

The Washington Debrief will not be published on May 26 due to the Memorial Day holiday. Publication will resume on June 2.



THE WASHINGTON DEBRIEF



May 19, 2025

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Webinars and Member Engagement



CHIME Sponsors Congressional Briefing on the MATCH IT Act

Key Takeaway: Last week, CHIME, alongside other founding members of the [Patient ID Now coalition](#), sponsored a Congressional briefing to educate Hill staffers on H.R. 2002, the MATCH IT Act. The MATCH IT Act is a bipartisan bill that was reintroduced earlier this year by Rep. Mike Kelly (R-PA) and Rep. Bill Foster (D-IL) that seeks to improve patient matching in healthcare and is supported by over 20 organizations. Read a summary of the bill [here](#).

Why It Matters: The panel included CHIME member Steve Hughes, Senior Vice President and CTO of Mary Washington Healthcare, who is pictured with the team above, and featured opening remarks from Rep. Bill Foster. If you think your organization would like to

Congressional

CHIME Joins Stakeholder Letter in Support of CISA 2015 Reauthorization

Key Takeaway: Ahead of a [hearing](#) in the House Homeland Security Committee, CHIME and 51 other stakeholders representing nearly every sector of the U.S. economy, sent a letter to Capitol Hill urging Congress to reauthorize the Cybersecurity Information Sharing Act of 2015 (CISA 2015) before it expires on September 30, 2025.

Why It Matters: Congress passed CISA 2015 with bipartisan support from both parties and the administration. This important cybersecurity law enables private entities to increase their protection of data, devices, and computer systems while promoting the sharing of cyber threat information with industry and government partners within a secure policy and legal framework. The law also provides protections for businesses related to public disclosure, regulatory issues, and antitrust matters to promote the timely exchange of information between public and private entities.

[Read the Letter Here](#)

E&C Concludes Reconciliation Markup

Key Takeaway: On May 13 and 14, the House Energy & Commerce (E&C) Committee held a [markup](#) ([majority staff memo](#)) on the GOP's reconciliation package, taking up the health section ([Subtitle D](#)) after first debating the energy, environment, and communications subtitles. The markup followed months of internal GOP negotiations to craft a package aligned with policy priorities outlined in their \$1.5 trillion budget resolution passed in April.

Why It Matters: The E&C Committee was tasked with delivering more than half of the required savings — \$880 billion — primarily through Medicaid reforms. The bill text, released just days before the markup, includes provisions projected to generate approximately \$912 billion in total savings, with \$715 billion attributed to the health subtitle alone. However, the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) [projects](#) that these policies would lead to at least 8.6 million people losing Medicaid coverage over the next decade.

The nearly 27-hour markup featured highly partisan debate centered on the proposal's sweeping Medicaid reforms, including mandatory work requirements for able-bodied adults, restrictions on provider taxes, delayed implementation of recent Centers for Medicare and Medicaid (CMS) rules, and the removal of coverage for undocumented immigrants. Republicans argued the bill would reduce fraud, reprioritize eligibility, and strengthen long-term solvency of the program, while Democrats warned it would impose new bureaucratic hurdles, drive up uncompensated care, and lead to millions of people losing coverage.

A total of 190 Democratic amendments were filed on the health subtitle, with 21 offered during the markup — all rejected on party-line votes. Debate spanned a wide range of issues, including concerns over coverage disruptions, the bill's treatment of reproductive and maternal health providers, potential hospital closures, and disagreements over how projected savings should be reinvested. Despite strong Democratic opposition, the health subtitle was advanced to the Budget Committee by a 30-24 vote, mirroring the vote on the full package (Subtitles A–D), which was also approved along party lines.

What's Next: The reconciliation package passed out of the House Budget Committee late last night by a vote of 17-16-4, with 4 Republicans voting "present" in order to get the bill out of Committee. The House hopes to pass the "one big, beautiful" this week, however

there are still outstanding disagreements within the Republican Conference over the state and local tax (SALT) deduction cap, culling various clean energy tax credits from the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA), and cutting public benefit programs like Medicaid and SNAP. Additional [modifications](#) to the text have already been filed with the House Rules Committee, and more changes are possible as leadership looks to shore up the whip count in the razor-tight House. To that end, there is a chance that Speaker Mike Johnson (R-LA) cancels next week's Memorial Day district work period if the reconciliation bill does not pass this week.

Children's Online Privacy Bill Reintroduced in Senate

Key Takeaway: Last week, Senators Marsha Blackburn (R-TN) and Richard Blumenthal (D-CT) were joined by U.S. Senate Majority Leader John Thune (R-SD) and U.S. Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-NY) in introducing the bipartisan [Kids Online Privacy Act \(KOSA\)](#).

Why It Matters: According to the bill's sponsors, KOSA ([bill text](#)) would provide young people and parents with the tools, safeguards, and transparency they need to protect against online harms. Learn about the specifics [here](#). In July, KOSA passed the Senate by 91-3, but failed to receive a vote in the House.

Federal

Treasury Secretary Sends Letter to Hill on "X-Date"

Key Takeaway: Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent sent a [letter](#) to Speaker Mike Johnson (R-LA) on May 9th to provide an update regarding the debt limit "X-Date." The term X-Date refers to the date in which the federal government exhausts its ability to borrow money.

Why It Matters: The letter states that "after reviewing receipts from the recent April tax filing season, there is a reasonable probability that the federal government's cash and extraordinary measures will be exhausted in August while Congress is scheduled to be in recess." As a result, Bessent urges Congress to increase or suspend the debt limit in mid-July before it breaks for August recess.

CMS Releases RFI on Health Technology Ecosystem

Key Takeaway: The Department of Health and Human Services' (HHS) CMS, in coordination with the Assistant Secretary for Technology Policy/Office of the National Coordinator for Health IT (ASTP/ONC), has issued a [Request for Information \(RFI\)](#) on the Health Technology Ecosystem. You can find the press release [here](#). The RFI has been issued to support the goal of the effective and responsible use of technology to empower patients to make more informed decisions about their health and well-being.

Why It Matters: The RFI seeks input from the public on the digital health product landscape for Medicare beneficiaries, as well as the state of data interoperability and broader health technology infrastructure. Feedback received will help inform future CMS and ASTP/ONC efforts to strengthen digital health infrastructure, improve access to effective digital tools, and expand data availability to all stakeholders working to improve health outcomes. Comments are due June 16.

HHS, FDA Issue RFI on Deregulatory Plan to Lower Costs and Empower Providers

Key Takeaway: HHS and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) [announced](#) the launch of a public RFI to identify and eliminate outdated or unnecessary regulations. The initiative is part of a broader federal effort to reduce regulatory burdens and increase

transparency, in alignment with President Trump's [Executive Order \(EO\) 14192](#), "Unleashing Prosperity Through Deregulation."

Why It Matters: Under the directive, HHS Secretary Robert F. Kennedy, Jr. has committed the Department to a "10-to-1" deregulatory policy: for every new regulation proposed, at least ten existing regulatory actions will be rescinded. The effort is designed to lower the cost of living, remove bureaucratic barriers, and allow health care providers to devote more time and resources to patient care. "To Make America Healthy Again, we must free our doctors and caregivers to do what they do best—prevent and treat chronic disease," said Secretary Kennedy.

Statement from Secretary of Commerce Lutnick on the Tech Hubs Program

Key Takeaway: Secretary of Commerce Howard Lutnick released a [press statement](#) on the Tech Hubs Program – passed by Congress in 2022 to strengthen U.S. economic and national security by commercializing the technologies of the future. You can find a Fact Sheet on the Tech Hubs Program [here](#).

Why It Matters: The press statement reads, in part, "At my direction, the Commerce Department is revamping the Tech Hubs program to prioritize national security, project quality, benefit to the taxpayer, and a fair process. The EDA will release a new notice of funding opportunity this summer with the goal of announcing selections in early 2026. To be clear, this decision is not an indictment of the work that the previously selected Tech Hubs are doing. They can compete for funding alongside all other prospective applicants. [...] The process will be transparent, fair, and ensure that the American taxpayers are investing in the best technological advancements to bolster the growth of critical industries in the United States."

Cybersecurity

Health Sector Publishes Report on the Cybersecurity Plight and Needs of America's Resource-Constrained Healthcare Providers

Key Takeaway: According to a report issued by the Healthcare and Public Health Sector Coordinating Council (HSCC) Cybersecurity Working Group (CWG), America's resource-constrained healthcare providers face significant challenges in managing cybersecurity due to limited workforce and expertise, outdated systems, and insufficient funding. The report – "[On the Edge: Cybersecurity Health of America's Resource-Constrained Health Providers](#)," examines how resource-constrained healthcare systems across the country – are only marginally prepared for ongoing cyber threats to clinical care and operational liquidity, and recommends forms of support they would need against stiffer cybersecurity regulatory requirements.

Why It Matters: The healthcare industry is now targeted by more cyber adversaries seeking monetary gain than any other industry sector in the U.S, and our nation's resource-constrained providers skate on the razor's edge between maintaining clinical care or going out of business from a cyberattack. "On the Edge" summarizes HSCC interviews with 40 executives of small, rural, critical access, FQHC, skilled nursing facilities and more in 30 states across the country, exploring how they approach their cybersecurity responsibilities and what kind of government and community support would be meaningful to strengthening their cyber health.

FBI Releases PSA Concerning Senior US Officials Impersonated in Malicious Messaging Campaign

Key Takeaway: The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) has issued [a Public Service Announcement \(PSA\)](#) warning about a sophisticated malicious messaging campaign in

which threat actors are impersonating senior U.S. government officials. Since April 2025, attackers have used smishing (malicious text messages) and vishing (AI-generated voice messages) to target current and former federal and state officials, as well as their contacts. These messages aim to build trust before tricking individuals into clicking malicious links or transitioning to other messaging platforms where login credentials or sensitive data can be stolen. Once attackers gain access to a personal or official account, they may use it to impersonate the victim and target others in their network.

Why It Matters: The campaign leverages advanced social engineering, including AI-generated voices and publicly available photos, to make impersonations more convincing. Threat actors often use phone numbers that are difficult to trace and can mimic the tone, vocabulary, and even voice patterns of known individuals. The FBI recommends verifying any unexpected messages or calls independently, avoiding clicking on suspicious links or downloading attachments, and never sharing sensitive information or authentication codes via text or voice message.

Artificial Intelligence

FDA Announces Completion of First AI-Assisted Scientific Review Pilot and Aggressive Agency-Wide AI Rollout Timeline

Key Takeaway: FDA Commissioner Martin A. Makary, M.D., M.P.H., [announced](#) an aggressive timeline to scale use of artificial intelligence (AI) internally across all FDA centers by June 30, 2025, following the completion of a new generative AI pilot for scientific reviewers. The generative AI tools allow FDA scientists and subject-matter experts to spend less time on tedious, repetitive tasks that often slow down the review process. Work will continue to expand use cases, improve functionality and adapt to the evolving needs of each center after June 30. By that date, all centers will be operating on a common, secure generative AI system integrated with FDA's internal data platforms.

Why It Matters: The FDA plans to expand generative AI capabilities—across all centers using a secure, unified platform. Future enhancements will focus on improving usability, expanding document integration, and tailoring outputs to center-specific needs, while maintaining strict information security and compliance with FDA policy. The agency-wide rollout is being coordinated by Jeremy Walsh, the FDA's newly appointed Chief AI Officer and Sridhar Mantha. The agency will continue to assess performance, gather user feedback and refine features to support the evolving needs of FDA staff and advance its public health mission; additional details and updates on the initiative will be shared publicly in June.

Policy Team Picks of the Week

- [Don't let DOGE destroy CISA](#) (CyberScoop, May 19)
- [GAO thwarts attempt by DOGE to set up a team within the watchdog](#) (FedScoop, May 16)
- [RFK Jr to Lean on AI to Bolster Cyber, Health IT at Agencies](#) (HealthInfoSec, May 14)
- [EU Vulnerability Database Officially Launches Amid CVE Program Concerns](#) (CyberExpress, May 13)
- [Don't Cut Medicaid Op-Ed by Sen. Josh Hawley \(R-MO\)](#) (The New York Times, May 12)



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