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GOVERNMENT RELATIONS & PUBLIC POLICY

Your weekly dose of health care policy

CONGRESSIONAL

E&C Passes Health Extenders, Public Health & Surprise Billing Legislation

On July 17, the House Energy and Commerce Committee passed a number of bills extending and reauthorizing health programs, as well as moving forward with an updated version of legislation to combat surprise billing, the No Surprises Act (H.R. 3630). The bills passed include:

- [EMPOWER for Health Act \(H.R. 2781\)](#)
- [Title VII Nursing Workforce Reauthorization Act \(H.R. 728\)](#)
- [Autism CARES Act \(H.R. 1058\)](#)
- [Newborn Screening Saves Lives Reauthorization Act \(H.R. 2507\)](#)
- [Emergency Medical Services for Children Program Reauthorization Act \(H.R. 776\)](#)
- [Lifespan Respite Care Reauthorization Act \(H.R. 2035\)](#)
- [FAIR Drug Pricing Act \(H.R. 2296\)](#)
- [Community Health Investment, Modernization, and Excellence Act \(H.R. 2328\)](#)

The No Surprises Act, was amended from when the Subcommittee examined the bill to include an arbitration process for when the median in-network payment amount is above \$1250. The arbitration piece was added as members raised concerns with the previous bill. The addition of the arbitration provision differs from the Senate HELP version that the bill previously aligned with. The No Surprises Act was rolled into a broader bill, H.R. 2328, the Community Health Investment, Modernization, and Excellence Act, which also

MACRA HIGHLIGHTS

Information on the Quality Payment Program (QPP) participation in 2018 can be found [here](#).

HEALTH CARE ACTIVITIES ON THE HILL

Senate Finance Committee
7/23 at 10:15: Full Committee [hearing](#) on Promoting Elder Justice: A Call for Reform.

Weekly Trivia

How long did the Apollo 11 Mission take?

Click [here](#) for the answer!

includes funding for Medicare and public health programs.

The House and Senate continue to work on finding compromise on surprise billing, further delaying their attempt to pass something by the August recess period.

House Repeals Cadillac Tax

On July 17, the House of Representatives passed the [Middle Class Health Benefits Tax Repeal Act of 2019](#) (H.R. 748), legislation repealing the Affordable Care Act's 40 percent Cadillac tax, by a vote of 419-6. The legislation now heads to the Senate, although it is unclear when they may take it up for a vote.

ADMINISTRATION

Long-Term Care Rules Released

On July 16, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) released two rules related to Long-Term Care (LTC) facilities. The first, a [final rule](#) rolling back the previous policy on banning binding [arbitration agreements](#) which will go into effect September 16, 2019. The second, a [proposed rule](#), lays out updated requirements for LTC facilities in order to reduce burden as part of the agency's five-part approach to ensure safety and quality. Comments on the [proposal](#) will be accepted through September 16.

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