

Week Ahead

Legislative Focus: Addressing Opioid Abuse, Secretary of Education Vote in HELP Committee

Senate Floor: Convenes for legislative business at 3 p.m. Monday and resumes consideration of S. 524, the Comprehensive Addiction Reform Act. Sponsored by Sens. Sheldon Whitehouse (D-RI) and Rob Portman (R-OH), the legislation authorizes a number of programs to address prescription drug abuse and heroin, including grants to states to support education, strengthen state prescription drug monitoring programs and expand access to addiction treatment. A cloture vote on a substitute amendment to S. 524 is scheduled for 5:30 p.m.

In Senate committees this week, the Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP) Committee is set to consider the nomination of John King to the U.S. Secretary of Education on Tuesday.

House Floor: The House is in recess and will reconvene on Monday, March 14.

Senate Appropriations Committee

- Homeland Security Subcommittee hearing on the FY2017 budget for Custom and Border Protection and Immigration and Customs Reform. Tuesday, March 8 at 2:30 p.m.
- Energy and Water Development Subcommittee hearing on the FY2017 budget for the Energy Department, Secretary Moniz will serve as witness. Wednesday, March 9 at 2:30 p.m.
- Interior, Environment and Related Agencies Subcommittee hearing on the FY 2017 budget for the Indian Health Service. Wednesday, March 9 at 10:00 a.m.
- Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Subcommittee hearing on the FY2017 budget for the Agriculture Department, Secretary Vilsack will serve as witness. Wednesday, March 9 at 2 p.m.
- Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies Subcommittee hearing on proposed budget estimates and justification for FY2017 for the Education Department. Thursday, March 10 at 10 a.m.
- Military Construction, Veteran Affairs and Related Agencies Subcommittee hearing on the proposed budget estimates and justification for FY2017 and FY2018 for the Veterans Affairs Department. Thursday, March 10 at 11 a.m.

- Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Subcommittee hearing on the FY2017 budget for the Housing and Urban Development Department, witnesses include Secretary Castro. Thursday, march 10 at 2:30 p.m.

Senate Armed Services Committee

- Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies Subcommittee hearing on proposed budget estimates and justification for FY2017 for the Education Department. Thursday, March 10 at 10 a.m.
- Military Construction, Veteran Affairs and Related Agencies Subcommittee hearing on the proposed budget estimates and justification for FY2017 and FY2018 for the Veterans Affairs Department. Thursday, March 10 at 11 a.m.

Senate Environment and Public Works Committee

- Full committee hearing on "Cooperative Federalism: State Perspectives on EPA Regulatory Actions and the Role of States as Co-Regulators." Wednesday, March 9 at 9:30 a.m.

Senate Finance Committee

- Full committee hearing on “Obamacare Operation/Enrollment Review.” Thursday, March 10 at 10 a.m.

Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee

- Full committee markup of S. 1878, the Advancing Hope Act of 2015, S. 1077, the Advancing Breakthrough Medical Devices for Patients Act of 2015; S. 1101, the Medical Electronic Data Technology Enhancement for Consumers Health Act; S. 2055, the Medical Countermeasures Innovation act of 2015; S. 1767, the Combination Products Innovation Act of 2015; S.1597, the Patient Focused Impact Assessment act of 2015; S. 2512, Adding Zika to the FDA Priority Review Voucher Program Act; and vote on the nomination of John King to be secretary of the Education Department. Wednesday, March 9 at 10 a.m.

Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee

- Full committee hearing on the FY 2017 budget for the Homeland Security Department. Tuesday, March 8 at 10 a.m.
- Full committee hearing on “Review of the Affordable Care Act Health Insurance CO-OP Program.” Thursday, March 10 at 9:30 a.m.

Michigan Newsmakers

Sen. Gary Peters

Detroit Free Press—March 5th, 2016

Senate Passes Pipelines Bill with Great Lakes Protections

Tougher pipeline standards near the Great Lakes, improved oil spill response plans and more reviews of pipelines' age and integrity are all parts of a pipeline regulator funding bill that passed the U.S. Senate Thursday.

Latest Developments

OMB Releases Regulatory Report

The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) released its first biannual retrospective report for 2016, identifying more than 50 new initiatives. The initiatives focus on reducing burdens for state and local governments, providing flexibility for small and new businesses, modernizing regulations and identifying regulatory gaps. The report is part of OMB's effort to streamline, revise and eliminate many existing regulations across federal agencies. OMB says the effort has achieved an estimated $28 billion to date in net five-year savings and made all levels of government more efficient. NGA continues to collaborate with OMB to help identify existing regulations that should be revised or eliminated.

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