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COVID-19 Resources

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Congressional

Democrats Working on New Reconciliation Framework

After weeks of back and forth negotiation between House and Senate Democrats, the White House, and even different caucuses within their own party, a new framework of the [Build Back Better](#) reconciliation bill was released yesterday, along with new [legislative text](#) from the House. The updated bill includes investments in home and community based services, expansion of behavioral health programs, making the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) permanent, Medicare hearing coverage, extension of Affordable Care Act subsidies and policies to combat [maternal mortality](#), amongst many other items. There were key policies that were expected to be included that are not in this current version, such as; Medicare coverage of dental and vision, paid parental leave, and Medicare drug price negotiation. Negotiations are still ongoing until moderate and progressive Democrats come to an agreement that will win enough votes with their slim margins. Compounding this, as current government funding, the debt ceiling, and now the recent extension of the highway trust fund are all set to expire in December, November is being set up as a critical time for Congress to act on many must-pass items.

Senate Confirms ONDCP Director

Yesterday, the Senate confirmed Dr. Rahul Gupta to serve as Director of the Office of National Drug Control Policy, which

UPCOMING HEALTH CARE ACTIVITIES ON THE HILL

Senate Health, Education, Labor & Pensions

11/4 at 10:00am: Full Committee hearing on "[Next Steps: The Road Ahead for the COVID-19 Response](#)"

manages initiatives to combat the opioid crisis and other addictions. He is the first physician in the role.

Administration

New CMMI White Paper Released

Last week, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation (CMMI) released a [White Paper](#) titled, *Driving Health System Transformation - A Strategy for the CMS Innovation Center's Second Decade*. The paper comes after a decade of testing and identifying lessons learned from over 50 alternative payment models. The paper describes 5 Strategic Objectives for advancing system transformation including:

1. Driving Accountable Care
2. Advancing Health Equity
3. Supporting Innovation
4. Addressing Affordability
5. Partnering to Achieve System Transformation

The release was accompanied by a [webinar](#) and [FAQ](#) document describing the agency's vision for the future and next steps. Overall, in the future, they plan to have fewer models but seek to incorporate specialists and other policies for testing through existing or new accountable care organizations. In addition, a focus on health equity through data collection, incentives and partnerships with payers to development more multi-payer plans will be a priority.

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