

February 23, 2021

Welcome to America's Physician Groups' "Healthcare on the Hill," where you can get the latest on healthcare happenings in our nation's capital--and with a special focus on the value-based care movement.

As our nation--and the world--continues to face the many challenges presented by COVID-19, we are working to ensure you have the very latest information on the virus and our rapidly changing healthcare landscape.

Think someone else may enjoy "Healthcare on the Hill?" [Forward this email and have them click here to be added to our subscription list.](#) And remember, you can always visit our [website](#) for more news and resources.

***Valinda Rutledge
Executive Vice President of Federal Affairs
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House Set to Vote on Coronavirus Bill

The House Committees on Budget and Rules are set to meet, debate, and organize the \$1.9 trillion coronavirus bill before Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) brings a final bill to the floor of the House of Representatives for a vote possibly by Friday. The movement on the bill in the House puts the Senate on track to send the bill to the president's desk before the March 14 unemployment insurance benefits expiration date.

Democrats are using the reconciliation to pass the bill which allows them to bypass the 60-vote legislative filibuster in the Senate and instead need just a simple majority vote. The process also requires the Senate to go through "vote-a-rama," where any senator can force a vote on amendments, and any changes will require the bill to go back to the House for another vote before sending it to the President.

Included in the reconciliation bill would be President Joe Biden's America Rescue Plan which would include a \$1400 stimulus check for Americans as well as increases to the Child Tax Credit (CTC) and Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC), additional support for small businesses, state and local governments, and increased funding for vaccinations and testing. This part of the bill was marked up by the House Committee on Ways and Means and would give stimulus checks to individuals making up to \$75,000. The inclusion of an increase of the minimum wage to \$15 is still up in the air until the Senate Parliamentarian determines whether its inclusion is

allowed under the Byrd rule which limits what can be included in reconciliation bills.

Finance Committee Hearing on the Nomination of Xavier Becerra as the Secretary of HHS

On February 24, the Senate Finance Committee will hold a confirmation hearing on the nomination of Xavier Becerra to be Secretary of Health and Human Services. You can find Becerra's testimony [here](#).

APG issued a [statement](#) congratulating Becerra who serves as the California Attorney General on his nomination. We look forward to continuing our advocacy with the agency in expanding valued-based healthcare and moving away from fee-for-service.

We continue to look out for other nominations including a new CMMI leader. We will keep you informed on newly named positions.

President Biden Nominates Chiquita Brooks-LaSure to Lead CMS

Last week, President Biden announced his nomination of Chiquita Brooks-LaSure to serve as the Administrator for the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). Chiquita was a consultant at Manatt Health and worked for the Obama administration in a leading role in health care. She also served as the deputy director for policy at the Center for Consumer Information and Insurance Oversight within CMS.

APG issued a [statement](#) congratulating Chiquita Brooks-LaSure on her nomination as she is an outstanding choice to lead this critically important federal healthcare agency that serves more than 130 million Americans. We will continue to keep you posted on any developments.