

**EDITION:** June 29, 2018

## GOVERNMENT RELATIONS & PUBLIC POLICY

*Your weekly dose of health care policy*



**Note:** Due to the Fourth of July Holiday there will be no weekly update next week.

### CONGRESSIONAL

#### Subcommittee Advances Public Health Bills

On Wednesday, the House Energy and Commerce Health Subcommittee passed five bipartisan public health bills by voice vote including:

- [The Pandemic and All-Hazards Preparedness Reauthorization Act](#)
- [The Children's Hospital GME Support Reauthorization Act \(H.R. 5385\)](#)
- [Title VIII Nursing Workforce Reauthorization Act \(H.R.](#)

### MACRA HIGHLIGHTS

You can view your 2017 performance for the Merit-based Incentive Payment System (MIPS) on the Quality Payment Program [website](#) logging in using your [Enterprise Identity Management \(EIDM\) credentials](#).

### HEALTH CARE ACTIVITIES ON THE HILL

[959](#))

- [The Palliative Care and Hospice Education and Training Act \(H.R. 1676\)](#)
- [The Educating Medical Professionals and Optimizing Workforce Efficiency Readiness \(EMPOWER\) Act \(H.R. 3728\)](#)

The Senate companion bills to the Pandemic and All-Hazards Preparedness Reauthorization Act and Children's Hospital GME Support Reauthorization Act were recently passed through the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committees.

### **Senate Health Spending Bill Advanced Through Committee**

On Thursday, the Senate Appropriations Committee reported out its \$179.3 billion fiscal year 2019 Labor-HHS-Education [spending bill](#) to the full Senate by a vote of 30-1. The spending bill included a \$2.2 billion increase from the current fiscal year. The House Appropriations Committee is expected to take up [their version](#) of the bill after the July 4th recess after several delays to the markup.

## **ADMINISTRATION**

### **Medicaid Program Integrity Initiative Announced**

On Tuesday, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) [announced](#) new initiatives in the Medicaid program aimed at providing stronger audit functions, enhanced oversight of state contracts with private insurance companies, increased beneficiary eligibility oversight, and stricter enforcement of state compliance with federal rules. A [Program Integrity Strategy Fact Sheet](#) details new and existing programs CMS is carrying out.

### **New Medicare Advantage Demonstration Announced**

The House and Senate will be in Recess next week for the Fourth of July Holiday. The Senate will return Monday, July 9 and the House will return Tuesday July 10.

### **WEEKLY TRIVIA**

When were fireworks first used to celebrate the Fourth of July?

How did the Nathan's Fourth of July Hot Dog Contest begin?

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

Today, CMS [announced](#) a new [Medicare Advantage Qualifying Payment Arrangement Incentive \(MAQI\) Demonstration](#), which, when approved and adopted, would waive Merit-Based Incentive Payment System (MIPS) requirements for clinicians who participate sufficiently in certain Medicare Advantage plans that involve taking on risk. Once approved, the demonstration is tentatively planned to start in performance year 2018 and run for five years. CMS will accept comments for sixty days.

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