

EDITION: February 14, 2020



Note: There will be no update next week due to the Congressional Recess

CONGRESSIONAL

Two House Committees Pass Surprise Billing Legislation

On Tuesday, the House Education and Labor Committee passed their version of surprise billing legislation, the [Ban Surprise Billing Act \(H.R. 5800\)](#) by a bipartisan vote of 32-13 with most of the disagreement centering around how the bill would settle disputes between plans and providers. The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) has [estimated](#) that this legislation will save \$24 billion over ten years. This version is similar to the agreement made in December between the House Energy and Commerce leaders and Senate HELP Chairman Lamar Alexander.

On Wednesday, the House Ways and Means Committee passed a separate bill, the [Consumer Protections Against Surprise Medical Bills Act \(H.R. 5826\)](#) by voice vote. The legislation is [estimated](#) to save \$17.7 billion over ten years.

There remains a great deal of work to be done in order to come to an agreement on the approach of surprise billing legislation. However the goal is still to move some sort of legislation forward within a larger health care package in May.

MACRA HIGHLIGHTS

Make sure to review the Quality Payment Program [2019 Data Submission User Guide!](#)

HEALTH CARE ACTIVITIES ON THE HILL

Both Chambers will have a district work period next week for the Presidents Day holiday. The Senate will return February 24, and the House will return February 25.

Weekly Trivia

Who was the first African American woman elected to Congress?

Click [here](#) for the answer!

Administration

CMS Seeks Information on Rural Maternal Health

On February 12, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) released a [Request for Information](#) (RFI) on rural maternal and infant health. They are seeking information related to opportunities to improve access, quality, and outcomes before, during, and after pregnancy, and to develop and refine programs and policies that ensure all rural women have access to high quality maternal health care that results in optimal health. Comments will be accepted through April 12th.

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