

LEGISLATIVE AND REGULATORY UPDATE

March 6, 2017

Week in Brief

House Republicans [Release](#) Legislation To Repeal And Replace The ACA.

President Donald Trump [Gives](#) First Joint Address To Congress, Including Outline Of Major Tenets Of ACA Repeal And Replace Plan.

WHITE HOUSE UPDATE

February 28

White House [Publishes](#) Press Release Entitled “President Trump Is Confronting Our Nation's Broken Healthcare System.”

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

February 21

Congressmen Greg Walden (R-OR), Frank Pallone, Jr. (D-NJ), Michael Burgess, M.D. (R-TX), and Gene Green (D-TX), and Senators Lamar Alexander (R-TN) and Patty Murray (D-WA) [Send](#) Letter To Colleagues Regarding Importance of Vaccines, With Emphasis On Infant And Child Health.

House Veterans’ Affairs Oversight & Investigations Subcommittee Chairman Jack Bergman (R-MI) [Holds](#) Hearing Addressing Recent [GAO Report's](#) Findings Suggesting “Lack of Oversight and Internal Controls for Prescription Opioids And Employee Accountability Put VA Medical Centers At Risk For Drug Diversion.”

February 23

House Energy & Commerce Committee Republicans [Publish](#) Press Release Entitled “Obamacare’s Individual Mandate: A Resounding Failure.”

February 24

Senate HELP Committee Ranking Member [Patty Murray](#) (D-WA), Ways & Means Committee Ranking Member [Richard Neal](#) (D-MA), And Ways & Means Health Subcommittee Ranking Member [Sander Levin](#) (D-MI) Issue Statements Regarding [Leaked Copy](#) of House Republican’s Healthcare Proposal.

House Energy & Commerce Committee Chairman Greg Walden (R-OR) And Ranking Member Frank Pallone, Jr. (D-NJ), And Oversight & Investigations Subcommittee Chairman Tim Murphy (R-PA) and Subcommittee Ranking Member Diana DeGette (D-CO) [Send Letter](#) To Office Of National Drug Control Policy Soliciting Answers Regarding Federal Response To Fentanyl Epidemic.

February 27

Senate Appropriations Committee Ranking Member [Patrick Leahy](#) (D-VT), House Appropriations Committee Ranking Member [Nita Lowey](#) (D-NY), And House Budget Committee Ranking Member [John Yarmuth](#) (D-KY) Release Statements Regarding President Donald Trump's 2018 Budget Outline.

House Veterans' Affairs Committee Ranking Member Tim Walz (D-MN) And Oversight & Investigations Subcommittee Ranking Member Ann Kuster (D-NH) [Release](#) Statements Regarding Oversight & Investigations Subcommittee Hearing Regarding VA Oversight Of Controlled Substances And Drug Free Workplace Program In VA Medical Facilities.

Senators Bernie Sanders (I-VT), Cory Booker (D-NJ), Bob Casey (D-PN), Martin Heinrich (D-NM), Angus King (I-MN), And Congressmen Elijah Cummings (D-MD) And Lloyd Doggett (D-TX) [Hold](#) Press Conference To Unveil New Drug Importation Bill.

February 28

Senators Bernie Sanders (I-VT), Cory Booker (D-NJ), and Bob Casey (D-PN) [Introduce](#) Legislation, [S.469](#), Aimed At Lowering Cost Of Prescription Drugs By Allowing For Drug Importation From Canada. Congressmen Elijah E. Cummings (D-MD) And Lloyd Doggett (D-TX) [Introduce](#) House Companion Bill, [H.R.1245](#).

House Judiciary Committee Chairman Bob Goodlatte (R-VA) [Delivers](#) Remarks at House Judiciary Committee's Markup Regarding The *Protecting Access to Care Act* ([H.R. 1215](#)) And [Issues](#) Follow-Up Statement Regarding Committee Approval of Act By A 18-17 Vote. Chairman Goodlatte (R-VA) [Delivers](#) Remarks During Markup Of *Competitive Health Insurance Reform Act of 2017* ([H.R. 372](#)).

Senate Finance Committee Chairman [Orrin Hatch](#) (R-UT), House Judiciary Committee Chairman [Bob Goodlatte](#) (R-VA), House Energy & Commerce Committee Chairman [Greg Walden](#) (R-OR), and Senate HELP Committee Chairmen [Lamar Alexander](#) (R-TN) Issue Statements Regarding President Donald Trump's First Address To Joint Session Of Congress, Including Health Care Reform Proposal.

Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee Ranking Member Jon Tester [Publishes](#) Opening Statement From [Joint Hearing](#) Of Senate And House Veterans' Affairs Committees Regarding Disabled American Veterans (DAV) Legislative Priorities.

House Budget Committee Chairman Diane Black (R-TN) [Makes](#) Statements On CNBC's "Squawk Box" and Bloomberg's "Daybreak: Americas" Regarding House Republicans' Commitment To Repeal ACA And Replace With "Patient-Centered Care" That Builds a Sustainable Budget.

House Oversight & Government Reform Committee Ranking Member Elijah Cummings (D-MD) [Opposes](#) *Searching For And Cutting Regulations That Are Unnecessarily Burdensome Act of 2017 (H.R. 998)* On House Floor.

March 1

Senate Finance Committee [Holds](#) Open Executive Session To “Consider Favorably Reporting the Nomination of Seema Verma to be Administrator of CMS.” Final Committee Confirmation Vote Postponed One Day.

March 2

Senate Finance Committee Chairman Orrin Hatch (R-Utah) [Releases](#) Statement Regarding Committee’s Advancement Of Seema Verma’s Nomination To Serve As CMS Administrator.

House Energy & Commerce Committee Democrats [Send](#) Letter to Chairman Greg Walden (R-OR) Insisting ACA Repeal Bill Text Be Posted For Public View A Minimum Of 30 Days Before Committee Markup.

House Energy & Commerce Subcommittee on Health [Holds](#) Hearing Entitled “Examining FDA’s Generic Drug and Biosimilar User Fee Programs.” Subcommittee Chairman Michael C. Burgess, M.D. (R-TX) [Releases](#) Statement and Witness Testimony. Committee Ranking Member Frank Pallone, Jr. (D-NJ) [Submits](#) Remarks For Record Regarding Importance Of Congress Acting On Rise Of Prescription Drug Prices.

House Energy & Commerce Committee Chairman Greg Walden (R-OR) [Issues](#) Statement Regarding Majority Committee Member’s Process For Drafting Bill To Repeal and Replace ACA.

House Energy & Commerce Ranking Committee Member Frank Pallone, Jr. (D-NJ) and Oversight & Government Reform Committee Ranking Member Elijah E. Cummings (D-MD) [Issue](#) District-By-District Staff [Report](#) Summarizing ACA Progress And Potential Negative Outcomes Of Repeal.

REGULATORY UPDATE

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

February 28

HHS [Publishes](#) Secretary Price’s Statement Regarding President Donald Trump’s Address to Congress.

March 3

HRSA [Delays](#) the Effective Date of the Final Rule “340B Drug Pricing Program Ceiling Price and Manufacturer Civil Monetary Penalties Regulation.”

OTHER UPDATES

February 27

GAO Publishes Reports,

- [Electronic Health Records: HHS Needs to Improve Planning and Evaluation of Its Efforts to Increase Information Exchange in Post-Acute Care Settings.](#)
- [VA Health Care: Actions Needed to Ensure Medical Facilities' Controlled Substance Programs Meet Requirements.](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

CONGRESSIONAL HEARINGS/MARKUPS

HOUSE

House Veterans' Affairs Committee

[Shaping the Future: Consolidating and Improving VA Community Care](#)

- March 7 | 7:30 p.m.
334 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

SENATE

Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Hearing

[Saving Lives Through Medical Research](#)

- March 8 | 10:30 a.m.
138 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20002