

Week Ahead

Legislative Focus: Congress Back in Session with Focus on Spending
Congress returns today for a jam-packed fall that includes negotiations on the fiscal 2018 defense authorization bill, government spending, the debt ceiling, sanctions, surveillance programs and more. The House hits the ground running on spending, with the eight remaining spending bills headed to House Rules tonight and a vote on Harvey aid scheduled for Wednesday. Over 900 amendments have been filed for consideration by the rules committee.

In healthcare, hopes of stabilizing heath care markets rise with more urgency as governors and state insurance commissioners state their case on Capitol Hill this week. The Senate HELP Committee kicks off its series of much-anticipated hearings on stabilizing the ACA, with insurance commissioners slated to testify on Wednesday and a bipartisan group of governors slated for Thursday, ahead of two more hearings next wee

Additionally, the administration formally made an announcement today on Trump's decision to end DACA, the Obama-era program that grants work permits to undocumented immigrants who arrived in the U.S. as children. The White House plans to delay the enforcement of Trump's decision for six months, which gives Congress a window to come up with a legislative solution Congress has seemingly endless deadlines to meet in September.

Senate Floor: Convenes at 3 p.m. At 5 p.m. the Senate will consider the nomination of Timothy Kelly to be a U.S. District Judge for the District of Columbia, with a roll call vote on the nomination scheduled at 5:30 p.m.

House Floor: Convenes at 2 p.m. for legislative business (but no roll call votes until 6:30 p.m.). The House will consider four bills under suspension of the rules, including a bill (S 1616) to award the Congressional Gold Medal to former Sen. Bob Dole. Also on the agenda are three financial services bills (HR 1843, HR 3110, HR 2864). On Wednesday, the House is expected to vote on a supplemental appropriation for disaster relief.

Senate Appropriations Committee

- Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Subcommittee markup of the FY2018 Labor, HHS, Education Appropriations Bill. Wednesday, September 6 at 11 a.m.

- State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Business Meeting Subcommittee markup of the FY2018 State & Foreign Operations Appropriations Bill. Wednesday, September 6 at 2 p.m.
- Full committee markup of the FY2018 State, Foreign Ops Appropriations Bill, and the FY2018 Labor, HHS, Education Appropriations Bill. Thursday, September 7 at 10:30 a.m.

Senate Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs Committee

- Executive session on the nominations of Mr. Joseph Otting to be Comptroller of the Currency and Honorable Randal Quarles to be a Member of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System; Reappointment as a Member of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, and Vice Chairman for Supervision of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System and to mark-up S. 1463, 'Financial Stability Oversight Council Insurance Member Continuity Act.' Thursday, September 7 at 9:30 a.m.

Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee

- Full committee hearing on "Addressing the Risk of Waste, Fraud and Abuse in the Federal Communications Commission's Lifeline Program." Wednesday, September 6 at 10 a.m.

Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee

- Full committee hearing on the nominations of Mr. Joseph Balash to be Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Land and Minerals Management, Mr. Richard Glick and Mr. Kevin McIntyre to be Members of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, and Mr. Ryan Nelson to be Solicitor of the Department of the Interior. Thursday, September 7 at 10:30 a.m.

Senate Finance Committee

- Executive session on the nominations of Gilbert B. Kaplan, of the District of Columbia, to be Under Secretary of Commerce for International Trade, United States Department of Commerce, Matthew Bassett, of Tennessee, to be an Assistant Secretary of Health and Human Services, United States Department of Health and Human Services, and Robert Charrow, of Maryland, to be General Counsel of the Department of Health and Human Services, United States Department of Health and Human Services. Wednesday, September 6 at 10 a.m.
- Full committee hearing on "The Children's Health Insurance Program: The Path Forward." Thursday, September 7 at 10 a.m.

Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions

- Full committee hearing on "Stabilizing Premiums and Helping Individuals in the Individual Insurance Market for 2018: State Insurance Commissioners." Wednesday, September 6 at 10 a.m.
- Full committee hearing on "Stabilizing Premiums and Helping Individuals in the Individual Insurance Market for 2018: Governors." Thursday, September 7 at 9 a.m. Witnesses include: Gov. Baker (R-MA), Gov. Bullock (D-MT), Gov. Haslam (R-TN), Gov. Herbert (R-UT), Gov. Hickenlooper (D-CO).

Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee

- Full committee hearing on "The History and Current Reality of the U.S. Health Care System." Wednesday, September 6 at 10 a.m.

- Investigations Subcommittee hearing on “Cutting Through the Red Tape: Oversight of Federal Infrastructure Permitting and the Federal Permitting Improvement Steering Council.” Thursday, September 7 at 10 a.m.

Senate Judiciary Committee

- Full committee hearing on nominations of Amy Coney Barrett to be United States Circuit Judge for the Seventh Circuit; Joan Louise Larsen to be United States Circuit Judge for the Sixth Circuit; Eric S. Dreiband to be Assistant Attorney General, Civil Rights Division; William L. Campbell, Jr. to be United States District Judge for the Middle District of Tennessee; Thomas Lee Robinson Parker to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Tennessee. Wednesday, September 6 at 10 a.m.
- Executive session on nominations of Donald C. Coggins, Jr. to be United States District Judge for the District of South Carolina; Ralph R. Erickson to be United States Circuit Judge for the Eighth Circuit; Dabney Langhorne Friedrich to be United States District Judge for the District of Columbia; Stephen S. Schwartz to be a Judge of the United States Court of Federal Claims; Kurt G. Alme to be United States Attorney for the District of Montana; Donald Q. Cochran, Jr., to be United States Attorney for the Middle District of Tennessee; Russell M. Coleman to be United States Attorney for the Western District of Kentucky; Bart M. Davis to be United States Attorney for the District of Idaho; Robert J. Higdon, Jr. to be United States Attorney for the Eastern District of North Carolina; Brian J. Kuester to be United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Oklahoma; R. Trent Shores to be United States Attorney for the Northern District of Oklahoma; and bill S. 705, Child Protection Improvements Act of 2017. Thursday, September 7 at 10 a.m.

House Education and the Workforce Committee

- Full committee hearing on "The Sharing Economy: Creating Opportunities for Innovation and Flexibility.” Wednesday, September 6 at 10 a.m.

House Energy and Commerce Committee

- Energy Subcommittee hearing on “Powering America: Reevaluating PURPA’s Objectives and its Effects on Today’s Consumers.” Wednesday, September 6 at 10 a.m.
- Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee hearing on "EPA Oversight: Unimplemented Inspector General and GAO Recommendations." Wednesday, September 6 at 10:15 a.m.
- Communications and Technology Subcommittee hearing on “The Broadcast Incentive Auction: Update on Repacking Opportunities and Challenges.” Thursday, September 7 at 10 a.m.

House Financial Services Committee

- Terrorism and Illicit Finance Subcommittee hearing on “Low Cost, High Impact: Combatting the Financing of Lone-Wolf and Small-Scale Terrorist Attacks.” Wednesday, September 6 at 2 p.m.
- Financial Institutions and Consumer Credit Subcommittee hearing on “Legislative Proposals for a More Efficient Federal Financial Regulatory Regime.” Thursday, September 7 at 10 a.m.
- Capital Markets, Securities, and Investment Subcommittee hearing on “Oversight of the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority.” Thursday, September 7 at 2 p.m.

House Foreign Affairs Committee

- Terrorism, Nonproliferation, and Trade Subcommittee hearing on “U.S. Department of State Counterterrorism Bureau: The FY 2018 Budget.” Thursday, September 7 at 2 p.m.

House Homeland Security Committee

- Full committee markup of H.R. 2142 "International Narcotics Trafficking Emergency Response by Detecting Incoming Contraband with Technology Act," H.R. 3101 "Strengthening Cybersecurity Information Sharing and Coordination in Our Ports Act of 2017," H.R. 3551 "to amend the Security and Accountability for Every Port Act of 2006 to reauthorize the Customs-Trade Partnership Against Terrorism Program, and for other purposes," and H.R. 3669 "to improve and streamline security procedures related to general aviation and commercial charter air carrier utilizing risk-based security standards, and for other purposes." Thursday, September 7 at 10 a.m.
- Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Protection Subcommittee hearing on "Challenges of Recruiting and Retaining a Cybersecurity Workforce." Thursday, September 7 at 2 p.m.

House Natural Resources Committee

- Energy and Mineral Resources Subcommittee hearing on H.R. 2661 "State Mineral Revenue Protection Act," H.R. 2907 "Planning for American Energy Act of 2017" and H.R. 3565 "Federal Land Freedom Act." Wednesday, September 6 at 10 a.m.

House Science, Space and Technology Committee

- Joint Subcommittee on Environment and Subcommittee on Oversight hearing on "Examining the Scientific and Operational Integrity of EPA's IRIS Program." Wednesday, September 6 at 10 a.m.

House Small Business Committee

- Full committee hearing on "Expediting Economic Growth: How Streamlining Federal Permitting Can Cut Red Tape for Small Businesses." Wednesday, September 6 at 11 a.m.
- Economic Growth, Tax, and Capital Access Subcommittee hearing on "Examining the Small Business Labor Market." Thursday, September 7 at 10 a.m.

House Ways and Means Committee

- Social Security Subcommittee hearing on "Determining Eligibility for Disability Benefits: Challenges Facing the Social Security Administration." Wednesday, September 6 at 10 a.m.
- Human Resources Subcommittee hearing on "Missing from the Labor Force: Examining Declining Employment among Working-Age Men." Wednesday, September 6 at 2 p.m.

Michigan Newsmakers

Rep. Fred Upton (MI-06)

The Detroit News—August 24th, 2017

Editorial: FDA User Fees Support Medicine

Every five years, Congress must reauthorize the Food and Drug Administration's user fee programs for generic drugs, prescription drugs, biosimilar biological products and medical devices.

Rep. Debbie Dingell (MI-12)

Michigan Radio—September 1st, 2017

U.S. House to Vote on Bills that Could Speed Self-driving Car Revolution

The U.S. House will vote on bills after Labor Day that would let automakers test self-driving cars in every state, replacing the current state-by-state patchwork of regulations, and allow cars without steering wheels and other human-operated controls.

Latest Developments

Secretary of Education Approves ESSA State Plans from North Dakota

U.S. Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos announced on Friday that she has approved consolidated state plan from North Dakota for implementation of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). North Dakota's plan is among the first eighteen state plans to be approved under the new law. Four other states submitted their state plans under the first submission window in April and await approval by the Secretary. All remaining states must submit their state plans to the Department for approval in the second plan submission window ending on September 18, 2017.

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