

Health Policy Update November 2025

Appropriations Updates

After 43 days, the House voted to pass a continuing resolution (CR) to reopen the government, effectively ending the longest government shutdown in US history. With a vote of 222-209, six democrats joined the House Republicans in voting in favor of the bill, while two Republicans voted against it. The CR extends government funding through January 30 and includes a three-bill minibus of full-year appropriations bills for the Department of Agriculture and the FDA, the Department of Veterans Affairs and Military Construction Projects, and the Legislative Branch. The bill includes an extension of telehealth flexibilities that were put on hold during the shutdown and includes retroactive payment for telehealth services performed during this time. Additionally, this bill includes a blanket prohibition on reductions in force in any department or agency until January 30 and rescinds reductions that occurred during the shutdown.

Although the Republicans refused to include any provisions on the Affordable Care Act (ACA) subsidies that was the crux of the shutdown, 8 democrats in the Senate voted with the Republicans on the new CR to pass the bill with a vote of 60-40. As part of the Democrats' agreement to vote for the CR, Senate Majority Leader John Thune (R-SD) promised them a Senate floor vote in December on legislation to extend the ACA tax subsidies.

Looking forward, Republicans are putting together an end-of-year health package, and the Senate Finance Committee is holding a hearing next Wednesday to discuss other health care priorities, found [here](#). However, Democrats seem unwilling to work with Republicans on any of their priorities if the enhanced ACA tax subsidies that expire on December 31, are not addressed.

Administration Updates

The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) [announced](#), on November 10, that it will work to restore "gold-standard science" to women's health by having the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) remove broad "black box" warnings from hormone replacement therapy products for menopause. In the press conference about this announcement Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr., and FDA Commissioner Marty Makary stated that the warning of increased risk of breast cancer linked to hormone replacement therapy is based on a non-statistically significant study and should be removed from the box. The goal is to increase the usage of hormone replacement therapy in women going through menopause. The reaction from advocates and experts was mixed, with some noting continued concern of cancer risk. Commissioner Makary has also noted that it will take some time for the changes to be seen by the public.

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