


## Week Ahead

**Legislative Focus: 21st Century Cures, Government Funding**
Lawmakers must fund the government through a Continuing Resolution (CR) by Dec. 9 to avoid a government shutdown and then head home for the holidays. The text of the CR is expected to be released today. The Senate is expected to advance the House-passed "Cures" package including medical innovation, mental health language, and opioid funding – although some groups have raised concerns over its funding mechanisms.

Tomorrow the House takes up 21 bills under suspension. Later this week, the House is expected to begin consideration of a Continuing resolution and funding for a Water Resources bill (S. 2848, HR 5303).

**Senate Floor:** Convenes at 3:00pm for consideration of the Cures package. The cloture vote is expected for 5:30pm. Vice President Joe Biden will be presiding.

**House Floor:** Convenes at 2:00pm for consideration of 6 bills under suspension.

**Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee**

- Surface Transportation and Merchant Marine Infrastructure, Safety, and Security Subcommittee hearing on "Assessing the Security of Our Critical Transportation Infrastructure." Wednesday, December 7 at 2:30 p.m.

**House Armed Services Committee**

- Military Personnel Subcommittee hearing on "California National Guard Bonus Repayment Issue." Wednesday, December 7 at 2 p.m.

**House Energy and Commerce Committee**

- Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee hearing on "Volkswagen's Emissions Cheating Settlement: Questions Concerning ZEV Program Implementation." Tuesday, December 6 at 10 a.m.

**House Financial Services Committee**

- Capital Markets and Government Sponsored Enterprises Subcommittee hearing on "The Impact of Regulations on Short-Term Financing," Thursday, December 8 at 9:30 a.m.

## Michigan Newsmakers

**Rep. Fred Upton (MI-06)**
*The Detroit News—November 30th, 2016*
**House Approves Upton-led $6B Health Reform Package**
The U.S. House voted 392-26 Wednesday evening to approve a $6.3 billion package and invest billions in disease research, although the legislation's fate in the Senate remains uncertain.

## Latest Developments

**Senate and House Pass Justice for All Reauthorization Act of 2016**
On last Thursday, December 1st, the Senate passed S.2577, the Justice for All Reauthorization Act of 2016. The House passed the bill on Tuesday, November 29th, by voice vote. The bill now goes to the President for consideration. The bill would amend the federal criminal code to require a defendant, as a mandatory condition of supervised release, to pay court-ordered restitution. The bill would also amend the Justice for All Act of 2004, the Victims of Crime Act of 1984, the DNA Sexual Assault Justice Act of 2004 and the Innocence Protection Act of 2004. Those provisions would:

- Reduce the rape kit backlog by:
  Supporting state and local law enforcement auditing and reporting of backlogged rape kits.
- Strengthen post-conviction DNA testing by:
  Reauthorizing the Kirk Bloodsworth Post-Conviction DNA Testing program, making it available to both state and local jurisdictions, and increases authorization from $5 million to $10 million.
  Reducing the types of biological evidence that states and localities must preserve to include evidence from certain violent crimes.
- Strengthen support for crime labs by:
  Reauthorizing the Coverdell Forensic Sciences Improvement Program, and increases the authorization from $20 million to $25 million for improving state and local crime lab policies and practices.
  Increasing the *de minimus* amount available to each state and increases the formula portion's share of total program funding (from 75% to 85%).
  Requiring a needs assessment of state and local labs to better target federal funding.
- Require establishment of best practices in evidence retention by:
  Requiring the National Institute of Justice (NIJ) to adopt best practices for evidence retention and offer training to state, local and tribal governments.
- Strengthen the Byrne JAG Program by:
  Reinstating a requirement for states to conduct strategic planning to guide use of the Byrne JAG funds.
  Requiring DOJ to offer technical assistance to states on planning and adoption of evidence-based practices.
- Strengthen the Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) by:

Protecting Violence Against Women Act funds from being subject to the PREA penalty.
Allowing states committing to future compliance the option of holding its current penalty funds in abeyance for three years.
Setting a deadline of six years after enactment by which states must be in full compliance with PREA.
Requiring greater transparency from states on the status of PREA implementation.

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