

WEEKLY CURRENT

September 11-15, 2023

Issues Making a Splash This Week

- **Democrats Gain FCC Majority:** The confirmation of Anna Gomez to a vacancy on the Federal Communications Commission last week gave Democrats a majority on the body for the first time in President Biden's tenure, but they won't have much time to use it unless Biden is re-elected.
- **HHS Uses Reference Pricing to Limit REGN Launch Price:** The Biden administration recently announced that it voluntarily reached an agreement with drug manufacturer **Regeneron (REGN)** that will help finance its Covid-19 monoclonal antibody therapy, but in return, the company promises to have a US list price that is equal to or less than the retail price "in comparable markets globally."
- **All Quiet on the Surface in the Pacific (for Now):** The Biden administration's diplomatic outreach to China may have netted few deliverables, but it does appear to have brought a calmness to the bilateral relationship as both sides seek to avoid re-escalating tensions – at least for the time being.

FCC RETURNS TO FULL STRENGTH: For the first time since President Biden took office, Democrats hold a majority on the Federal Communications Commission (FCC). **Last week's [confirmation](#) of Anna Gomez flips the body to Democratic control after over two and a half years of a 2-2 deadlock.** Gomez, a telecom attorney who has worked at the FCC, State Department, and in the private sector, picked up five Senate GOP votes.

Gomez's confirmation will allow Democrats to pursue a partisan FCC agenda but they will have little time to make much progress before the end of Biden's term. There's only about 16 months until the next Inauguration Day, and in the world of federal agencies, that's not much time to embark on ambitious rulemaking activities. **Restoring net neutrality is likely to be a priority of the FCC's new Democratic majority but it will probably depend on a second Biden term to get done.** The FCC will need to follow the procedures of proposing a new net neutrality rule, seeking and analyzing public comment, and finalizing the rule, which is a time-

consuming process. This doesn't mean that they won't start (net neutrality advocates will want to see some results) but completion before January 2025 is unlikely. A Republican-majority FCC, if appointed by a future Republican president succeeding Biden, would end the rulemaking.

The FCC's Democratic majority, only just solidified, faces a ticking clock of its own. If not re-confirmed for another term by year end, Geoffrey Starks will have to leave the commission. The loss of Starks would return the FCC to a 2-2 deadlock. Starks is not a polarizing figure like Biden's first FCC nominee, Gigi Sohn, so he's not likely to have a challenging path to confirmation. It's possible that FCC Chair Jessica Rosenworcel could hold off on starting work on some more ambitious goals, such as net neutrality, until Starks is installed for another term for fear of giving Republicans justification to oppose him and deny Democrats a working FCC majority. GOP Commissioner Brendan Carr has also reached the end of his term but can stay on the commission through 2024. Senators could potentially strike a deal to advance both nominees together for floor votes.

Democrats will have only a year and change to make headway on their telecom priorities, forcing Rosenworcel to make tough decisions on agenda-setting. In addition to net neutrality, Democrats may seek to address digital discrimination. The FCC's Task Force to Prevent Digital Discrimination held a listening session yesterday, and it would not be surprising to see this become a higher-profile issue under the Democratic majority. Commissioners could also potentially work to strengthen data privacy and expand E-Rate subsidies to schools and libraries to widen internet connectivity. **Rosenworcel, who coined the now-common phrase "homework gap" to describe students' lack of internet access at home, has been focused on the digital divide for years, and it would not be surprising to see her make this a priority of her tenure now that she has a majority.** FCC Democrats may also seek to update the agency's definition of broadband, currently set at 25 Megabits per second (Mbps) download/3 Mbps upload to align with the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) standard of 100/20 Mbps.

Two other time-sensitive telecom issues rely on the action of Congress: spectrum management and broadband consumer subsidies. The FCC's spectrum auction authority has expired, preventing the FCC from getting more spectrum into the hands of industry until Congress renews it. In addition, the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP), the IIJA's \$30 monthly broadband consumer subsidy, [is projected](#) to run out of funds in 2024 if not replenished by Congress. These two issues are not highly partisan, but a full congressional calendar this fall, loaded down with a potential shutdown, the appropriations fight, and impeachment inquiry, just to name a few, could swallow up most of lawmakers' time. **The ACP may also be at risk of falling into the crosshairs of hardline GOP fiscal hawks this fall, though the program itself has gotten support from both sides of the aisle.** Last month, a group of 29 House Democrats and 16 House

Republicans [signed a letter](#) to congressional leadership calling for an extension to the ACP.

HHS IMPOSES INTERNATIONALLY BASED PRICE CONTROLS ON REGN: In a little-noticed move with potentially far-reaching consequences, the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) reached a deal last week with [drug manufacturer Regeneron \(REGN\)](#) to pay for its newest Covid-19 monoclonal antibody therapy under Project NextGen, the successor to Operation Warp Speed.

The key element of this deal is that the contract includes a new clause under which **Regeneron promises that if a new product is commercialized as a result of the HHS/Regeneron public-private partnership, then any list price for that product in the United States will be equal to or less than its retail price “in comparable markets globally.”** Although this is a one-off deal for a specific government-funded product, it is also a textbook example of international reference pricing, which was much discussed under the Trump administration in the guise of the [International Pricing Index](#) as well as the finalized, but never implemented, [Most Favored Nation rulemaking](#).

This announcement by HHS is groundbreaking because it is the first time that the federal government has been able to successfully limit the price of a pharmaceutical product based on international reference pricing and also has been able to use that concept to limit the launch price of a new product.

HHS provided an “excerpt” of the contractual clause in its press release announcing the details of the contract: “If Regeneron commercializes a product in the United States for prevention of SARS-CoV-2 comprised solely of a COVID-19 therapeutic for which [the Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority] invests [a minimum amount or more] under this Agreement, then, subject to applicable law, **the list price (at wholesale acquisition cost) for commercial sales [including government-sponsored and commercial insurance] of such product in the United States following full licensure of the product, shall be substantially equivalent to or less than the approved price for commercial sales in High Income Countries outside of the United States; provided that such sales are comparable sales taking place within the same time period.** Regeneron is permitted to take into account all relevant factors in determining whether sales are comparable sales, including volume commitments, timing of purchase and supply, the terms and conditions of purchase and supply, market conditions and epidemiology of SARS-CoV-2.”

HHS awarded \$1.4 billion via Project NextGen on August 22nd and Regeneron is scheduled to receive \$326 million to put towards the new monoclonal antibody therapy, which is expected to enter clinical trials as early as this fall. When asked for comment about the groundbreaking agreement by Stat News, **a Regeneron employee stated that because the federal government is providing a substantial portion of the funding for the potential therapy, “we support the**

idea that they should not pay more than other comparable high-income countries in the future.”

Notably, the deal does not touch upon the National Institutes of Health’s (NIH) use of march-in rights via the Bayh-Dole Act, which in theory would allow HHS to break the patent of drugs developed using NIH-funded research if their price was too high, rendering a product inaccessible due to price. Instead, this deal side-steps that type of controversy and instead creates a legally binding expectation of price limits even before a product has been commercialized.

While there is no formal process for such a payment arrangement to be used across the board or in additional federal contracts, that Regeneron agreed to it at all means that the use of international reference prices remains firmly a part of the wider discussion of how to reduce prescription drug prices.

We expect that the use of such reference prices could become a demonstration for the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation in a second term of the Biden administration (or earlier if there is a desire to impact the 2024 election). If former President Trump were to return to the White House, then we expect that he would seek to reissue his [Most Favored Nation proposal](#), although the success of any Trump plan would depend almost entirely on whether or not his staff at HHS and in the White House supported this idea and were able to work with career staff to actually execute a rulemaking that would not be overturned in court.

A RESPITE IN US-CHINA RELATIONS: Even if the Biden administration’s recent slew of diplomatic engagements with China yielded few tangible results, it does appear to have lowered the temperature between the two superpowers. Neither side is talking about pausing restrictions on the other, but reactions to recent actions have not been inflammatory. **Sustaining this calmness can benefit leadership on both sides of the Pacific as Chinese President Xi Jinping looks to resolve [domestic economic challenges](#) and President Biden attempts to ensure that Xi will travel to the US in November for [the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Leaders’ Meeting](#).**

A review of the last few months shows no shortage of Chinese actions that could have escalated to further exacerbate tensions in the US-China relationship. These include [Huawei’s new phone](#), the Chinese [hacking of Commerce Secretary Gina Raimondo’s email](#), and [the new restrictions on Apple’s \(AAPL\) iPhones](#). **The White House’s response to these has been relatively consistent, looking to move past them as quickly as possible and promoting a wait-and-see approach when there are unknowns.** It is doubtful that the Biden administration will look to bring these actions up of their own volition out of a desire to keep from getting boxed in by congressional Republicans to respond in such a way as to undermine the recent rapprochement. Any other strategy from the White House could risk the underlying tensions resurfacing and, as a result, jeopardize Xi’s potential visit this

fall.

For as relatively stable as bilateral US-China relations appear at the moment compared to the first two and a half years of the Biden administration, any sufficiently provocative catalyst could easily lead to a freezeout. One of the most significant differences between the recent Chinese actions listed above and the surveillance balloon incident from earlier this year is the number of congressional calls for action. Predictably, China hawks will always urge the administration to take a tougher stance, but it has to act when these calls become near-unanimous, and the White House risks appearing to be on a political island. One of the most dangerous things for Biden's re-election chances would be to be perceived as soft on China, given the perception of Beijing among voters. This level of outcry, as happened with the surveillance balloon incident, would force the Biden administration's hand and could undo the diplomatic work it has tended to this past summer.

The easiest way for Biden to placate these hawks and minimize the spread of their criticism is to continue his administration's pursuit of actions aimed at de-risking the American economy and limiting China's influence in the US, such as through [greater scrutiny](#) of foreign investment in America. It is also crucial that these initiatives are clearly signaled in advance so that China is not caught off guard. **Even during the recent flurry of diplomatic visits, the White House moved forward with its outbound investment executive order and has reportedly been working to finalize its semiconductor export controls.** There should be an expectation that Beijing will respond with criticism of these moves and potentially retaliation, which will most likely come as targeting an individual company, as has happened to Apple and **Micron (MU)**, or installing its own export controls, as it did with select critical minerals.

Both of these strategies have their pros and cons for China. **Imposing restrictions on individual companies would have been more effective in an older Washington, DC, where the corporate world had more influence on the US-China relationship. However, in the current climate, government officials are more focused on encouraging companies to leave China than promoting market access for American firms seeking to operate or expand their business in China.** While less effective, this targeted approach would minimize potential blowback on the Chinese economy. Imposing export controls on critical resources, a strategy more likely to get the White House's attention due to its impact on allies, does not insulate China's markets as well. By disrupting supply chains, there are inevitable uncertainties about the consequences of such an action. **In the current climate in China, this calculus may mean that pursuing these broader actions is too risky for Xi to be willing to support while there are concerns outstanding about the health of his country's economy, leaving American companies at greater risk of being in the crosshairs as targets for Chinese retaliation.**

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 noncontroversial measures under expedited procedures.

On Thursday, the House passed a measure that would prohibit states from adopting their own vehicle emission standards under the Clean Air Act if such standards limit the sale or use of new vehicles with internal combustion engines.

Today, the House will not be in session.

Senate

On Monday, the Senate held a procedural vote on the nomination of Tanya Bradsher to be deputy secretary of Veterans Affairs.

On Tuesday, the Senate voted to confirm Bradsher's nomination. The upper chamber held a procedural vote on the nomination of Jeffrey Irvine Cummings to be a judge on the Northern District Court of Illinois and voted to confirm the nomination. The Senate held a procedural vote on the FY24 Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act.

On Wednesday, the Senate continued consideration of the FY24 Military Construction-VA Appropriations measure.

On Thursday, the Senate resumed consideration of the FY24 Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act and held a procedural vote on the bill.

Today, the Senate will not be in session.

White House

On Monday, President Biden departed Hanoi, Vietnam after meeting with Vietnamese Prime Minister Pham Minh Chinh, Vietnamese President Vo Van Thuong, and National Assembly of Vietnam Chairman Vuong Dinh Hue, as well as visiting the John Sidney McCain III Memorial in Hanoi. The president delivered remarks at a September 11th

memorial ceremony with members of the military and their families at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson in Anchorage, AK before returning to Washington, DC.

On Tuesday, President Biden did not have any public events on his schedule.

On Wednesday, President Biden convened a meeting of his Cancer Cabinet along with First Lady Dr. Jill Biden and participated in a campaign reception in McLean, VA.

On Thursday, President Biden delivered remarks about Bidenomics at Prince George's Community College in Largo, MD and held a call with rabbis in honor of Rosh Hashanah, which begins Friday night.

Today, President Biden will receive his daily intelligence briefing at 11:45 a.m. At 6:25 p.m., the president will depart the White House en route to New Castle, DE. where he will arrive at 7:20 p.m. and will remain over the weekend.

Spotlight Review

Tuesday: [Is Gensler Just Losing Battles or the Whole War?](#)

Thursday: [PayPal's High Stakes Stablecoin Bet](#)

On the Horizon

Macroeconomic

From Tuesday to Wednesday, the Federal Open Market Committee (FOMC) will hold a two-day meeting. On Wednesday at 2:00 p.m., the FOMC will release its latest monetary policy statement and summary of economic projections. Federal Reserve Board Chair Jay Powell will then hold a press conference on Wednesday at 2:30 p.m.

From Monday through Tuesday, the Clinton Foundation will hold a 2023 meeting of the Clinton Global Initiative. [More information here.](#) Expected participants on Monday include:

- Janet Yellen, secretary, Department of the Treasury
- Governor Maura Healey (D-MA)
- Governor Kathy Hochul (D-NY)
- Pope Francis
- Former President Bill Clinton
- Hillary Clinton, former secretary, Department of State

On Tuesday at 10:00 a.m., the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee Subcommittee on Economic Development, Public Buildings and Emergency Management will hold a hearing titled "FEMA: The Current State of Disaster Readiness, Response, and Recovery."

On Tuesday at 2:00 p.m., the House Oversight and Accountability Committee Subcommittee on Economic Growth, Energy Policy, and Regulatory Affairs will hold a hearing titled "Bidenomics: A Perfect Storm of Spending, Debt, and Inflation."

On Tuesday at 2:30 p.m., Politico will host a discussion titled "Building the New American Economy." [More information here](#). Expected participants include:

- Rep. Drew Ferguson (R-GA)
- Rep. David Schweikert (R-AZ)

On Wednesday at 9:00 a.m., Punchbowl News will hold a discussion titled "Capital and American Business." [More information here](#). Expected participants include:

- Rep. Jason Smith (R-MO)

On Wednesday at 10:00 a.m., the Senate Budget Committee will hold a hearing titled "Reducing Inequality, Fueling Growth: How Public Investment Promotes Prosperity for All."

On Wednesday at 10:30 a.m., the House Energy and Commerce Committee Subcommittee on Innovation, Data, and Commerce will hold a hearing titled "Mapping America's Supply Chains: Solutions to Unleash Innovation, Boost Economic Resilience, and Beat China."

On Wednesday at 11:45 a.m., the Bipartisan Policy Center will hold a virtual discussion titled "Can Congress Prevent a Government Shutdown?" [More information here](#). Expected participants include:

- Senator James Lankford (R-OK)

On Friday at 8:50 a.m., Federal Reserve Board Governor Lisa Cook will deliver a keynote address at the National Bureau of Economic Research Economics of Artificial Intelligence Conference in Toronto, Canada.

Agriculture

Today at 8:30 a.m., the Center for Strategic and International Studies will hold a Seafood Alliance for Legality and Traceability Forum with the theme "Taking Stock and Next Steps." [More information here](#). Expected participants include:

- Rep. Jared Huffman (D-CA)

On Tuesday at 8:00 p.m., Axios will hold a discussion titled "Sustainability and Food Insecurity." [More information here](#). Expected participants include:

- Rep. GT Thompson (R-PA)

On Tuesday at 8:30 a.m., the Bipartisan Policy Center will hold a discussion titled "The 2023 Farm Bill: Realizing the Conservation, Innovation and Jobs Trifecta." [More information here.](#) Expected participants include:

- Senator Debbie Stabenow (D-MI)

Antitrust and Consumer Protection

On Tuesday at 1:00 p.m., the American Enterprise Institute for Public Policy Research will hold a discussion titled "Revising the Horizontal Merger Guidelines: The Path Forward." [More information here.](#)

On Wednesday at 10:00 a.m., the Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee will hold a hearing on the nominations of Rebecca Kelly Slaughter, Melissa Holyoak, and Andrew Ferguson to be commissioners of the Federal Trade Commission; and Douglas Dziak to be a commissioner of the Consumer Product Safety Commission.

On Friday at 9:15 a.m., Federal Trade Commission Chair Lina Khan will speak at the 50th Annual Conference on International Antitrust Law & Policy at Fordham Law School. [More information here.](#)

Cryptocurrency

Today at 10:00 a.m., New America will hold a virtual discussion titled "Our Cyber Future: Next Generation Perspectives on the Future of Cybersecurity." [More information here.](#)

Cybersecurity

On Tuesday at 10:00 a.m., the House Homeland Security Committee Subcommittee on Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Protection will hold a hearing titled "Evaluating CISA's (Cybersecurity & Infrastructure Security Agency) Federal Civilian Executive Branch Cybersecurity Programs."

Defense

Today at 11:00 a.m., the Center for a New American Security will hold a virtual discussion on the US defense industrial base. [More information here.](#)

On Wednesday at 9:00 a.m., the House Armed Services Committee Subcommittee on Cyber, Information Technology, and Innovation will hold a hearing titled "Industry

Perspectives on Defense Innovation and Deterrence."

On Wednesday at 11:00 a.m., the Armed Forces Communications and Electronics Association will hold a virtual discussion titled "Large Language Models (LLM): An AI Paradigm Shift." [More information here.](#)

On Wednesday at 1:00 p.m., the House Armed Services Committee Subcommittee on Military Personnel will hold a hearing titled "Meritocracy in the Military Services: Accession, Promotion, and Command Selection."

Energy, Environment, and Natural Resources

From Monday through Tuesday, the Atlantic Council will hold its Nuclear Energy Policy Summit 2023 with the theme "Accelerating Net Zero Nuclear." [More information here.](#)

On Monday at 10:00 a.m., the Wilson Center's Wahba Institute for Strategic Competition will hold a virtual discussion titled "Cobalt and the Electric Vehicle (EV) Supply Chain." [More information here.](#)

On Tuesday at 2:30 p.m., Commodity Futures Trading Commission Chair Rostin Behnam will speak at Flowcarbon's Carbon Smart Summit. [More information here.](#)

On Tuesday at 10:30 a.m., the House Natural Resources Committee Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources will hold a hearing titled "Examining the Biden Administration's Mismanagement of the Federal Onshore Oil and Gas Program."

On Tuesday at 10:30 a.m., the House Energy and Commerce Committee Subcommittee on Environment, Manufacturing, and Critical Materials will hold a hearing titled "Protecting American Manufacturing: Examining EPA's Proposed PM2.5 Rule."

On Tuesday at 1:00 p.m., the American Council on Renewable Energy will hold a virtual discussion titled "The Planning, Operational and Marketing Benefits of High Voltage Direct Current (HVDC) Transmission for System Operators." [More information here.](#) Expected participants include:

- Rep. Sean Casten (D-IL)

On Wednesday at 10:00 a.m., the House Science, Space and Technology Committee Subcommittee on Investigations and Oversight will hold a hearing titled "A Bar Too High: Concerns with CEQ's (Council on Environmental Quality) Proposed Regulatory Hurdle for Federal Contracting."

On Wednesday at 10:00 a.m., the House Energy and Commerce Committee Subcommittee on Energy, Climate, and Grid Security will hold a hearing titled "American Hydropower: Unleashing Reliable, Renewable, Clean Power Across the U.S."

On Wednesday at 2:15 p.m., the Joint Economic Committee will hold a hearing titled "Growing the Economy of the Future: Job Training for the Clean Energy Transition."

On Thursday at 1:00 p.m., the United States Energy Association will hold a virtual discussion titled "Unlocking Carbon Dioxide Removal's (CDR) Potential." [More information here.](#)

Financial Services

On Tuesday at 8:30 a.m., the Securities and Exchange Commission will hold the 2023 Securities Enforcement Forum Central conference. [More information here.](#)

On Tuesday at 10:00 a.m. the Securities and Exchange Commission will hold a meeting of its Small Business Capital Formation Advisory Committee Meeting.

On Tuesday at 10:00 a.m., the House Financial Services Committee Subcommittee on Capital Markets will hold a hearing titled "Oversight of the SEC's Division of Investment Management."

On Tuesday at 2:00 p.m., the House Financial Services Committee Subcommittee on Financial Institutions and Monetary Policy will hold a hearing titled "A Holistic Review of Regulators: Regulatory Overreach and Economic Consequences."

On Wednesday at 10:00 a.m., the Securities and Exchange Commission will hold an open meeting. [More information here.](#)

On Wednesday at 10:00 a.m., the Senate Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs Committee will hold a hearing titled "Artificial Intelligence in Financial Services." [More information here.](#)

On Wednesday at 1:00 p.m., Commodity Futures Trading Commission Commissioner Summer Mersinger will participate in a fireside chat at the World Federation of Exchanges Annual General Meeting in Bermuda. [More information here.](#)

On Thursday at 9:30 a.m., Commodity Futures Trading Commission Commissioner Kristin Johnson will deliver a keynote address and participate in the Optimal Market Design for Digital Assets session at the World Federation of Exchanges Annual Meeting in Bermuda. [More information here.](#)

On Thursday at 11:00 a.m., the Cato Institute will hold a forum titled "Insights on the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation's (FDIC) Agenda." [More information here.](#)
Expected participants include:

- Travis Hill, vice chair, FDIC

Geopolitical

Today at 9:00 a.m., the Brookings Institution will hold a discussion titled "Ukraine, the West, and the World: Breaking Point or Transformational Moment?" [More information here.](#)

On Monday at 4:00 p.m., the Hudson Institute will hold a discussion on US foreign policy with former Vice President Mike Pence, a candidate for the 2024 GOP presidential nomination. [More information here.](#)

On Tuesday at 10:00 a.m., the Hudson Institute will hold a discussion titled "Furthering U.S.-India Security Cooperation." [More information here.](#)

On Tuesday at 10:35 a.m., the House Armed Services Committee will hold a hearing titled "Defense Cooperation with Taiwan."

On Wednesday at 10:00 a.m., the Center for a New American Security will hold a virtual discussion titled "Gaining the Asymmetric Advantage: Emerging Technology and the AUKUS (Australia, the United Kingdom, and the United States) Pillar 2 Promise." [More information here.](#)

On Wednesday at 10:45 a.m., the Senate Foreign Relations Committee will hold a markup to vote on the nominations of James C. O'Brien to be an assistant secretary of State for European and Eurasian affairs; Dennis B. Hankins to be ambassador to Haiti; Nathalie Rayes to be ambassador to Croatia; and Tobin John Bradley to be ambassador to Guatemala.

On Wednesday at 3:00 p.m., the House Judiciary Committee Subcommittee on Courts, Intellectual Property, and the Internet will hold a hearing titled "IP and Strategic Competition with China: Part III - IP Theft, Cybersecurity, and AI."

On Thursday at 9:00 a.m., the Brookings Institution will hold a virtual discussion titled "The Legacy and Future of the Wagner Group." [More information here.](#)

On Friday at 3:30 a.m., the Atlantic Council will hold its 2023 Transatlantic Forum on GeoEconomics. [More information here.](#) Expected participants include:

- Katherine Tai, US trade representative

On Friday at 9:00 a.m., the Wilson Center's Global Europe Program will hold a discussion titled "The UK Labour Party's Foreign and Defense Priorities." [More information here.](#)

Healthcare

Today at 10:30 a.m., the American Enterprise Institute for Public Policy Research will hold a discussion titled "Cities and Severe Mental Illness: The Challenge in New York City and Los Angeles." [More information here.](#)

On Monday at 1:30 p.m., Federal Trade Commission Chair Lina Khan will participate in a fireside chat at the 2023 Oliver Wyman Health Information Summit. [More information here.](#)

On Monday at 11:00 a.m., the Wilson Center's Mexico Institute will hold a virtual discussion titled "Understanding the Fentanyl and Opioid Crisis: U.S.-Mexico Solutions." [More information here.](#)

On Tuesday at 10:00 a.m., the House Oversight and Accountability Committee will hold a hearing titled "The Role of Pharmacy Benefit Managers in Prescription Drug Markets Part II: Not What the Doctor Ordered."

On Tuesday at 10:00 a.m., the House Ways and Means Committee will hold a hearing titled "Reduced Care for Patients: Fallout From Flawed Implementation of Surprise Medical Billing Protections."

On Tuesday at 10:00 a.m., the Senate Finance Committee Subcommittee on Health Care will hold a hearing titled "Aging in Place: The Vital Role of Home Health in Access to Care."

On Wednesday at 8:30 a.m., Politico will host a discussion titled "Transforming Health Care: Site-Neutral Payments & Billing Transparency." [More information here.](#) Expected participants include:

- Rep. Cathy McMorris Rodgers (R-WA)

On Wednesday at 2:00 p.m., the Senate Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs Committee Subcommittee on Economic Policy will hold a hearing titled "Child Care Since the Pandemic: Macroeconomic Impacts of Public Policy Measures."

On Wednesday at 2:00 p.m., the House Energy and Commerce Committee Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations will hold a hearing titled "At What Cost: Oversight of How the IRA's Price Setting Scheme Means Fewer Cures for Patients."

Immigration

On Wednesday at 10:00 a.m., the House Homeland Security Committee will hold a hearing titled "The Financial Costs of Mayorkas' Open Border."

Judicial

On Monday at 10:35 a.m., the Cato Institute will hold its 22nd annual Constitution Day. [More information here.](#)

On Monday at 5:30 p.m., the American Enterprise Institute for Public Policy Research will hold its 2023 Walter Berns Constitution Day Lecture, titled "Pluralism and the American Constitution." [More information here.](#)

On Tuesday at 10:00 a.m., the Senate Judiciary Committee will hold a hearing titled "Evading Accountability: Corporate Manipulation of Chapter 11 Bankruptcy."

On Tuesday at 10:00 a.m., the House Energy and Commerce Committee Subcommittee on Health will hold a hearing titled "Examining Policies to Improve Seniors' Access to Innovative Drugs, Medical Devices, and Technology."

On Tuesday at 1:00 p.m., the US Chamber of Commerce will hold a virtual discussion titled "Keeping America's Business Safe: Effective Prosecution to Combat Crime." [More information here.](#)

On Tuesday at 2:00 p.m., the House Judiciary Committee Subcommittee on the Constitution and Limited Government will hold a hearing titled "Examining Proposed Constitutional Amendments."

On Tuesday at 3:00 p.m., the Federalist Society for Law and Public Policy Studies will hold a virtual discussion titled "Religious Liberty and the Court - Looking Ahead to the Next Term." [More information here.](#)

On Wednesday at 10:00 a.m., the House Judiciary Committee will hold a hearing titled "Oversight of the U.S. Department of Justice." Expected participants include:

- Merrick Garland, attorney general, Department of Justice

On Wednesday at 1:00 p.m., the Heritage Foundation will hold a discussion titled "Supreme Court Preview of the 2023-2024 Term." [More information here.](#)

Labor

On Monday at 1:00 p.m., the Urban Institute will hold a virtual discussion titled "Job Quality in Procurement." [More information here.](#)

On Wednesday at 10:30 a.m., the House Education and the Workforce Committee Subcommittee on Higher Education and Workforce Development will hold a hearing titled "Strengthening WIOA (Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act): Improving Outcomes for Jobseekers, Employers, and Taxpayers."

On Thursday at 9:00 a.m., Washington Post Live will hold a virtual discussion titled "How Policymakers, Businesses and Educators are Adapting to the Changing Workplace." [More information here.](#) Expected participants include:

- Rep. Ted Lieu (D-CA)

On Friday at 9:30 a.m., the Heritage Foundation will hold a discussion titled "21st Century Labor Policies to Promote Worker Freedom, Opportunity, and Entrepreneurship." [More information here.](#)

Political

From today through Saturday, the Family Research Council will hold its third annual Pray Vote Stand Summit. [More information here.](#) Expected participants include:

- Former President and 2024 GOP presidential candidate Donald Trump
- Former Vice President and 2024 GOP presidential candidate Mike Pence
- Governor Ron DeSantis (R-FL)
- Senator Josh Hawley (R-MO)
- Senator Lindsey Graham (R-SC)
- Rep. Byron Donalds (R-FL)
- Rep. Mary Miller (R-IL)
- Rep. Chip Roy (R-TX)
- Vivek Ramaswamy, 2024 GOP presidential candidate

On Monday at 6:40 p.m., the Bipartisan Policy Center will hold its fourth Senate Project Debate. [More information here.](#) Expected participants include:

- Senator Marco Rubio (R-FL)
- Senator Chris Coons (D-DE)

On Tuesday at 6:00 p.m., New York University, Washington, DC will hold a virtual discussion titled "Abortion Rights and the Future of State Constitutions." [More information here.](#)

Tech-Media-Telecom

On Tuesday at 9:00 a.m., Punchbowl News will hold a discussion on 5G leadership and spectrum policy. [More information here.](#) Expected participants include:

- Rep. August Pfluger (R-TX)

On Tuesday at 10:00 a.m., the House Science, Space and Technology Committee will hold a hearing titled "Chips on the Table: A one year review of the Chips and Science Act." [More information here.](#) Expected participants include:

- Gina Raimondo, secretary, Department of Commerce

On Tuesday at 2:30 p.m., the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee Subcommittee on Emerging Threats and Spending Oversight will hold a hearing titled "Advanced Technology: Examining Threats to National Security."

On Tuesday at 2:30 p.m., the Senate Appropriations Committee Subcommittee on Financial Services and General Government will hold a hearing titled "Review of the FY2024 Budget for the Federal Communications Commission." Expected participants include:

- Jessica Rosenworcel, chair, Federal Communications Commission

On Tuesday at 2:30 p.m., the Senate Select Intelligence Committee will hold a hearing titled "Advancing Intelligence in the Era of Artificial Intelligence: Address the National Security Implications of AI."

On Wednesday at 8:30 a.m., the US Chamber of Commerce will hold its Global Artificial Intelligence (AI) Forum. [More information here.](#) Expected participants include:

- Senator Todd Young (R-IN)

On Thursday at 9:00 a.m., the House Energy and Commerce Committee Subcommittee on Communications and Technology will hold a hearing titled "Connecting Every American: The Future of Rural Broadband Funding."

On Thursday at 10:30 a.m., the Federal Communications Commission will hold an open meeting. [More information here.](#)

Trade

On Monday at 1:00 p.m., the Peterson Institute for International Economics will hold a virtual lecture titled "What Should the 2023 Washington Consensus Be?" [More information here.](#) Expected participants include:

- Lawrence Summers, former secretary, Department of the Treasury

On Wednesday at 2:00 p.m., the Center for Strategic and International Studies will hold a virtual discussion titled "Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP) and the Future of Trade in the Indo-Pacific." [More information here.](#)

On Wednesday at 2:00 p.m., the House Ways and Means Committee Subcommittee on Trade will hold a hearing titled "Reforming the Generalized System of Preferences to Safeguard U.S. Supply Chains and Combat China."

On Thursday at 1:00 p.m., the American Enterprise Institute for Public Policy Research will hold a discussion titled "Digital Trade Rules and the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity." [More information here.](#)

Transportation

On Tuesday at 2:00 p.m., the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee Subcommittee on Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation will hold a hearing titled "Use and Regulation of Autonomous and Experimental Maritime Technologies."

On Wednesday at 10:00 a.m., the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee will hold a hearing titled "Oversight of the Department of Transportation's Policies and Programs." Expected participants include:

- Pete Buttigieg, secretary, Department of Transportation

Afterthoughts

Drinking Liberally: The Distilled Spirits Council of the United States (DISCUS), a trade association for producers of alcoholic beverages, has [opened](#) a new bar in its Capitol Hill headquarters. With room for 200, the space will be made available for event rentals. The bar, still to be formally named by DISCUS, features a decorative display of barrel heads donated by the manufacturer of Jack Daniel's and a letter written by George Washington about the whiskey he produced at Mount Vernon. Chris Swonger, CEO of the organization, told Washingtonian that he, too, spends time tending bar. It's five o'clock on Capitol Hill.

Bye Bye Boebert: Surveillance video from a Denver theater made public this week appears to show Rep. Lauren Boebert (R-CO) [being walked out of the venue](#) by staff. In a statement to CNN, Denver Arts & Venues said that two guests during a production of the musical *Beetlejuice* on Sunday were the subject of complaints from other audience members that they were "vaping, singing, causing a disturbance." They were later removed from the theater after further allegations of being noisy and recording the show. In a Tuesday post on X, formerly Twitter, Boebert [said](#) "I plead guilty to laughing and singing too loud" and asked viewers of the musical to tell her how it ends. Given Boebert's previous career as owner of Shooters Grill, a firearm-themed restaurant in Rifle, CO, perhaps the next Broadway musical she sees will be *Annie Get Your Gun*.



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