

WEEKLY CURRENT

June 21-24, 2022

Issues Making a Splash This Week

- **A Battle Over MAGA:** President Trump gave MAGA its name but Governor Ron DeSantis (R-FL) is looking to give the movement its future. Who will lead the movement is the biggest question today.
- **The Slow Boat on China Policy:** While Congress is moving slowly toward a deal on the Bipartisan Innovation Act, the White House is continuing to debate what to do about former President Trump's Section 301 tariffs.
- **Some Insulin Bill is Getting a Vote Next Month:** Despite uncertain prospects over passage, Senate Democrats are likely to bring an insulin pricing bill to the floor next month in an attempt to eke out a "win" on prescription drug pricing reform should Senator Joe Manchin (D-WV) not agree to advance a slimmed-down budget reconciliation package that is also expected to cap insulin prices.

CAN DESANTIS REACH ESCAPE VELOCITY?: The January 6th hearings [are making](#) President Trump angry. But it's Governor Ron DeSantis (R-FL) who is making him furious. The TV-addled former president sees the hearings getting traction without an effective counterweight. Even worse, he sees conservative media fawning over DeSantis and his own fights against the left.

The governor is seen as "Trump without the baggage" or "competent Trumpism." As New York Magazine's Jonathan Chait wrote in [his profile on DeSantis](#), "The DeSantis pitch is to wrest the MAGA movement from the grifters who built it and place it in the hands of a trusted professional politician." **That pitch right now seems to be working.** This week, a [poll](#) from the first primary state of New Hampshire showed DeSantis getting the vote of 39 percent of likely New Hampshire GOP primary voters. Trump got 37 percent. In a head-to-head matchup against President Biden, Trump loses by seven points, while DeSantis beats Biden by one point. "If you loved Trump, you will like DeSantis," Chait wrote. "And if you liked Trump, or maybe just tolerated him through gritted teeth, you will love DeSantis."

DeSantis has the pro-Trump conservative media (or more importantly, the ire of the

anti-Trump liberal media), the [Trump money](#), and the Trump market of Florida. He even has Trump's [hand gesticulations](#). **This is not an anti-Trumper looking to rebuke the man and the movement. He's looking to succeed it.**

Can DeSantis succeed? The short answer is yes. But it's too early to be confident about the 2024 outlook. DeSantis is gearing up for his reelection in 2022 against either Rep. Charlie Crist (D-FL) or Florida Agriculture Commissioner Nikki Fried (D). He's the clear favorite but DeSantis has a goal of beating Trump's 2020 margin of victory in Florida of about 3.5 points. Not an apples-to-apples comparison, it does give one Floridian bragging rights over the other about their popularity on ground zero of the new GOP.

Then there's the question of can DeSantis beat Trump if they are both running. DeSantis may try to out-Trump Trump but he's no showman. He hasn't been tested on the national stage and like so many shining stars previously, he can flame out. As Trump told the [New Yorker in another profile of DeSantis](#), he's "very close to making a decision" about running again. "I don't know if Ron is running, and I don't ask him. ...It's his prerogative. I think I would win," Trump said. **If Trump is running in 2024, it's very likely he would announce before someone like DeSantis. The Republican elite may be eager to dump Trump, but Republican voters still support him.** Would Republicans begin to coalesce behind Trump or risk facing his ire by withholding support for someone like DeSantis?

At the end of the day, the Republican elite are still scared of Trump. There's the looming threat that Trump would be willing to tear down the Republican Party if he loses, while someone like DeSantis would not. It harkens back to something Senator Lindsey Graham (R-SC) [told Axios](#) in March of last year. "He could make the Republican Party something that nobody else I know can make it. He can make it bigger. He can make it stronger. He can make it more diverse," Graham said of Trump. "And he also could destroy it." Arizona House Speaker Rusty Bowers (R), who testified before the January 6th select committee about standing up to Trump's efforts to overturn the state's election, also [told the Associated Press](#), "If [Trump] is the nominee, if he was up against Biden, I'd vote for him again."

Yet, Trump may be facing an Oz situation (not to be mistaken with Dr. Oz). Trump may threaten to tear down the Republican Party if they don't vote for him. But would he succeed in destroying the GOP? We doubt it. Just look at Trump's kryptonite of Georgia. He campaigned against Governor Brian Kemp (R-GA) in the primary, warning that he would lose the general election to Stacey Abrams. Yet Kemp won the primary resoundly and is ahead in the polling against Abrams. DeSantis may be the one Trumpist candidate who can credibly take on Trump. If he were to beat Trump, it's hard to see a meaningful bloc refusing to support the Republican nominee against Biden. Politics are tribal and Trump would be sorely mistaken if he thinks his personality is enough to launch a quixotic third-party bid to tip the balance of the election. **We're not ready to bet against Trump if**

he gets into the race, but a real race it could very well be if DeSantis enters too.

CHINA AGENDA INCHES FORWARD: After a meeting earlier this week among Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-NY), House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-CA), Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY), and House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy (R-CA), there seems to be some movement toward a conference agreement on the Bipartisan Innovation Act.

The meeting generated little substantive change, as evidenced by [a statement](#) put out by Schumer and Pelosi after the meeting. But changes have been made in the background as reported by Punchbowl News. Yesterday they reported that both the SAFE Banking Act and the House's climate provisions have been dropped from the legislation. **These were never going to make the final bill as they would not pass the Senate, but their removal now shows the impact that leadership's direct involvement is having on moving the ball forward.** Pelosi in particular has been said to have stepped up her personal engagement in an effort to reach a deal. This is notable given that the House Democrats will have to do the most paring back on the pet provisions they included in their draft. Progress is slow, but it is still progress and passage by the end of July still remains a possibility.

What continues to be the most contentious part of the legislation is the trade title. There have been talks about cutting it out entirely to be able to pass a narrower bill, but this has not been decided yet. There are provisions in this title that the two parties could bargain for, but it is unclear if that will be easier or harder for them than choosing to just walk away with nothing. **Some of the provisions that would be left out if the trade title was removed include those addressing outbound investment, changes to the de minimis exception for imports from China, and revisions to the Section 301 tariff exclusion process. Even if a trade title remains part of the bill, these provisions are still at risk of being scaled back if not entirely culled.**

At the other end of Pennsylvania Avenue, the most hot button question has been what President Biden's next move will be on the Section 301 tariffs imposed by former President Trump. These are undergoing their mandatory four-year review by the US Trade Representative's (USTR) office now and while USTR Katherine Tai has [largely been supportive](#) of keeping the tariffs in place to protect US workers, **given the sustained high levels of inflation, Biden seems to be moving toward providing some sort of relief.** Axios [first reported](#) this last week noting that the White House was feeling a growing desperation to show action on bringing down prices, even if it comes with appearing to be weak on China and upsetting organized labor.

What seems like the expected avenue for this is to create a formal "exclusions

process,” that can be used to determine if consumer items should be exempted from the tariffs. **This kind of targeted relief would allow the administration to pitch the narrative that its relief is beneficial for consumers while keeping pressure on China in the industries it is most concerned about for competitiveness reasons.** A “strategic” reorientation like this has been pushed by national security officials in the White House who argue that the tariffs on consumer goods serve little value in advancing the competition between the US and China.

Exactly how much will be lifted or reopened to an exclusion process is still up in the air. Biden is scheduled to attend the G7 Leaders’ Summit next week from Sunday through Tuesday and [Reuters has reported](#) that no decision is expected before then. A decision could come soon after though as Biden has held several meetings on the issue lately and there seems to be a building momentum toward some action as the White House grows increasingly desperate to take any and all steps that can at least give the perception that it’s taking action to tame inflation.

CONGRESS TO ADDRESS INSULIN PRICING ONE WAY OR ANOTHER:

Congressional Democrats are faced with a choice in the coming weeks, vote in favor of a [limited bipartisan bill to cap prices paid for only one drug, insulin](#), and get an election year victory that benefits 37 million Americans, or wait and hope that Senator Joe Manchin (D-WV) comes around and supports budget reconciliation legislation that includes comprehensive drug pricing reforms and specific insulin provisions as key payfors.

The bipartisan proposal from Senators Jeanne Shaheen (D-NH) and Susan Collins (R-ME) would cap insulin prices at \$35 per month for individuals with private insurance and Medicare. **It would also perversely help manufacturers of insulin, including Eli Lilly (LLY), Novo Nordisk (NVO), and Sanofi (SNY), to lock in their current revenues and allow for an annual increase with inflation that often outpaces their recent price increases.** For this reason, pharma is not opposed to this legislation and many lobbyists hope that it passes and takes the pressure off of using budget reconciliation for a more comprehensive approach.

Specifically, the bill does not limit list prices for insulin, it only limits what Medicare and private insurance plans can charge consumers for their insulin. This means that payors are going to have to cover the cost difference and they will inevitably pass along this increased cost to all health plan purchasers in the form of higher premiums. The bill would, however, encourage insulin manufacturers to reduce list prices voluntarily and prevent insurers and pharmacy benefit managers from collecting rebates on any insulin which has its cost limited to 2021 net prices for Medicare Part D. This is the part that ensures that revenues will stay solid for the manufacturers and the lower costs for certain parts of the public results from greater cost sharing among the insured and not less revenue to manufacturers.

Collins has been trying to whip up support among Republicans, but we expect that most, if not all, will likely oppose this legislation to avoid giving a political win to vulnerable Democrats in an election year, such as Senator Raphael Warnock (D-GA), who is pushing a competing insulin price cap proposal but would benefit politically from passage of any such price controls. At least nine other Republicans would need to support the bill for it to pass.

Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-NY) has said that he intends to put the bill on the floor and force a vote one way or another after the two-week July 4th recess. He said this past week, “I will put this bipartisan legislation on the Senate floor very soon — it ought to be passed expeditiously. This bill represents months of thoughtful input from both parties.”

The other proposal regarding insulin, which is part of the larger House-passed budget reconciliation package and is expected to be included in a slimmed-down version currently being negotiated by Schumer and Senator Joe Manchin (D-WV), would also use the \$35 maximum cap, but there are several key differences.

One is that we expect the language applying the cap to private insurance will be stricken by the Senate parliamentarian because it is not germane to the federal budget and Medicare spending, and thus cannot be included under the budget reconciliation process. That would limit any price caps for those in the private market, which is still a win, but a far smaller political win than applying it to Medicare and the private market.

Another key difference is that the broader bill is mandatory, has strict inflation caps, and does not have the safe harbor of 2021 prices ensured. Medicare also has the ability to set premiums for those in Medicare Advantage and Part D, which could help with reducing any increased cost shifting from consumers to all of the insured.

A Quick Look Back

House

On Monday, the House was not in session.

On Tuesday, the House considered noncontroversial measures under expedited procedures.

On Wednesday, the House considered a bill that would reauthorize mental health and substance use disorder programs that will expire on September 30th and passed a bill that would establish ARPA-H as an independent division within the Department of Health and Human Services and authorize \$500 million a year through FY27 for the agency.

On Thursday, the House considered noncontroversial measures under expedited procedures and considered a bill that would require the federal government to collect information about sexual orientation and gender identity in certain surveys.

Today, the House will reconvene at 9:00 a.m. and will consider a bill that will extend a temporary universal free school meal program and the bipartisan gun safety package.

Senate

On Monday, the Senate was not in session.

On Tuesday, the Senate voted to confirm the nomination of Ana de Alba to be a judge for the Eastern District of California.

On Wednesday, the Senate resumed consideration of the vehicle for the bipartisan gun safety package released Tuesday evening and voted to discharge from the Judiciary Committee the nominations of Arianna Freeman to be a judge on the Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit and Hernan D. Vera to be a judge for the Central District of California. The upper chamber voted to confirm the nominations of Mary T. Boyle to be a Commissioner of the Consumer Product Safety Commission and Vinay Vijay Singh to be chief financial officer of the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

On Thursday, the Senate voted to discharge from the Judiciary Committee the nomination of Jessica G. L. Clarke to be a judge for the Southern District of New York from the Senate Judiciary Committee and passed the bipartisan gun safety package.

Today, the Senate is not in session.

White House

On Tuesday, President Biden had lunch with Vice President Harris. With First Lady Dr. Jill Biden, the president visited a local Covid-19 vaccination clinic hosted by the District of Columbia's Department of Health to highlight the recent authorization and recommendation of Covid-19 vaccines for children younger than five years old and delivered remarks on Covid-19 vaccines.

On Wednesday, President Biden delivered remarks on gas price inflation.

On Thursday, President Biden and First Lady Dr. Jill Biden hosted wounded warriors, their caregivers and families at the White House as part of the annual Soldier Ride "to recognize the service, sacrifice and recovery journey for wounded, ill and injured service members and veterans."

Today, President Biden will receive his daily intelligence briefing at 9:30 a.m.

Spotlight Review

Wednesday: [Surveilling Data Privacy on the Federal and State Levels](#)

On the Horizon

Macroeconomic

From Sunday through Wednesday, SelectUSA will hold its 2022 investment summit. [More information here.](#) Expected participants on Monday include:

- President Joe Biden
- Gina Raimondo, secretary, Department of Commerce
- Tom Vilsack, secretary, Department of Agriculture
- Governor Asa Hutchinson (R-AR)
- Governor Gretchen Whitmer (D-MI)
- Brian Deese, director, National Economic Council

From Monday through Wednesday, the European Central Bank will hold its Forum on Central Banking 2022 in Sintra, Portugal. [More information here.](#) Expected participants include:

- Jerome Powell, chair, Federal Reserve Board of Governors
- Loretta Mester, president, Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland

On Tuesday at 9:00 a.m., Punchbowl News will hold a discussion titled "The Road to Recovery." [More information here.](#) Expected participants include:

- Governor Chris Sununu (R-NH)

On Tuesday at 11:00 a.m., the National Association of Business Economics will hold a virtual discussion titled "Monetary Policy and Inflation." [More information here.](#)

On Thursday at 1:00 p.m., the National Association for Business Economics will hold a virtual discussion titled "Outlook for the Economics Job Market in 2022-23." [More information here.](#)

Agriculture

On Tuesday at 9:00 a.m., the National Council of Farmer Cooperatives will hold its 2022 Washington Conference. [More information here.](#) Expected participants include:

- Rostin Behnam, chair, Commodity Futures Trading Commission

On Tuesday at 2:00 p.m., the Heritage Foundation will hold a virtual discussion titled "The Latest on Rising Food Prices: Lessons from Across the Food Supply Chain." [More information here.](#)

Antitrust and Consumer Protection

On Monday at 9:15 a.m., Concurrences and the Computer and Communications Industry Association will hold a conference titled "Rulemaking Authority of the Federal Trade Commission." [More information here.](#)

On Monday at 10:00 a.m., the Information Technology and Innovation Foundation will hold a virtual discussion titled "Antitrust and Inflation." [More information here.](#)

On Thursday at 10:00 a.m., the Center for Strategic and International Studies will hold a virtual discussion titled "A Time for Antitrust Reform in the United States and European Union." [More information here.](#)

Budget

Today at 9:00 a.m., the House Appropriations Committee will hold a markup of the FY2023 Homeland Security Appropriations bill and the FY2023 Financial Services and General Government Appropriations bill.

On Tuesday at 10:00 a.m., the House Appropriations Committee will hold a markup of the FY2023 Energy and Water Development, and Related Agencies Appropriations bill and the FY2023 Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Appropriations bill.

On Wednesday at 10:00 a.m., the House Appropriations Committee will hold a markup of the FY2023 State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Appropriations bill and the FY2023 Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations bill.

On Thursday at 10:00 a.m., the House Appropriations Committee will hold a markup of the FY2023 Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Appropriations bill; the FY2023 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations bill; and subcommittee allocations.

Cybersecurity

Today at 9:00 a.m., the United States Energy Association will hold a virtual discussion titled "How Digital Asset Inventories Accelerate Cyber Resiliency." [More information here.](#)

Defense

Today at 2:00 p.m., the Brookings Institution will hold a virtual discussion titled "Legacies and Lessons From America's Post-9/11 Wars." [More information here.](#)

Energy, Environment, and Natural Resources

Today at 9:00 a.m., the House Select Climate Crisis Committee will hold a hearing titled "Cutting Methane Pollution: Safeguarding Health, Creating Jobs, and Protecting Our Climate."

Today at 12:00 p.m., the Environmental and Energy Study Institute will hold a virtual discussion titled "Living with Climate Change: Extreme Heat: Policies to Anticipate Threats and Build Preparedness." [More information here.](#) Expected participants include:

- Rep. Bonnie Watson Coleman (D-NJ)

On Monday at 12:00 p.m., the RAND Corporation will hold a virtual discussion titled "Energy Resilience: How Energy Fits Into Disaster Preparation, Response, and Recovery." [More information here.](#)

On Tuesday at 10:00 a.m., the Information Technology and Innovation Foundation will hold a virtual discussion titled "How 5G Can Spur Climate Tech Innovation." [More information here.](#)

On Tuesday at 12:00 p.m., the Business Council for Sustainable Energy will hold a discussion titled "Federal Sustainability Solutions: Leveraging Technology for Resilience and Decarbonization." [More information here.](#)

On Tuesday at 1:00 p.m., the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace will hold a virtual discussion titled "The Politics of an Oil Crisis." [More information here.](#)

On Wednesday at 12:00 p.m., the House Foreign Affairs Committee Subcommittee on Europe, Energy, the Environment, and Cyber will hold a hearing titled "Global Efforts to Encourage a Sustainable Blue Economy."

On Wednesday at 1:00 p.m., the Environmental and Energy Study Institute will hold a virtual discussion titled "Offshore Wind Energy." [More information here.](#)

On Wednesday at 1:00 p.m., the Bipartisan Policy Center will hold a virtual discussion titled "The Impact of COVID-19 on the Rural Health Care Landscape." [More information here.](#)

On Thursday at 9:00 a.m., the Society for International Development, Washington, DC Chapter will hold a virtual discussion titled "Scaling Innovations to Mitigate Ocean Plastics Pollution." [More information here.](#)

On Thursday at 10:00 a.m., the Atlantic Council's Global Energy Center and CALSTART's

Drive to Zero Program will hold a virtual discussion titled "Transatlantic policies enabling deployment of zero-emission medium- and heavy-duty vehicles." [More information here.](#)

On Thursday at 11:30 a.m., the House Energy and Commerce Committee Subcommittee on Environment and Climate Change will hold a hearing titled "No Time to Waste: Solutions for America's Broken Recycling System."

Financial Services

On Tuesday, Nasdaq will hold its Technology of the Future conference. Expected participants include:

- Caroline D. Pham, commissioner, Commodity Futures Trading Commission

On Thursday at 12:00 p.m., the House Financial Services Committee Task Force on Financial Technology Subcommittee will hold a hearing titled "Combating Tech Bro Culture: Understanding Obstacles to Investments in Diverse-Owned Fintechs."

On Thursday at 1:00 p.m., the Government Executive Media Group will hold a virtual discussion titled "Building the Future of Finance." [More information here.](#)

Geopolitical

Today at 10:00 a.m., the Hudson Institute will hold a virtual discussion titled "War, Ukraine, and a Global Alliance for Freedom." [More information here.](#)

Today at 10:00 a.m., the National Council on US-Arab Relations will hold a virtual discussion titled "President Biden's Upcoming Visit to Saudi Arabia: Implications and Opportunities for the U.S.-Saudi Arabia Relationship." [More information here.](#)

Today at 10:15 a.m., the Foundation for Defense of Democracies will hold a virtual discussion titled "Investing to Deter in the Pacific." [More information here.](#)

Today at 12:00 p.m., the Wilson Center's Kennan Institute for Advanced Russian Studies will hold a virtual discussion titled "Assessing U.S. Support to Ukraine Four Months after Russia's Invasion." [More information here.](#)

On Monday at 11:00 a.m., the American Enterprise Institute for Public Policy Research will hold a virtual discussion titled "The Economic and Security Consequences of Great-Power Competition." [More information here.](#)

On Monday at 2:00 p.m., the SETA Foundation at Washington DC will hold a virtual discussion titled "The Madrid Summit: NATO's New Strategic Concept." [More information here.](#)

On Monday at 2:00 p.m., the Wilson Center's Kennan Institute for Advanced Russian Studies will hold a virtual discussion titled "Defining a Successful Resolution to Russia's War in Ukraine." [More information here.](#)

On Monday at 2:30 p.m., the Brookings Institution will hold a virtual discussion titled "Economic Globalization After Ukraine." [More information here.](#)

On Tuesday at 10:00 a.m., the American Institute for Contemporary German Studies will hold a virtual discussion titled "The Strategic Implications of China's State Capitalism." [More information here.](#)

On Wednesday at 12:00 p.m., the Cato Institute will hold a discussion titled "What Will Be the Impact of the War in Ukraine for the Future of European Security?" [More information here.](#)

On Wednesday at 4:00 p.m., the Institute of World Politics will hold a virtual discussion titled "The Strategic and Economic Implication of Anti-Russian Sanctions." [More information here.](#)

On Friday at 10:00 a.m., the American Security Project will hold a virtual briefing titled "Unpacking the 2022 NATO Summit." [More information here.](#)

Healthcare

Today at 11:00 a.m., the Alliance for Health Policy will hold a virtual briefing titled "Perspectives on Medicare Sustainability." [More information here.](#)

Today at 1:00 p.m., Health Affairs will hold a virtual discussion with Assistant Department of Health and Human Services Secretary for Health Rachel Levine. [More information here.](#)

On Monday at 1:30 p.m., the House Oversight and Reform Committee will hold a hearing titled "Examining the 2022 National Drug Control Strategy and the Federal Response to the Overdose Crisis."

On Tuesday at 11:00 a.m., the House Energy and Commerce Committee Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations will hold a hearing titled "Protecting America's Seniors: Oversight of Private Sector Medicare Advantage Plans."

On Tuesday at 11:30 a.m., the US Chamber of Commerce will hold a summit titled "The Business of Health: Advancing Value and Containing Costs." [More information here.](#)

On Wednesday at 11:00 a.m., the House Energy and Commerce Committee Subcommittee on Health will hold a hearing titled "Investing in Public Health: Legislation to Support Patients, Workers, and Research."

On Wednesday at 12:00 p.m., the Alliance for Health Policy will hold a virtual discussion titled "FDA Approval Pathways 101." [More information here.](#)

On Wednesday at 1:00 p.m., Optum will hold a virtual discussion titled "How Tech Can - and - Can't Eliminate Barriers to Good Health Care." [More information here.](#)

Housing

On Tuesday at 12:00 p.m., the House Financial Services Committee Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations will hold a hearing titled "Where Have All the Houses Gone? Private Equity, Single Family Rentals, and America's Neighborhoods."

On Wednesday at 12:00 p.m., the House Financial Services Committee will hold a hearing titled "Boom and Bust: Inequality, Homeownership, and the Long-Term Impacts of the Hot Housing Market."

Judicial

On Thursday at 12:00 p.m., the Hudson Institute will hold a virtual discussion titled "What the New Copyright Claims Board Means for Creators." [More information here.](#)

Political

On Wednesday at 3:00 p.m., the American Bar Association will hold a virtual discussion titled "Election Jeopardy." [More information here.](#)

On Wednesday at 9:00 p.m., the Ronald Reagan Presidential Foundation and Institute will hold a discussion with Rep. Liz Cheney (R-WY) as part of its "A time for Choosing" series. [More information here.](#)

Supply Chains

On Tuesday at 9:00 a.m., the United States Energy Association will hold a discussion titled "An Opportunity to Facilitate Resilient Domestic Critical Material Supply Chains - Discussions on the Infrastructure, Investments and Jobs Act, Sections 41003c and 41003d." [More information here.](#)

On Tuesday at 11:30 a.m., the Center for a New American Security will hold a virtual discussion titled "Securing America's Supply Chains." [More information here.](#) Expected participants include:

- Rep. Chrissy Houlahan (D-PA)

Tech-Media-Telecom

On Tuesday at 6:00 a.m., Commissioner Noah Phillips of the Federal Trade Commission will speak on a panel titled "Keynote panel on privacy, security, and competition" during the 12th Annual International Cybersecurity Conference hosted by Tel Aviv University in Israel.

[More information here.](#)

On Tuesday at 9:00 a.m., Commissioner Noah Phillips of the Federal Trade Commission will speak on a panel titled "The Future of Digital Advertising: Regulators, Platforms and the Path Forward" hosted by Tel Aviv University in Israel. [More information here.](#)

On Tuesday at 4:00 p.m., the Center for Strategic and International Studies will hold a discussion titled "National Security and Artificial Intelligence: Global Trends and Challenges." [More information here.](#)

On Wednesday at 9:00 a.m., the Information Technology and Innovation Foundation will hold a virtual discussion titled "What Will Be the Impact of the UK's Online Safety Bill on Encryption and Anonymity Online?" [More information here.](#)

On Wednesday at 11:00 a.m., the House Science, Space and Technology Committee Subcommittee on Investigations and Oversight will hold a hearing titled "Privacy in the Age of Biometrics."

On Wednesday at 2:00 p.m., the Federal Communications Commission will hold a webinar on the agency's Broadband Data Collection system. [More information here.](#)

Trade

On Wednesday at 9:30 a.m., the Heritage Foundation will hold a discussion titled "Untapped Potential: Maximizing Opportunities in U.S.-Taiwan Trade Relations." [More information here.](#)

Afterthoughts

"The" Copyright Battle of the Decade: The US Patent and Trademark Office gave Ohio State University the green light to trademark the definite article "The" on merchandise this week. Ohio State is known for being proud of its formal name, *The* Ohio State University, and the institution submitted an application to trademark "The" in 2019. "THE has been a rallying cry in the Ohio State community for many years, and Buckeye fans who purchase official Ohio State gear support student scholarships, libraries and other university initiatives," an Ohio State public relations official [was quoted](#) by the AP as saying after the decision. No word yet on whether someone will seek to trademark the indefinite article "a" next.

A New Senate Rivalry is Born: Senators Cory Booker (D-NJ) and Jon Tester (D-MT) released [a video on Twitter](#) this week featuring the two lawmakers sneaking up and tackling each other across the grounds of the Capitol. They aren't practicing for football (Booker played for Stanford University in the late 1980s and early 1990s) – but rather promoting their legislation to “tackle” consolidation in US agriculture. Both senators are setting themselves up to be tough competition at the next Congressional Baseball Game.



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