



Health Policy Briefing

February 17, 2026

Judiciary Republicans Subpoena Insurance Providers for Documents About ACA Marketplace Fraud

House Judiciary Committee Chair Jim Jordan (R-Ohio) and panel Republicans are [subpoenaing](#) health insurers participating in the Affordable Care Act (ACA) marketplace citing allegations of fraudulent use of federal subsidies. The eight insurers subpoenaed include Blue Shield of California, Centene Corporation, CVS Health, Elevance Health, GuideWell, Health Care Service Corporation, Kaiser Permanent, and Oscar Health. The lawmakers reference a recent Government Accountability Office report which found billions of dollars in unreconciled ACA subsidies per year and examples of tens of thousands of Social Security Numbers subject to potential fraud. The subpoenas demand details about each company's fraud protection measures, requesting a response by February 23.

Banks Asks FDA to Detail Plan for Enforcement Against Certain GLP-1 Compounds

Sen. Jim Banks (R-Ind.) has written to Marty Makary, MD urging the Commissioner of Food and Drugs to take enforcement against compounded weight-loss medications that are being marketed by telehealth and online pharmacy platforms. Sen. Banks suggests the agency consider the feasibility of requiring more explicit warnings on those websites in violation of federal drug law. He also asks the commissioner to expound on a recent statement that the Food and Drug Administration would work to limit the active ingredients used to make "non-FDA-approved compounded drugs that are being mass-marketed by companies... as similar alternatives to FDA-approved drugs." The letter follows Banks' [introduction](#) of the Safeguarding Americans from Fraudulent and Experimental (SAFE) Drugs Act (S. 3794), which would impose new restrictions on compounding pharmacies to prevent the mass marketing of non-FDA-approved drugs.

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HELP Chair Cassidy Requests Details on Cyberbreach

Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions (HELP) Committee Chair Bill Cassidy, MD (R-La.) is investigating a recent data exposure that took place within the Illinois Department of Human Services (IDHS). Sen. Cassidy's [letter](#) to Gov. JB Pritzker (D) requests detailed records from the exposure. "Protecting the privacy and security of sensitive health information is essential to ensure that patients receive the best care and that their information is not misused," Sen. Cassidy wrote. "Despite IDHS' role in helping vulnerable communities, its repeated failures to implement basic security processes highlight IDHS' disregard of its responsibility to over 4.6 million Illinois residents."

HHS Personnel Changes

Several notable personnel changes were announced at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) last week.

- HHS Deputy Secretary **Jim O'Neill** and General Counsel **Mike Stewart** will not remain in their current positions, but are reportedly being offered other jobs within the administration.
- **Arman Sharma** has been hired as the Deputy Chief Artificial Intelligence Officer. Sharma is a recent Stanford University graduate. During his time in school, he co-authored a book on the economics of medicine with current National Institutes of Health Director Jay Bhattacharya.
- Director of the Center for Medicare **Chris Klomp** is the new chief counselor at HHS and in charge of overseeing all Department operations. He will retain his current role as well while reporting to Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr. HHS Chief of Staff **Matt Buckham** will become Senior Counselor for Operations and Personnel, and HHS Chief Policy Adviser **Ken Callahan** will become Senior Counselor for Policy. Both will report to Klomp.
- At the Food and Drug Administration, Deputy Commissioner for Human Foods **Kyle Diamantais** and Deputy Commissioner for Policy, Legislation, and International Affairs **Grace Graham** have been appointed senior counselors. They will also remain in their current roles.
- Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services Chief Policy and Regulatory Officer **John Brooks** will also serve as senior counselor while remaining in his current role.

Recently Introduced Health Legislation

S.3809 — A bill to authorize the Director of the National Science Foundation to identify grand challenges and award competitive prizes for artificial intelligence research and development; Sponsor: Booker, Cory A. [Sen.-D-NJ]; Committees: Senate - Commerce, Science, and Transportation

H.Res.1043 — Expressing support for the designation of February 2026 as “American Heart Month”; Sponsor: Beatty, Joyce [Rep.-D-OH-3]; Committees: House - Energy and Commerce

H.R.7417 — To amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize the WISEWOMAN program; Sponsor: Beatty, Joyce [Rep.-D-OH-3]; Committees: House - Energy and Commerce

H.R.7434 —To authorize the Director of the National Science Foundation to identify grand challenges and award competitive prizes for artificial intelligence research and development; Sponsor: Lieu, Ted [Rep.-D-CA-36]; Committees: House - Science, Space, and Technology

H.R.7444 —To amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to protect access to telehealth services under the Medicare program; Sponsor: Pappas, Chris [Rep.-D-NH-1]; Committees: House - Energy and Commerce; Ways and Means

H.R.7451 — To amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to discontinue the H-1B program, and for other purposes; Sponsor: Steube, W. Gregory [Rep.-R-FL-17]; Committees: House – Judiciary

H.R.7453 — To amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make sex offenders ineligible for the refundable credit for coverage under a qualified health plan and to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to make sex offenders ineligible for Federally funded medical assistance under the Medicaid program; Sponsor: Steube, W. Gregory [Rep.-R-FL-17]; Committees: House - Ways and Means; Energy and Commerce

S.3812 — A bill to require the Secretary of Labor to issue guidance and regulations regarding opioid overdose reversal medication and employee training; Sponsor: Merkley, Jeff [Sen.-D-OR]; Committees: Senate - Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

S.3816 —A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to permit a private cause of action for damages in the case of a group health plan which fails to provide for primary payment or appropriate reimbursement; Sponsor: Scott, Tim [Sen.-R-SC]; Committees: Senate – Finance

S.3822 — A bill to prohibit pharmacy benefit managers, insurers, and prescription drug or medical device wholesalers from being under common ownership with certain medical service providers, and for other purposes; Sponsor: Warren, Elizabeth [Sen.-D-MA]; Committees: Senate – Judiciary

H.Res.1050 — Expressing support for the designation of September 19, 2026, as “Black Autism Acceptance and Awareness Day”; Sponsor: Lawler, Michael [Rep.-R-NY-17]; Committees: House - Energy and Commerce

H.R.7465 — To amend the Public Health Service Act to direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to establish a demonstration program to award grants to States to improve the provision of recommended immunizations for children, adolescents, and adults through the use of mobile vaccination units, and for other purposes; Sponsor: Gottheimer, Josh [Rep.-D-NJ-5]; Committees: House - Energy and Commerce

H.R.7478 — To amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to establish certain standards and requirements with respect to financial assistance and medical debt collection for hospitals participating in the Medicare program, and to amend title III of the Public Health Service Act to establish a grant program for purposes of medical debt relief; Sponsor: Vasquez, Gabe [Rep.-D-NM-2]; Committees: House - Energy and Commerce; Ways and Means

H.R.7479 — To require the Secretary of Labor to issue guidance and regulations regarding opioid overdose reversal medication and employee training; Sponsor: Watson Coleman, Bonnie [Rep.-D-NJ-12]; Committees: House - Education and Workforce

S.Res.604 — A resolution recognizing that it is the duty of the Federal Government to develop and implement a Transgender Bill of Rights to protect and codify the rights of transgender and nonbinary people under the law and ensure their access to medical care, shelter, safety, and economic security; Sponsor: Markey, Edward J. [Sen.-D-MA]; Committees: Senate - Judiciary

S.3826 — A bill to amend title 28, United States Code, to increase transparency and oversight of third-party litigation funding in certain actions, and for other purposes; Sponsor: Grassley, Chuck [Sen.-R-IA]; Committees: Senate – Judiciary

S.3829 — A bill to prevent exploitative private equity practices, and for other purposes; Sponsor: Warren, Elizabeth [Sen.-D-MA]; Committees: Senate – Finance

S.3834 — A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to expand the scope of practitioners eligible for payment for telehealth services under the Medicare program, and for other purposes; Sponsor: Daines, Steve [Sen.-R-MT]; Committees: Senate – Finance

S.3840 — A bill to provide for the designation of areas as Health Investment Zones to reduce health disparities and improve health outcomes in such areas, and for other purposes; Sponsor: Padilla, Alex [Sen.-D-CA]; Committees: Senate – Finance

S.3848 — A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to require the Secretary of Health and Human Services to publish information on expenditures under the Medicare program, and for other purposes; Sponsor: Scott, Tim [Sen.-R-SC]; Committees: Senate – Finance

S.3853 — A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to end the liability shield for vaccine manufacturers, and for other purposes; Sponsor: Paul, Rand [Sen.-R-KY]; Committees: Senate - Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

H.Res.1058 — Recognizing that it is the duty of the Federal Government to develop and implement a Transgender Bill of Rights to protect and codify the rights of transgender and nonbinary people under the law and ensure their access to medical care, shelter, safety, and economic security; Sponsor: Jayapal, Pramila [Rep.-D-WA-7]; Committees: House - Judiciary; Education and Workforce; Energy and Commerce; Financial Services; Oversight and Government Reform; Armed Services; Veterans' Affairs; House Administration

H.Res.1060 — Expressing support for the designation of April 5, 2026, as “Barth Syndrome Awareness Day”; Sponsor: Tonko, Paul [Rep.-D-NY-20]; Committees: House - Energy and Commerce

H.R.7482 — To authorize the Secretary of Health and Human Services to fund prize competitions to accelerate innovation in the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of Lyme disease, and for other purposes; Sponsor: Smith, Christopher H. [Rep.-R-NJ-4]; Committees: House - Energy and Commerce

H.R.7486 — To amend title XI of the Social Security Act to provide for support to facility-based providers through contracts with quality improvement organizations; Sponsor: Beyer, Donald S. [Rep.-D-VA-8]; Committees: House - Ways and Means

H.R.7496 — To provide for the designation of areas as Health Investment Zones to reduce health disparities and improve health outcomes in such areas, and for other purposes; Sponsor: Harder, Josh [Rep.-D-CA-9]; Committees: House - Energy and Commerce; Ways and Means; Education and Workforce

H.R.7497 — To amend the SUPPORT for Patients and Communities Act to improve trauma support services and mental health care for children and youth in educational settings, and for other purposes; Sponsor: Hayes, Jahana [Rep.-D-CT-5]; Committees: House - Education and Workforce

H.R.7514 — To authorize rural health facilities to use certain Federal agricultural credit assistance for the purpose of refinancing debt obligations, updating necessary services, technology, and equipment, and supporting ancillary needs; Sponsor: Salinas, Andrea [Rep.-D-OR-6]; Committees: House - Agriculture

S.Con.Res.27 — A concurrent resolution celebrating the 125th Anniversary of the Army Nurse Corps; Sponsor: Wicker, Roger F. [Sen.-R-MS]; Committees: Senate - Armed Services

S.3869 — A bill to allow Americans to earn paid sick time so that they can address their own health needs and the health needs of their families; Sponsor: Sanders, Bernard [Sen.-I-VT]; Committees: Senate - Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

S.3872 — A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide coverage for wigs as durable medical equipment under the Medicare program, and for other purposes; Sponsor: Blumenthal, Richard [Sen.-D-CT]; Committees: Senate - Finance

S.3883 — A bill to remove linguistic barriers to participation in Gun Violence Prevention Strategies; Sponsor: Gillibrand, Kirsten E. [Sen.-D-NY]; Committees: Senate - Judiciary

S.3886 — A bill to establish total nurse staffing hours per resident day, to require 24-hour use of registered professional nurses in nursing homes, and for other purposes; Sponsor: Wyden, Ron [Sen.-D-OR]; Committees: Senate - Finance

H.J.Res.149 — Recognizing the 125th anniversary of the Army Nurse Corps, expressing gratitude for members of the Army Nurse Corps for their service to the Nation, and for other purposes; Sponsor: Joyce, David P. [Rep.-R-OH-14]; Committees: House - Armed Services

H.R.7520 — To amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to delay the implementation of an efficiency adjustment to work relative value units under the Medicare physician fee schedule; Sponsor: Estes, Ron [Rep.-R-KS-4]; Committees: House - Energy and Commerce; Ways and Means

H.R.7528 — To amend section 503B of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to enhance the ability of outsourcing facilities to mitigate drug shortages by allowing a short-term period to continue supplying the market after a drug is in shortage; Sponsor: Carter, Earl L. "Buddy" [Rep.-R-GA-1]; Committees: House - Energy and Commerce

H.R.7531 — To allow Americans to earn paid sick time so that they can address their own health needs and the health needs of their families; Sponsor: DeLauro, Rosa L. [Rep.-D-CT-3]; Committees: House - Education and Workforce; House Administration; Oversight and Government Reform

H.R.7535 — To amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to require coverage of 12 mental health telehealth visits per calendar year for certain previously incarcerated individuals under the Medicaid program; Sponsor: Foushee, Valerie P. [Rep.-D-NC-4]; Committees: House - Energy and Commerce

H.R.7537 — To prevent exploitative private equity practices, and for other purposes; Sponsor: Goodlander, Maggie [Rep.-D-NH-2]; Committees: House - Ways and Means; Judiciary; Energy and Commerce

H.R.7546 — To amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide coverage for wigs as durable medical equipment under the Medicare program, and for other purposes; Sponsor: McGovern, James P. [Rep.-D-MA-2]; Committees: House - Energy and Commerce; Ways and Means

H.R.7558 — To direct the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to jointly adopt and use interoperable image-sharing software technology for the purpose of sharing medical images and related data at medical facilities of the Department of Defense and Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes; Sponsor: Schweikert, David [Rep.-R-AZ-1]; Committees: House - Armed Services; Veterans' Affairs