

GOP Wants Price Transparency as Dems Ready Their Health Agenda

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Erin Durkin

Health policy reporter

Victoria Knight

Reporter

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- Congressional Republicans want to focus on healthcare price transparency policies to make their mark on healthcare affordability solutions.
- Republicans, including Sen. Roger Marshall and House Energy and Commerce Chair Brett Guthrie, are pushing for policies that require hospitals and providers to publicly post standard charges for services.
- Democrats are eyeing a broad agenda, including restoring Affordable Care Act enhanced subsidies and reversing Medicaid cuts, if they retake the majority, with some also considering larger changes like Medicare for All or a public option.

Congressional Republicans want to make their mark on healthcare affordability solutions before potentially losing their governing trifecta next year.

In conversations with a handful of Republicans on Capitol Hill before they departed for the July 4 recess, one common theme emerged as a target: healthcare price transparency policies. Democrats meanwhile argue their counterparts have slashed spending on crucial healthcare programs that are causing prices to rise, and they're readying their agenda to possibly reverse conservative policies.

"We should focus on bringing down the cost of healthcare," said Sen. [Roger Marshall](#) (R-Kan.), who [could be in line](#) for the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee gavel next year.

Marshall pointed specifically to his bipartisan measure ([S. 2355](#)) to require hospitals and other providers to publicly post standard charges for services.

Two GOP chairs of key health panels in both the House and Senate — current Senate HELP Chair [Bill Cassidy](#) (R-La.) and House Energy and Commerce Chair [Brett Guthrie](#) (R-Ky.) — have said **that price transparency is big on their agendas** for the remainder of the year.

“People ought to know what, like insulin, what it really costs the system,” Guthrie said.

Republicans previously tried to advance a health price transparency bill in 2023, when the House passed the Lower Costs, More Transparency Act ([H.R. 5378](#)) with bipartisan support, but the Senate never took it up.

But House Energy and Commerce Health Subcommittee Chair [Morgan Griffith](#) (R-Va.) said a lot of policy goals likely will have to wait until after the midterm elections, casting doubt that Democrats will help.

“You’re in the minority, do you want to vote for something that might help the majority stay in the majority?” he said.

Democrats’ Plans

House Democrats, meanwhile, are eyeing a broad agenda — from restoring Affordable Care Act enhanced subsidies to reversing Medicaid cuts — if they retake the majority.

Rep. [Brendan Boyle](#) (D-Pa.), who is poised to get the House Budget Committee chair, said he was laser-focused on “reversing all of the draconian healthcare cuts. Frankly, that can’t come soon enough.”

That was echoed by Ways and Means ranking member Rep. [Richard Neal](#) (D-Mass.), who added that Democrats should “try to put our foot into the water about long-term care.”

Neal said as life expectancy increases, “that’s going to mean more dementia, that’s going to mean more problems in older age.”

Meanwhile, Rep. [Rosa DeLauro](#) (D-Conn.), ranking member of the House Appropriations Committee, said she would prioritize opposing a **proposed Trump administration rule** that would require political appointees to review health and biomedical research grants to ensure they align with the president’s priorities, putting funding “through a political filter rather than a scientific filter.”

Rep. [Frank Pallone](#) (D-N.J.), ranking member of the House Energy and Commerce Committee, said Democrats shouldn’t be satisfied with incrementalism alone.

“We have to look into other changes, whether it’s Medicare for All or it’s a public option,” he said.

“Because people want to see major changes. They’re not happy with the system.”

To contact the reporters on this story: **Erin Durkin** in Washington
at edurkin@bloombergindustry.com; Victoria Knight in Washington
at vknight@bloombergindustry.com