

HLB Weekly Newsletter

[View this email in your browser](#)**EDITION:** June 14, 2018

GOVERNMENT RELATIONS & PUBLIC POLICY

Your weekly dose of health care policy

CONGRESSIONAL

Opioid Legislation Moving Through Congress

This week, the House of Representatives passed over 30 bills addressing the opioid epidemic, many by voice vote (bills passed on [June 12](#), [June 13](#)). The House will continue passing individual opioid bills through the remainder of this week and next. Additionally, the Chairmen and Ranking Members of the Energy & Commerce and Ways & Means Committees released the comprehensive [Substance Use-Disorder Prevention that Promotes Opioid Recovery and Treatment \(SUPPORT\) for Patients and Communities Act \(H.R. 6\)](#), a comprehensive bill of opioid measures that will be the main vehicle the House will pass to send over to the Senate for

MACRA HIGHLIGHTS

Learn more about the use of the All-Payer Combination Option to help clinicians achieve Qualifying Professional (QP) status for 2019 with the CMS [FAQ](#).

UPCOMING HEALTH CARE ACTIVITIES ON THE HILL

Senate HELP Committee
6/19 at 10:00am: Full Committee

approval. It is unclear if the Senate will take up the House measure or proceed with their own bills passed out of the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP) and Finance Committees. To that end, on Tuesday, the Senate Finance Committee unanimously passed its [Helping to End Addiction and Lessen \(HEAL\) Substance Use Disorders Act](#), which makes improvements to Medicare and Medicaid in response to the crisis.

Senate Judiciary Passes CREATES Act

Earlier today the Senate Judiciary Committee passed, by a 16-5 vote, the [Creating and Restoring Equal Access To Equivalent Samples \(CREATES\) Act \(S. 974\)](#), legislation that would help generic drugs more quickly onto the market by not allowing companies to block samples for development. The legislation now must be taken up by the full Senate.

ADMINISTRATION

CMS Releases Medicaid Opioids Guidance

On Monday, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) released [guidance](#) for Medicaid programs to ensure states have flexibilities and the tools to combat the opioid crisis and are aware of the resources available. Of note, the guidance includes information for designing programs to cover treatment services for Medicaid eligible infants with Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome (NAS) and enhancing technology.

[hearing](#) on the Effective Administration of the 340B Drug Pricing Program.

6/20 at 10:30am: Full Committee [Executive Session](#) on Public Health bills.

Senate Aging Committee

6/19 at 2:30pm: Full Committee [hearing](#) on changing the trajectory of Alzheimer's reducing risk, detecting early symptoms and improving data.

Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

Committee

6/20 at 10:00am: Full Committee [hearing](#) on Medicaid Fraud and Overpayments: Problems and Solutions.

WEEKLY TRIVIA

Which team did the Capitals play in their first Stanley Cup Finals appearance?

In which season did the Capitals set the NHL record for highest single-season penalty kill rate with a rate of 89.2%?

[Click here to find the answer.](#)

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