



# McDermottPlus Healthcare Preview

WEEK OF MAY 3, 2021

## PRESCRIPTION DRUG FOCUS.

**TWO PRESCRIPTION DRUG HEARINGS IN THE HOUSE.** The Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Health and the House Education and Labor Subcommittee on Health, Employment, Labor, and Pensions will each hold hearings focusing on prescription drug pricing reforms. Both hearings come on the heels of the re-introduction of Democratic and Republican prescription drug reform proposals. Democrats reintroduced [H.R. 3, the Elijah E. Cummings Lower Drug Costs Now Act](#) on April 22, which includes progressive reforms for prescription drug pricing, including allowing Medicare to negotiate drug prices. As a reminder, H.R. 3 passed the House of Representatives on December 12, 2019, by a party-line vote of 230-192, and then died in the Senate. In 2019, the Congressional Budget Office estimated that the price negotiation provisions alone in the bill would save the federal government about \$456 billion over 10 years. Prescription drug reforms included in the Democrats' new version of H.R. 3 are being discussed as offsets to the cost of the upcoming infrastructure packages.

House Republicans also recently reintroduced [the Lower Costs, More Cures Act](#), which serves as a marker for the drug pricing principles of the party. While several of the proposals outlined in this bill may have bipartisan support, most Democrats believe the legislation does not go far enough to control drug prices.

Both bills include updates to the original versions that were introduced in the 116<sup>th</sup> Congress. The Democratic bill removes all spending provisions, and the Republican bill removes all provisions that were signed into law through other legislative vehicles. The hearings this week will review these two bills.

### THIS WEEK IN THE SENATE

The Senate is in recess this week.

### THIS WEEK IN THE HOUSE

#### **House Oversight and Reform Subcommittee on Economic and Consumer Policy**

Tuesday, May 4, 11:00 AM

[The Urgent Need to Reform the Organ Transplantation System to Secure More Organs for Waiting, Ailing, and Dying Patients](#)

#### **House Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Health**

Tuesday, May 4, 11:30 AM

[Negotiating a Better Deal: Legislation to Lower the Cost of Prescription Drugs](#)

#### **House Education and Labor Subcommittee on Health, Employment, Labor, and Pensions**

Wednesday, May 5, 12:00 PM

[Lower Drug Costs Now: Expanding Access to Affordable Health Care](#)

#### **House Committee on Oversight and Reform**

Thursday, May 6, 11:00 AM

[Birthing While Black: Examining America's Black Maternal Health Crisis](#)

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