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***Garrett Eberhardt
Director of Federal Affairs
America's Physician Groups***

Energy and Commerce Health Subcommittee Holds Hearing with HHS Secretary on President's FY2023 Budget Request

On Wednesday, the House Committee on Energy and Commerce's Subcommittee on Health held a [hearing](#) on President Joe Biden's fiscal year (FY) 2023 budget request for the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) attended by HHS Secretary Xavier Becerra.

Health Subcommittee Chair Anna Eshoo (D-CA) highlighted the positive impacts of policies proposed and implemented by the Biden administration over the course of the past year and outlined funding provisions contained within the President's budget request which she claimed would provide broader access to health care, preparations for pandemic preparedness and response, and funding for the public health workforce. Health Subcommittee Ranking Member Brett Guthrie (R-KY) expressed concern over the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services' (CMS) decision to place coverage limitations on Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved therapies such as Aduhelm and called on the Administration to "repropose a new coverage policy that allows patients, doctors, and their families to make informed decisions about their treatment." Rep. Nanette Diaz Barragán (D-CA) expressed disagreement with CMS' coverage decision for Aduhelm and related Alzheimer's disease drugs. She expressed concern over access challenges that she believes result from the

dynamic between CMS and the FDA and argued that drugs approved by the FDA, but not covered by CMS, will only allow those with the means to pay for the drug to obtain it.

Energy and Commerce Committee Chair Frank Pallone (D-NJ) stated his commitment to reducing prescription drug prices and called on Congress to pass legislation that aligns with the principles included in the Administration's [Comprehensive Plan for Addressing High Drug Prices](#). Rep. Kurt Schrader (D-OR) questioned whether the Administration is concerned about the generic drug application process with regard to filing, marketing, and timelines. Secretary Becerra reaffirmed the President's commitment to ensure that safe and effective generic drugs are made available as quickly as possible.

Department of the Treasury Releases FAQ on State and Local Government Relief Fund

The U.S. Department of Treasury recently released a new series of [frequently asked questions](#) (FAQ) on the final rule for the State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRF) program. The FAQs offer guidance on fund eligibility for small businesses, nonprofits, and private organizations and what state and local governments may use the funds to cover. In addition to training costs for school and childcare staff, as well as construction or infrastructure improvements at Title I schools, funds are also eligible to be used for payroll and covered benefits for public safety, public health, healthcare, human services and similar employees of a recipient government, for the portion of the employee's time spent responding to COVID-19. Nonprofits eligible for assistance are those that experienced negative economic impacts or disproportionate impacts of the pandemic and meet the definition of "nonprofit," specifically those that are 501(c)(3) or 501(c)(19) tax-exempt organizations. State and local governments could consider loans or grants to assist eligible categories. The final rule governing the program went into effect April 1, 2022.

APG to Host Deep Dive Webinar on the CY2023 MA Rate Announcement

Register now for a [Deep Dive Webinar on the 2023 MA Capitation Rates and Part C and Part D Payment Policies Rate Announcement](#). This Deep Dive webinar hosted by APG President and CEO Susan Dentzer, will feature speakers Garrett Eberhardt, APG's Director of Federal Affairs, Valinda Rutledge, Chief Corporate Affairs Officer for UpStream Care, and Cathy Murphy-Barron, Principal & Consulting Actuary for Milliman. The webinar will cover the most important changes to the Medicare Advantage rates and policies in this week's rate announcement and the potential impact on patients and providers.

Monday, May 2
1:00 pm to 2:00 pm EDT
Register [here](#)