2357b6b202dd4e049b1ea05d63172060-Mcluskie, <Sean.Mcluskie@hhs.gov>

Sent Date: 2022/02/09 14:32:19

Delivered Date: 2022/02/09 14:32:42

Message Flags: Unread

From: Bulletin Intelligence <HHS@BulletinIntelligence.com>
To: <HHS@bulletinintelligence.com>
Subject: HHS News Briefing for Tuesday, July 19, 2022
Date: 2022/07/19 07:30:20
Priority: Normal
Type: Note

[Click to access](#) mobile-optimized online version, including download options and an audio reader.

News Briefing

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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.

Facing Barriers Treating Monkeypox.
Clinics Unprepared For Monkeypox Cases.
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ment For More Monkeypox Vaccine Supply.
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For US Cruise Ships.
st BA.5.
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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.

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.

Healthcare Legislation Facing Partisan Battle.

Healthcare's Tough Stand Against Minor Patent Changes In Drugs.

How To Improve Long-Term Care System.

How to Protect Abortion Rights.

How Abortion Has Increased Since Roe Overturned.

How to Implement an Abortion Ban.

How to Implement an Abortion Ban.

How to Implement a Law Restricting Abortion Access For Minors.

How to Increase Abortion Training To More Medical Students.

How to Address the Criminalization Of Abortion In All Cases.

How to Support Efforts To Reduce Abortion Access.

How to Support Efforts To Florida For Abortions.

How to Comply With Both Federal, State Abortion Laws, Some Experts Say.

How to Increase State Budget Funding For Adoptions.

How to Address the Supreme Court Decision Overturning Roe Closes.

How to Address the Complicated, Legal Experts Say.

How to Address the Effects Reproductive Research Data After Overturn Of Roe V. Wade.

How to Address the Number Of Mothers Choosing Adoption.

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.
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.

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.

eaapon 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.

Healthcare-Only Reconciliation Package.

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

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 provisions." "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 a win-win. 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 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](#) (7.52M) 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 will be 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 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](#) (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 for decades. 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), USA Today (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." The article also reports, "US Secretary Xavier Becerra extended the Public Health Emergency declaration for another 90 days." The article adds, "In 2020, states were essentially offered a deal: They could receive a 6.2 percent increase in Medicaid funding from the federal government and maintain Medicaid coverage while the Public Health Emergency was in effect."

Ensuring Methotrexate Access Concerns Following Overturning Of Roe.

Reports that so far, methotrexate "prescribing issues affecting patients with arthritis do not appear to be affecting patients with rheumatoid conditions have reported that they can no longer get their prescriptions" for methotrexate filled following the overturning of Roe. 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."

Journalist and vice president of legal strategy Ryan Bangert writes for The Hill (7/18, 5.69M), "Abortion advocates have long claimed that the overturning of Roe is a basic and essential part of health care." Secretary Xavier Becerra said that abortion "is a basic and essential part of health care." Such "statements, which ignore the fact that abortion 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 report found "28.3% of powdered baby formula produced in the United States is now in shortage across the world over the past two months." Market research firm IRI found "28.3% of powdered baby formula produced in the United States is now in shortage across the world over the past two months."

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 supply of containers when they do go to the store."

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, "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 CDC also shares 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 recent interview, 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 in more people.

High Cases of Monkeypox Per Capita Across US.

A report (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 and treatment in the area."

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."

...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 public health 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 the program "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 and 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.

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 reading and math scores,'" NWEA said. "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 updating the original vaccines." But "while the process of updating an mRNA booster" can take only four to six weeks, testing, manufacturing, and distribution can take 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.'" Moderna is also working on a "variant-specific booster" and "a booster for younger populations."

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 quarantine periods are a burden for many people."

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. "The EMA is reviewing the 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 aged 5 to 11 years."

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 line is still blurry on 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 the 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.

) 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 forcing the province to tighten its mask rules 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, signaling 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 Moderna's 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 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. "Novartis is advancing a recombinant protein-based vaccine known as S-268019 will be carried out among 48 children in Japan." The vaccine "has shown promising results in a phase 1 trial."

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 free export of 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 system." The article is part of a series 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 wave, Los Angeles County health officials hope that asking people to mask up will curb the virus's spread as well as its economic impact. "We support this approach and believe that mandates should be reserved for crises, which the BA.5 wave has not yet proved itself capable of doing. Masking down transmission 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 new piece, Carrie Sheffield, a senior policy analyst at Independent Women's Voice, writes "Dr. Anthony Fauci may be reappointed to the Biden's Department of Health and Human Services quietly re-upped the public-health emergency determination for COVID-19." She says "Kavir Becerra 'is merely a top power-broker in a power-hungry, nanny-state administration.'" She says "Biden wanted 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 Americans."

Criticism Over Endorsement Of Gender Transitioning For Children.

The Assistant Health Secretary Rachel Levine is being criticized "for endorsing gender-transition treatments as a way to address mental health issues, such 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 "a disservice to children." Among them, Sen. Roger Marshall (R-KS) warned that "under the Biden Admin's 'gender care' policies, we are putting the lives of children at risk." The criticism followed Levine's appearance at a hearing.

HHS \$240K To Settle Possible HIPAA Violation.

USA Today (2/15/23) reports, "Houston-based Memorial Hermann Health System paid the Health and Human Services \$240,000 to settle a possible violation of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act. " 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 audits." The settlement is the first of its kind in reports.

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 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 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 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 in North Carolina. Supporting organizations include Duke Health, Duke Margolis Center for Health Policy, RTI International, SAS Institute, UNC Chapel Hill and the state of North Carolina.”

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 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 as part of 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 state will use the evidence to guide spending, invest in youth prevention, focus on racial equity, and develop a fair and transparent process for distributing funds.

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.

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
y buying 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

Ass 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.

Have Increased Since Roe Overturned.

Montes, Subscription Publication, 8.41M) reports that since the Supreme Court overturned Roe v. Wade, both orders and requests to restrict abortion access. Foreign providers of abortion pills have also recorded greater interest. Reuters reports, "Some clinics have stopped offering the pills to out-of-state patients fearing that state lawmakers could pressure the FDA in banning "an FDA-approved drug, conservative lawmakers could still attempt to make abortion pills illegal, or make generic versions of the pills more expensive." Reuters also reports that some states are providing 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 say whether a district court determines whether the near-total state abortion ban, with no exceptions for rape or incest, violates the Constitution. It is the first time in the weeks since the Supreme Court struck down Roe v. Wade and gave states the power to enact restrictions. Reuters reports that courts have blocked, unblocked and then reblocked the ban." Reuters also reports that a judge in Baton Rouge (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." Reuters also reports that whatever the district judge decides, "Louisiana Attorney General Jeff Landry said he anticipates that the court will eventually rule on the ban."

West Virginia Abortion Ban.

West Virginia 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." Reuters reports that the ban has been superseded by a slew of modern, conflicting laws. West Virginia Attorney General Patrick Morrisey criticized the decision and plans to appeal the decision to the state Supreme Court. Reuters also reports that the judge argued that West Virginia's law "dating back to the 1800s making performing or obtaining an abortion a felony is unconstitutional." Reuters also reports that the judge's decision is a victory for the state's pro-life activists.

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 access to training may expand."

Dr. (ABC News, 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 get an abortion to save their life." State GOP delegates "approved changes to the party's platform that went to the state convention in Boise on Saturday. The new language backs criminalization of all abortions in Idaho."

ABC News coverage.

Anti-Abortion Groups In Texas Make Efforts To Reduce Abortion Access.

ABC News 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 seeking abortion services.

Florida's New Law On Abortion Access.

ABC News 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."

ABC News (ABC News, 6:44 p.m. EST, story 7, 2:20, O'Donnell, 3.48M) provided additional coverage.

Georgia's New Law On Abortion Access, Some Experts Say.

ABC News 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 do not comply with the law."

Michigan State Budget Funding For Adoptions.

er, 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 increase by 10,000. That figure represents 9 percent of the estimated 110,000 infants adopted annually, which will make a dent in the adoption waiting lists. Although there is no national source of reliable data, experts estimate the number of infants available to adopt annually based on 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 and African Americans, where the issue has helped push some Catholic voters toward Republicans." The article mentions the CDC and HHS.

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."

Industry Fights Healthcare Consolidation Attempts.

Healthcare industry groups, "Fresh off the Federal Trade Commission's successful challenges to four hospital mergers, the Biden administration is facing more consolidation in the health care industry than it has in past years." Last year, President Biden "ordered the FTC and other agencies to review hospital mergers." According to the trade commissioners, "this is a key way to slow health care price increases; protect patient privacy; and prevent unfair labor practices."

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.

Health Affairs (2023, Bordonaro, 22K) reports, "Health insurers planning to offer group and individual health plans in Connecticut in 2023. The average 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."

Not Greatly Impacted Clinician Time On EHR Documentation, Study Finds.

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. Researchers "analyzed a national longitudinal dataset of all ambulatory care physicians and advance practice providers using a national EHR system. After the final rule went into effect, though the effect sizes are minuscule."

Study Finds Limits On Healthcare Costs.

Health Affairs (2023, Ibarra, 2.44M) reports, "California and the country are in the midst of a health care affordability crisis." However, the study found that "the state's health care costs are lower than the national average."

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 dissatisfied with their health insurance. The survey, conducted by a research firm from employee benefits company Optavise (formerly DirectPath), approximately one-third (35%) of respondents said they had 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 “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.

in [Kansas](#) (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 against 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 seek 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-

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

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).

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

Medicaid Managed Care Nonprofit My Choice Wisconsin For \$150M.

(Gibson, 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.”

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

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.” The CDC “advises parents 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 3.1M) analysis, Lydia Denworth, a Brooklyn, NY-based science writer and a contributing editor for Scientific American, says “the health care system in the U.S. has become increasingly polarized. 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 waited for care, rationed 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 says. “In cases where landlords’ and the landlords have failed to comply with state lead poisoning prevention laws, Attorney General Peter Neroni says the state will sue to force landlords to 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

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’s stores.” According to the recall notice’s risk statement, written by Vi-Jon and posted by the FDA, “Immunocompromised patients 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 market. CVS’ lawsuit was filed 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. The FDA’s decision “proves.” Their “concern stems from the suggestion that a substantial benefit the drug showed in a large clinical trial may not be as robust 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 (52M) reports, “President Biden is considering declaring a national climate emergency as soon as this week as he seeks to address the 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 twice as much as the current rate. “It could also force a slew of additional actions aimed at curbing planet-warming emissions.” However, “any new executive action on the climate 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 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.”

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 advisor to the 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."

Heatwaves, Risk Of Deaths, Risk Of Drought.

Journalist (New York Times, 89.21M) reports extreme heat has "engulfed parts of western Europe," as wildfires continue to burn in France. "The drought continues to deal with a "worsening drought." In Spain, Carlos III Health Institute estimated a cumulative total of 659 deaths. The 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."

Journalist (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 far cry from 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."

Journalist (The New York Times, 89.21M) reports, however, that "in Britain and most of Europe, few homes, apartments, schools or small businesses have air conditioning." The Times says "as 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.

Journalist (The New York Times, 8.41M) 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 system in the world.

ating At 62%.

ts website that in a new CNN poll conducted by SSRS, “nearly 7 in 10 say President Joe Biden hasn’t paid enough attention to the economy, with his approval ratings for handling the economy (30%) approaching, the poll finds no indication that Biden’s standing with the public is improving – and among some critical areas, his approval has softened by 13 points since the spring (from 86% in a late April through early May poll to 73% now).” His “approval ratings for handling the economy (30%) have softened, down from 71% this spring). And on inflation, it is barely above water (51% of Democrats approve, 47% of Republicans disapprove).” *Washington Post* (7/18, 10.52M) reports on its website that the latest CNBC All-America Economic Survey shows Biden’s numbers have reached the lowest levels of his presidency and fallen further than that of either of his two predecessors. Biden’s approval rating for handling the economy is just 30%. The president’s economic record is supported by just 6% of Republicans, 25% of independents and 58% of Democrats. Biden’s rating “came in at 36%, 1 point lower than [former President Donald] Trump’s worst rating.”

Says Rights Under Assault From “Extremist So-Called Leaders.”

Vice President Harris “told a gathering at a civil rights conference Monday that Americans’ freedoms are under assault from extremists who seek to restrict and enact voting restrictions.” In her remarks, Harris said “We must recognize there are those who are fighting to undermine our democracy and assault our most fundamental freedoms.” The Hill notes that Harris “didn’t mention the Supreme Court decision to overturn Roe v. Wade as well as voting restrictions that Republicans opposed to gun restrictions were infringing on Americans’ rights to safety, noting that gun violence is a leading cause of death in the United States.” Harris “urged her audience to vote for Democratic candidates ‘up and down the ballot’.” The Hill reports that Harris also urged her audience to support efforts to invest in historically Black colleges and universities, eliminate racial discrimination in housing, and bolster

Respect for Marriage Act On Tuesday.

The Hill (7/18, 5.69M) reports that as Democrats “try to preemptively protect other rights that could be at risk after the Supreme Court’s decision to overturn Roe v. Wade,” the House “is scheduled to vote Tuesday on the Respect for Marriage Act, which would require states to recognize a marriage as valid if it was performed in the state where it was performed.” The Post says that the new legislation “would also require states to recognize a marriage as valid if it was performed in the state where it was performed, and would allow states to not recognize same-sex marriages performed in other states,” and would overturn the *Hollingsworth v. Perry* ruling.

The Hill (7/18, 5.69M) reports it would “address a national patchwork of marriage laws by requiring states to legally recognize same-sex marriages performed in other states, even if they were performed in a state that does not recognize them.” Sen. Susan Collins (R-ME), the GOP sponsor of the bill in the Senate, “said the proposed legislation is “another step to promote equality, prevent discrimination, and protect the rights of all Americans.” According to the Hill, the bill “has support in the House but will probably run into opposition in the evenly divided Senate” despite Collins’ support as Republican

The Hill (7/18, 5.69M) reports that the “overturning of Roe has energized Republicans, convincing them that they can ride the wave of conservative anger to win the White House. And even if most of them don’t want to outlaw same-sex marriage, the conservative base does – and they drive the agenda.” The Hill notes that “the answer to whether they want to break up families and make it illegal for millions of Americans to get married. Let’s see if they’re interested in pursuing, but that every American should be able to marry the person they love and make a pretty good idea of their real intentions.”

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 politica
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

...eapon since 2013, the Pentagon said in a statement on Monday." The program for the Hypersonic Air-breathing Weapon Concept is expected to be ready for flight testing in 2024.

amid devastating polling numbers with Democrats and particularly young voters," the chances that President Biden would be re-elected have diminished. "Several Democrats who have been seen as helpful allies to Biden have recently taken steps that have elevated their national profile. California Gov. Gavin Newsom (D) visited the White House, while Illinois Gov. J.B. Pritzker (D) also went to the Oval Office and on a separate occasion to New Hampshire to campaign for Biden's re-election to Michigan, one of the top general election battlegrounds."

With Donors. CNBC (7/18, Schwartz, 7.34M) reports online that "as polls show Democratic voters may want an alternative to Biden in the White House," some "top Democrats have already started to rub elbows with the influential people who could propel Biden's re-election." Biden has been in touch with a small group of allies...and has held private meetings of at least three supporters in her residence in Washington, D.C. Biden has been in touch with at least two wealthy friends: Vanessa Getty, a model and wife of Billy Getty, an heir to the billionaire Getty family; and Mark Zuckerberg, the late Apple co-founder Steve Jobs." CNBC adds that "a Wall Street executive who raised money for Biden's 2020

As National Leader On Climate Issues. The Hill (7/18, Budryk, 5.69M) says Newsom "is positioning himself and his state for a White House bid." While "the Biden administration is increasingly stymied by the Supreme Court and Sen. Joe Manchin (R) blocking climate change while Washington is in a quagmire." California "leading the way on green issues is nothing new." "More Democrats are increasingly looking for choices beyond President Biden."

To Escape His Record In Illinois. A Wall Street Journal (7/18, Subscription Publication, 8.41M) editorial says Illinois Gov. J.B. Pritzker's speculation he is considering a 2024 presidential bid, may be an effort to escape his record in Illinois, which has seen a decline in population causing residents and businesses to move to other states.

Over GOP In Competitive House Races.

Financial disclosures show Democrats in this year's most competitive congressional elections "have a growing financial gap as they are struggling at fundraising." While Republicans "are still favored to win control of at least one chamber of Congress." Democrats are in the bank than their Republican opponents in 17 congressional races that are widely seen as toss-up elections on July 18. Disclosures filed to the Federal Election Commission late on Friday."

Ten States That Will Decide Senate Control. Similarly, Roll Call (7/18, Jackson, 130K) says "there is no sign that donor support for Democrats in the months that ended June 30 show." In the Senate, "Democratic challengers and vulnerable incumbents topped the fundraising list." In all, "Democratic candidates raised a whopping \$53.4 million more than Republicans during the quarter in the 10 states: Florida, Georgia, North Carolina, New Hampshire, Nevada, Pennsylvania, Washington and Wisconsin."

Administration To More Forcefully Combat Inflation.

Reports on its website that although consumer prices are at their "highest point in four decades," in "some of the most competitive House races for Democrats, who saw their constituents hit with price increases that were higher than the national average." CNN reports that Biden is in a tight reelection battle, and the Atlanta Metro area, "which is represented by vulnerable Democratic Sen. Raphael Warnock."

publicly rung the alarm about the issue. Democrats desperate to retain control of Congress are now pleading with the public to support them in the face of 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 to voters 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 special primary is vying with Republican nursery owner John Duarte in the Central Valley.” Also added to the program “are former Assemblyman in Northern Los Angeles County; Dr. Asif Mahmood, who is vying with Republican Rep. Young Kim in an Orange County seat against Rep. Ken Calvert.”

Democrats.

at as Sen. Lisa Murkowski (R-AK) “tries to fend off a challenge from Donald Trump-backed candidate Kelly Tshibaka in a primary against left-leaning Democrats and independents. Murkowski’s Senate Democratic fan club reflects the same crossover coalition of moderates and conservatives will support Tshibaka anyway.” Alaska’s new “open, top-four primary and a ranked-choice general election will embrace her elevated status among Democrats for her bipartisan positions. And rather than rebuff support across the aisle, Murkowski says, “I hope they’re going to have my back. Just as I hope the Republicans would have my back.”

Republican Candidate In Arizona.

Senior Vice President Mike Pence on Monday “publicly backed Karrin Taylor Robson in Arizona’s Republican gubernatorial primary. Axios adds that Pence is “expected to campaign with Robson, a housing developer, on Friday – the same day that Trump endorsed Pence also “backed Georgia Gov. Brian Kemp (R), who became a top Trump target after he refused to help him overtake the governorship in 2018) says, “As an incumbent seeking reelection, Kemp had an advantage over his primary rival, David Perdue, and will likely win on the ballot...the GOP contest in Arizona will likely be much closer.” Nevertheless, the AP adds that “what once looked like a landslide.”

at Sanchez, Knowles, 10.52M) reports Lake “said she viewed Pence’s endorsement as laying the groundwork for a 2024 Trump administration, Lake said, “At this point, it’s clear that Mike Pence has an electoral interest in taking down Donald Trump and winning in Arizona, and this is just one more example of the RINO establishment doing absolutely everything they can to stop our progress.” (Lamborn, 20.6M) says Pence’s endorsement “came amid pushback from some Republicans against Mr. Trump and the campaign strategy in 2020 – as Ms. Lake has done,” while [Politico](#) (7/18, Isenstadt, 6.73M) says Pence is “joining term-limited Republican Governor Doug 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 through a primary. If he has a political future in the GOP is to prove – through a series of steps – that Trump is less powerful than he is believed to be.”

Midterm Elections May Not Apply To Current Cycle.

for [Roll Call](#) (7/18, 130K) that he has not seen many election cycles “that are more confusing than the one we are now in. In previous election cycles when nothing out of the ordinary happens,” and “the old rules still apply,” it is “more difficult to sketch out a strategy.”

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.

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 leadership is a recipe for disaster."

Supreme Court Act.

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.

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. Radio, is still an effective megaphone for false narratives, particularly in Miami, where far right-wing hosts have long used Spanish language Miami radio, conservative voices and disinformation have been almost indistinguishable."

Wall Street Journal (7/18, Subscription Publication, 8.41M) editorial argues that the CHIP bill subsidizes protectionism. The Wall Street Journal says the measure will encourage other industries to cite China competition as a reason to seek government money.

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.

Wall Street Journal (7/18, Subscription Publication, 8.41M) says the heatwave is bringing the "predictable jargon of climate change." The Wall Street Journal says the climate lobbyists and media and politics blame every turn in the weather on climate change. The Wall Street Journal says Europe's climate emissions, which have come at the cost of less reliable energy and greater vulnerability to Vladimir Putin. The Wall Street Journal says that if climate changes, further European emissions reductions will do nothing to alter global temperatures without larger changes elsewhere.

Wall Street Journal (7/18, Subscription Publication, 8.41M) editorial lauds Kansas lawmakers for eliminating excise taxes on hair removal. The Wall Street Journal says Kansas lawmakers are using a thin string to shape brows and pluck unwanted facial hair, from a state requirement that they be licensed.

'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 regime, which he seeks to ratify in a referendum set for July 25, could deepen this political winter." The Post notes that leverage over 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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[Afghanistan, Is Faltering Under The Taliban](#)

[Yemen, A Land Not Built For It](#)

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Ukraine

Europe Wrestles With Heatwave And Forest Fires

ers Help Profits Beat Forecasts

O Following Political Turmoil

ork News:

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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
hen 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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PRO

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 10 percent of the bill.

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 Trevisani, Sandoz's U.K. 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 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 in 2022, compared with just 3 percent growth in spending on generics and biosimilars, said DiGangi Trevisani.

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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<Sean.Mcluskie@hhs.gov>

Sent Date: 2023/01/17 13:48:46

Delivered Date: 2023/01/17 13:49:05

From: Adesina, Adeola (OS/IEA) /O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=FB22E6BA7EF143E4B81F21F1AD7C1959-ADESINA, AD <Adeola.Adesina@hhs.gov>
To: Tina M. Weatherwax-Grant <granttw@trinity-health.org>; Lorenzo Olvera <Lorenzo.Olvera@saintalphonsus.org>
CC: Harris, James (OS/IEA) /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=a43840760c804a5db6db5f2bc23374a6-Harris, Jam <James.Harris3@hhs.gov>
Subject: RE: Hi from Lorenzo Olvera
Date: 2023/05/24 16:22:19
Priority: Normal
Type: Note

Tina,

Moving Sean and Marvin to bcc. James and I are happy to meet with you. Can you send over some dates and times for next week?

Best,
Adeola

From: Tina M. Weatherwax-Grant <granttw@trinity-health.org>
Sent: Tuesday, May 23, 2023 6:33 PM
To: Figueroa, Marvin (HHS/IEA) <Marvin.Figueroa@hhs.gov>; Lorenzo Olvera <Lorenzo.Olvera@saintalphonsus.org>; Mccluskie, Sean (HHS/IOS) <Sean.Mccluskie@hhs.gov>
Cc: Adesina, Adeola (OS/IEA) <Adeola.Adesina@hhs.gov>
Subject: RE: Hi from Lorenzo Olvera

Hi Marvin, Sean, and Adeola, it's nice to meet you virtually.

Trinity Health welcomes the opportunity to engage valued leaders like Lorenzo in the policy-change space and seeks to be a trusted policy resource for each of you.

I'd love to connect to share how our health system is advancing health equity, new care models, access, payment innovation, and community wellness. How do we get this scheduled?

Best,
Tina

Tina Weatherwax Grant, J.D.
SVP, Advocacy & Public Policy
Pronouns: she/her/hers
W 734-343-1375
C(b)(6)

From: Figueroa, Marvin (HHS/IEA) <Marvin.Figueroa@hhs.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, May 23, 2023 12:46 PM
To: Lorenzo Olvera <Lorenzo.Olvera@saintalphonsus.org>; Mccluskie, Sean (HHS/IOS) <Sean.Mccluskie@hhs.gov>; Tina M. Weatherwax-Grant <granttw@trinity-health.org>
Cc: Adesina, Adeola (OS/IEA) <Adeola.Adesina@hhs.gov>
Subject: [External] Re: Hi from Lorenzo Olvera

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Lorenzo, thank you for the email and congratulations. You did an incredible job leading diversity, equity and inclusion efforts in the Senate so it's good to see you leading similar efforts at Saint Alphonsus.

And Tina, pleased to meet you. I'm adding Adeola from our team who works with hospitals and hospital systems for Secretary Becerra. HHS welcomes the continued engagement.

I'll be in Idaho for the Idaho Hispanic and American Indian Healthcare Conference on behalf of the Secretary. Hopefully I will get to meet you in-person then.

Marvin

From: Lorenzo Olvera <Lorenzo.Olvera@saintalphonsus.org>
Sent: Monday, May 22, 2023 5:09 PM
To: Mccluskie, Sean (HHS/IOS) <Sean.Mccluskie@hhs.gov>; Figueroa, Marvin (HHS/IEA) <Marvin.Figueroa@hhs.gov>; Tina M. Weatherwax-Grant <granttw@trinity-health.org>
Subject: Hi from Lorenzo Olvera

Dear Sean and Marvin,

Lorenzo Olvera here. I hope you and team XB are doing well!

Since we last spoke, I left the Senate to return home to Idaho, still working on diversity, equity, and inclusion efforts but now within healthcare. I serve as DEI Director at the Saint Alphonsus Health System, part of Trinity Health, one of the US's largest Catholic non-profit health systems, and one which, like Secretary Becerra, is committed to advancing equity.

I was happy to learn that our CEO, Mike Slubowski, has met with Secretary Becerra and shared how, in many ways, our vision, mission, and values align well with the Administration's priorities. To continue their conversation and in the spirit of partnership, I kindly introduce you to my colleague, Tina Weatherwax Grant, our Senior Vice President of Advocacy & Public Policy.

I am genuinely grateful to have worked with each of you and applaud your work at HHS.

I wish you the very best.

Lorenzo Olvera

Director, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

Pronouns: he/him/his

Saint Alphonsus Health System

1055 N. Curtis Rd., Boise, ID 83706

Office: 208-367-7968 | Lorenzo.Olvera@saintalphonsus.org

#ourcallingisyou



As a faith-based Catholic Ministry and non-profit organization, Saint Alphonsus Health System reinvests charitable care and benefits back into the Idaho and Oregon communities we serve. We are focused on improving the health and well-being of our patients, and supporting the needs of our communities by delivering innovative, personalized care, led by an Alliance of independent and employed physicians and providers who represent the full continuum of healthcare needs.

For more information, visit our website: www.saintalphonsus.org

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Tina M. Weatherwax-Grant <granttw@trinity-health.org>;
Lorenzo Olvera <Lorenzo.Olvera@saintalphonsus.org>;
Recipient: Harris, James (OS/IEA) /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=a43840760c804a5db6db5f2bc23374a6-Harris, Jam <James.Harris3@hhs.gov>

Sent Date: 2023/05/24 16:22:18

Delivered Date: 2023/05/24 16:22:19

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Mccluskie, Sean (HHS/IOS) /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group

To: (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=2357b6b202dd4e049b1ea05d63172060-Mccluskie, <Sean.Mccluskie@hhs.gov>

Subject: Future uncertain at generic drug lobby as cuts threaten its influence

Date: 2023/04/13 05:10:00

Priority: Normal

Type: Note



Future uncertain at generic drug lobby as cuts

BY MEGAN R. WILSON 04/13/2023 05:07 AM EDT



LAST-OPENED

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Sent Date: 2023/04/13 05:09:50

Delivered Date: 2023/04/13 05:10:00

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To: (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=2357b6b202dd4e049b1ea05d63172060-Mccluskie, <Sean.Mccluskie@hhs.gov>

Subject: Biden declares monkeypox public health emergency

Date: 2022/08/04 16:25:04

Priority: Normal

Type: Note



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 and follow me on Twitter at [@tucker_doherty](https://twitter.com/tucker_doherty).

A message from PhRMA:

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.

MONKEYPOX



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Sent Date: 2022/08/04 16:24:48

Delivered Date: 2022/08/04 16:25:04

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To: (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=2357b6b202dd4e049b1ea05d63172060-Mccluskie, <Sean.Mccluskie@hhs.gov>

Subject: Are parents ready for new kids' boosters?

Date: 2022/10/13 06:02:05

Priority: Normal

Type: Note

With Daniel Lippman

DRIVING THE DAY



The FDA authorized emergency use of bivalent Covid-19 vaccines for kids. | Michael M. Santiago/Getty Images

SELLING AN UPDATED SHOT — Updated Covid-19 boosters from Pfizer and Moderna were given

Just hours after the FDA gave the green light, the CDC recommended the shots for kids, POLITICO

Many kids aren't ready for a booster, having had only one or no doses of the two-dose primary C

Older kids have higher vaccination rates, with about 60 percent of those 12–17 having completed th

The reluctance to get the updated shot reaches far beyond kids. Only 5 percent of the general popul

That doesn't make health care staff — especially those working with children — any less con

Linda Mendonça, president of the National Association of School Nurses, told Pulse that school nurses

“I think messaging is always a challenge,” Mendonça said. “School nurses do sometimes struggle with

And now, some see even more to be done beyond Covid-19 and into the care that was halted through

School nurses continually work to make sure kids are caught up on their routine vaccinations and care

Mental health care workers have also brought new focus to engaging children trying to bounce back

Even so, the work to get the new boosters to kids now begins.

“**It’s how we practice,**” Mendonça said. “If there’s a vaccine available, then we certainly will promote

WELCOME TO THURSDAY PULSE, where you may be anxiously following [the contest to find the](#)
kmahr@politico.com.

TODAY ON OUR PULSE CHECK PODCAST, Carmen Paun talks with Sam Sutton about how influenza



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PUBLIC HEALTH



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<Sean.Mcluskie@hhs.gov>

Sent Date: 2022/10/13 06:01:58

Delivered Date: 2022/10/13 06:02:05

From: FedScoop Events <events@fedscoop.com>

Mccluskie, Sean (HHS/IOS) /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group

To: (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=2357b6b202dd4e049b1ea05d63172060-Mccluskie,
<Sean.Mccluskie@hhs.gov>

Subject: Have you seen this lineup of speakers? 🗣️ FedTalks to feature CIOs from EOP, DOD, VA, DHS, NSF, CIA, Energy and more!

Date: 2022/08/09 06:04:01

Priority: Normal

Type: Note

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MARTORANA
Federal CIO, Executive
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John Sherman

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DOROTHY
ARONSON
CIO, NSF



Dewaine Beard

DEWAINE BEARD
Acting Principal Deput
Assistant Secretary
(PDAS) for Informatior
and Technology and
Deputy CIO, Dept. of
Veterans Affairs



Guy Cavallo

GUY CAVALLO
CIO, OPM*



Dr. George

Chambers

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CHAMBERS
Executive Director, Office
of Application & Platform
Solutions, HHS



Ann Dunkin

ANN DUNKIN
CIO, Dept. of Energy



Eric Hysen

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CIO, DHS*



La'Naia Jones

LA'NAIA JONES
CIO & Director of
Information Technology
Enterprise, CIA*



Andre Mendes

ANDRE MENDES
CIO, Dept. of Commerce



Col. Bobby Saxon

COL. BOBBY SAXON
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Sharon Woods

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Doug Averill

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Market Leader,



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Carberry

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Ben Cushing

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Senior Vice President,
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Mia Jordan

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Dave Levy

DAVE LEVY
VP, U.S. Government,
Nonprofit, and
Healthcare, AWS



Lynn Martin

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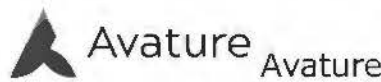
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<Sean.Mccluskie@hhs.gov>

Sent Date: 2022/08/09 06:03:04

Delivered Date: 2022/08/09 06:04:01

From:	Miller - Tolbert, Kimberly (OS/IOS) /O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=AE7FDBBB6735470BAB1203AFB08F5B7D-MILLER - TO <Kimberly.Miller-tolbert@hhs.gov>
To:	Mcluskie, Sean (HHS/IOS) /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=2357b6b202dd4e049b1ea05d63172060-Mcluskie, <Sean.Mcluskie@hhs.gov>
CC:	Despres, Sarah (HHS/IOS) /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=15d1d64eacdf46b8a378310ae7caf6bd-Despres, Sa <Sarah.Despres@hhs.gov>; Cha, Stephen (HHS/IOS) /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=23e67977d77947d69baf2ace846821a8-Cha, Stephe <Stephen.Cha@hhs.gov>; Wulff, Kacey (OS/IOS/) /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=88b3d7edb4b147748759127431148203-Wulff, Kath <Kacey.Wulff@hhs.gov>; Kaplun, Brian (HHS/IOS) /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=1acf9cb27ef84eccb7565f490cf4e937-Kaplun, Bri <Brian.Kaplun@hhs.gov>
Subject:	RE: Adderall follow up
Date:	2022/10/24 10:43:25
Priority:	Normal
Type:	Note

Hi Sean,

Yes, we are in touch with DPC about this. They reached out with questions on impact, and we've shared this ASPE brief. FDA has also been providing them with information, including on patient and stakeholder engagement.

Kim

From: Mcluskie, Sean (HHS/IOS) <Sean.Mcluskie@hhs.gov>
Sent: Sunday, October 23, 2022 7:36 PM
To: Miller - Tolbert, Kimberly (OS/IOS) <Kimberly.Miller-tolbert@hhs.gov>
Cc: Despres, Sarah (HHS/IOS) <Sarah.Despres@hhs.gov>; Cha, Stephen (HHS/IOS) <Stephen.Cha@hhs.gov>; Wulff, Kacey (OS/IOS/) <Kacey.Wulff@hhs.gov>; Kaplun, Brian (HHS/IOS) <Brian.Kaplun@hhs.gov>
Subject: RE: Adderall follow up

Kim,

Besides monitoring, should HHS be doing more on this issue? Should we be discussing with others in the government to inform them of what we are seeing?

Sean

From: Miller - Tolbert, Kimberly (OS/IOS) <Kimberly.Miller-tolbert@hhs.gov>
Sent: Friday, October 21, 2022 6:53 PM
To: Mccluskie, Sean (HHS/IOS) <Sean.Mccluskie@hhs.gov>
Cc: Despres, Sarah (HHS/IOS) <Sarah.Despres@hhs.gov>; Cha, Stephen (HHS/IOS) <Stephen.Cha@hhs.gov>; Wulff, Kacey (OS/IOS/) <Kacey.Wulff@hhs.gov>; Kaplun, Brian (HHS/IOS) <Brian.Kaplun@hhs.gov>
Subject: RE: Adderall follow up

Hi Sean,

We asked ASPE to dig into this too and they prepared a short brief. Attaching here for your awareness.

<< File: Adderall IQVIA Memo_.docx >>

From: Miller - Tolbert, Kimberly (OS/IOS)
Sent: Friday, October 14, 2022 11:10 AM
To: Mccluskie, Sean (HHS/IOS) <Sean.Mccluskie@hhs.gov>
Cc: Despres, Sarah (HHS/IOS) <Sarah.Despres@hhs.gov>; Cha, Stephen (HHS/IOS) <Stephen.Cha@hhs.gov>; Wulff, Kacey (OS/IOS/) <Kacey.Wulff@hhs.gov>; Kaplun, Brian (HHS/IOS) <Brian.Kaplun@hhs.gov>
Subject: RE: Adderall follow up

Yes, and notes out to all three on this to track.

From: Mccluskie, Sean (HHS/IOS) <Sean.Mccluskie@hhs.gov>
Sent: Thursday, October 13, 2022 11:30 PM
To: Miller - Tolbert, Kimberly (OS/IOS) <Kimberly.Miller-tolbert@hhs.gov>
Cc: Despres, Sarah (HHS/IOS) <Sarah.Despres@hhs.gov>; Cha, Stephen (HHS/IOS) <Stephen.Cha@hhs.gov>; Wulff, Kacey (OS/IOS/) <Kacey.Wulff@hhs.gov>; Kaplun, Brian (HHS/IOS) <Brian.Kaplun@hhs.gov>
Subject: RE: Adderall follow up

Can we monitor for any news? We should make sure that ASL, IEA and ASPA are tracking any outside activity.

From: Miller - Tolbert, Kimberly (OS/IOS) <Kimberly.Miller-tolbert@hhs.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, October 12, 2022 6:29 PM
To: Mccluskie, Sean (HHS/IOS) <Sean.Mccluskie@hhs.gov>
Cc: Despres, Sarah (HHS/IOS) <Sarah.Despres@hhs.gov>; Cha, Stephen (HHS/IOS)

<Stephen.Cha@hhs.gov>; Wulff, Kacey (OS/IOS/) <Kacey.Wulff@hhs.gov>; Kaplun, Brian (HHS/IOS) <Brian.Kaplun@hhs.gov>

Subject: RE: Adderall follow up

Hi Sean,

Please see this update that FDA shared with us today:

Hi – late breaking news, I wanted to make sure to flag for you. We’ve been monitoring and now have reached the point where we’ll announce there is a shortage on our Drug Shortages page.

- *FDA will post a shortage of the immediate release formulation of amphetamine mixed salts, commonly referred to by the brand name Adderall or Adderall IR, on our drug shortage website.*
- *Amphetamine mixed salts, including Adderall, are FDA-approved for the treatment of attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) and narcolepsy.*
- *One of those producers, Teva Pharmaceuticals, informed the FDA of ongoing intermittent delays. Other manufacturers continue to produce amphetamine mixed salts, but there is not sufficient supply to continue to meet U.S. market demand through those producers.*
- *FDA has posted information on the shortage, including a list of current manufacturers and product strengths that are still available. DSS has also alerted DEA since this is controlled.*
- **COMMS:** *CDER Statement, Stakeholder Emails, Social media*

I’ve also cut and pasted some background from trade press this morning. I don’t know about that last sentence :/

<< OLE Object: Picture (Device Independent Bitmap) >>

Sandoz Weighs In On US Adderall Shortages Amid Supply Disruption

As Patients Wait Up To Three Months To Collect Prescriptions

- 11 Oct 2022
- **ANALYSIS**

Dean.Rudge@informa.com

Executive Summary

A spike in demand for Adderall and its generic versions has left patients scrambling to have their prescriptions filled, making headline news in the US. Leading generics manufacturer Sandoz told *Generics Bulletin* its current experience amid the supply squeeze.

Shortages of Adderall (mixed amphetamine salts), the renowned treatment for attention deficit hyperactivity disorder and narcolepsy, and its generic equivalents is now headline news in the US, with widespread reports of patients being told that prescriptions are on backorder for up to several months. Shortages were reported by the US Food and Drug Administration as far back as the third quarter of 2019. Three years on, the issue has escalated, worsened by a labor shortage for Teva, one of the leading generics manufacturers, that has squeezed supplies further since August.

And as a Schedule IIN controlled substance, Adderall and its generic versions – available as both immediate-release and extended-release formulations – are subject to US Drug Enforcement Administration quotas.

The DEA establishes manufacturing and procurement quotas each year for Schedule I and II controlled substances to avoid overproduction and reduce the risk of diversion. The agency sets an aggregate production quota for the calendar year, and that amount is allocated among registered manufacturers who apply for, and demonstrate a need for, a manufacturing quota.

Bloomberg had recently quoted Teva in noting a supply challenge that has the potential to last until early 2023 – while also citing data from the University of Utah showing that more than half-a-dozen manufacturers are also caught in the mire.

Amneal, Camber, Mallinckrodt, Endo's Par, Purdue's Rhodes Pharma, and Sun Pharma are among a swathe of generic Adderall manufacturers also listed as experiencing shortages, alongside originator Shire.

Another of these, Sandoz, told *Generics Bulletin*: "We have no shortage," with the caveat that its position extended only to supplies "that we are currently using to fill predicted and committed customer orders."

The Novartis unit, however, disclosed that it has "not fulfilled orders that have deviated from this plan." "If small customers like University of Utah reach out to us and ask if we have product available, we will indicate on some of the national drug codes that we are backordered as we cannot meet any new demand, so our systems indicate 'backorder.' These orders are not delivering," Sandoz told *Generics Bulletin*.

Pointing to the DEA-imposed quotas, Sandoz acknowledged that the agency was "not currently permitting us to supply more."

"We do have requests [with] the DEA at this time for our next manufacturing cycle, and to plan for 2023."

However, Sandoz also acknowledged the dangers of challenging the threshold of quotas designed to halt abuse of Schedule IIN stimulants. Of greater importance for public health, the US is continuing to grapple with widespread and lethal abuse of Schedule II narcotics like oxycodone and fentanyl.

"We appreciate the controls imposed by the DEA – without understanding better what's causing this demand spike, we would be reluctant to fill any additional orders due to increased demand."

Lannett, which partnered with Elite Pharmaceuticals and SunGen Pharma to launch generic Adderall XR two-and-a-half years ago, is reported as having supplies available. (Also see "[Lannett Rolls Out US Adderall XR Rival](#)" - *Generics Bulletin*, 1 Apr, 2020.)

A decade ago, issues surrounding the short supply of certain ADHD drugs, including Adderall, were such that they received attention in both the halls of Congress and a New York federal court.

House Democrats requested information from Shire and Sandoz's parent Novartis in a bid to determine whether their manufacturing practices had led to shortages of generic versions of the companies' respective ADHD drugs, Adderall XR and Ritalin (methylphenidate). (Also see "[ADHD Drug Shortages Draw Attention In Congress, Court](#)" - *Pink Sheet*, 23 Jan, 2012.)

The lawmakers also sought information from the DEA about its process for setting quotas on controlled substances used to manufacture the products – pointing to an article in the *New York Times* citing FDA officials as saying that the shortages resulted from overly strict quotas set by the DEA.

Sent: Thursday, September 29, 2022 7:43 PM
To: Mccluskie, Sean (HHS/IOS) <Sean.Mccluskie@hhs.gov>
Cc: Despres, Sarah (HHS/IOS) <Sarah.Despres@hhs.gov>
Subject: Adderall follow up

Hi Sean,

I know you asked for some information re: Adderall. Here's what we got back from FDA:

We're continuing to monitor supply for ADHD medications. Based on the current information from all of the manufacturers, there is not an overall shortage of ADHD drugs, however one company is reporting intermittent delays. In terms of Adderall availability, we continue to check in with the manufacturers on their current supply and we will update the website as appropriate.

Sender: Miller - Tolbert, Kimberly (OS/IOS) /o=EXCHANGELABS/ou=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=RECIPIENTS/cn=AE7FDBBB6735470BAB1203AFB08F5B7D-MILLER - TO <Kimberly.Miller-tolbert@hhs.gov>

Mccluskie, Sean (HHS/IOS) /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=2357b6b202dd4e049b1ea05d63172060-Mccluskie, <Sean.Mccluskie@hhs.gov>;

Despres, Sarah (HHS/IOS) /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=15d1d64eacdf46b8a378310ae7caf6bd-Despres, Sa <Sarah.Despres@hhs.gov>;

Recipient: Cha, Stephen (HHS/IOS) /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=23e67977d77947d69baf2ace846821a8-Cha, Stephe <Stephen.Cha@hhs.gov>;

Wulff, Kacey (OS/IOS) /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=88b3d7edb4b147748759127431148203-Wulff, Kath <Kacey.Wulff@hhs.gov>;

Kaplun, Brian (HHS/IOS) /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=1acf9cb27ef84eccb7565f490cf4e937-Kaplun, Bri <Brian.Kaplun@hhs.gov>

Sent Date: 2022/10/24 10:43:23

Delivered Date: 2022/10/24 10:43:25

From: Grant L. Barbosa <GLBarbosa@wms-jen.com>

Mccluskie, Sean (HHS/IOS) /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group

To: (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=2357b6b202dd4e049b1ea05d63172060-Mccluskie, <Sean.Mccluskie@hhs.gov>

Subject: Signify - Bundled Payment Recommendations

Date: 2022/02/07 08:26:09

Due Date: 2022/02/06 19:00:00

Priority: Normal

Type: Note

Hi Sean –

I hope you had a good weekend.

I wanted to send over some information on behalf of our firm's client, Signify. They have been sharing it with leaders throughout HHS and CMS as well as the Hill, so we wanted to make sure that you also had a copy of their materials.

Signify has been an important part of the bundled payment methodology under the CMS Innovation Center Bundled Payment for Care Improvement Advanced (BPCI-A). Since the inception of bundled payments in 2013, Signify has been the largest convener under the BPCI-A model.

With the impending expiration of BPCI at the end of 2023, Signify has published recommendations in a report to help to inform healthcare policy experts going forward. I have attached the following documents:

1. • A cover letter from Kim Holland, Signify's SVP Government Affairs, to you, providing additional context about their work and the recommendations contained in the attached report;
2. • A report, *Playbook for Medicare Specialty Bundles*, which was drafted by a collaboration of academic, policy and clinical experts in value-based care, including the Duke-Margolis Center for Health and the Dell Medical School at UT Austin in consultation with others, convened to develop and publish recommendations that would form the building blocks of a new next generation episodes of care model and have shared these with the Innovation Center; and
3. • An appendix to the report providing a review of the literature in relation to advance payment models.

Please don't hesitate to reach out to me if you have any questions or would like any additional information. Have a great day!

Best,
Grant

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Sender: Grant L. Barbosa <GLBarbosa@wms-jen.com>

Mcluskie, Sean (HHS/IOS) /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group
Recipient: (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=2357b6b202dd4e049b1ea05d63172060-Mcluskie,
<Sean.Mcluskie@hhs.gov>

Sent Date: 2022/02/07 08:25:27

Delivered Date: 2022/02/07 08:26:09

From: POLITICO Pro Health Care <alert@email.politicopro.com>
Mccluskie, Sean (HHS/IOS) /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group
To: (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=2357b6b202dd4e049b1ea05d63172060-Mccluskie, <Sean.Mccluskie@hhs.gov>
Subject: PRO PHARMACEUTICAL REPORT: Thursday, Jan. 19, 2023
Date: 2023/01/19 13:17:00
Priority: Normal
Type: Note

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.

[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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