

What's Next for President Biden?

On Wednesday, President Joe Biden revealed his next big priority: The American Jobs Plan as he looks to make another big legislative push after passing the American Rescue Plan via budget reconciliation earlier in March. The American Jobs Plan contains many provisions focused on the climate crisis and building up the Nation's infrastructure, providing a potential framework for the next budget reconciliation bill.

Republicans in both the House of Representatives and the Senate have voiced their opposition to the plan even before it was released. They hope to campaign on the tax and spending increases that are proposed in the plan during the 2022 midterm elections, with the goal of retaking the majority in both the House and the Senate. Because of the opposition of Republicans, the Biden administration will likely once again have to use the budget reconciliation process to pass any sort of infrastructure legislation.

Budget reconciliation will require united support from Democrats all across the ideological spectrum, with some progressive Democrats calling for \$2 trillion in climate change investments alone. Additionally, each member will have different and varying priorities that they will want included, which will likely lead to a drawn out negotiating process that will not have the speed and urgency of the American Rescue Plan.

While it is expected that infrastructure will now be the Biden administration's main focus, that does not mean that social policy such as health care will go out the window. It is expected that President Biden will unveil his health care plan sometime in April, making it entirely possible that major health care policy will be attached to any budget reconciliation legislation.

What Will President Biden Do About Drug Prices?

According to a recent Politico Pro analysis, drug prices have risen over the last few years even though it has been a popular campaign issue for members of both parties, including for both President's Trump and Biden. List prices only rose 4.5% for 832 branded and generic drugs in January 2021, compared to a 6% rise in January 2019, and a 5.2% rise in January 2018. However, while the prices continue to rise, the rate of increase slowed significantly throughout the Trump presidency due to his rhetoric and actions against the pharmaceutical industry. President Trump issued a number of executive actions that sought to lower drug prices. However, none of his proposals made it over the finish line, they were struck down by the courts or put on pause by the Biden administration.

Pharmaceutical companies have continually stated that any significant drug pricing reform will lead to slowing their ability to innovate new medicines and treatments. This argument has been consistent since drug pricing reform was put on the table.

President Biden has yet to release his own plan on how to lower drug prices, despite using the issue to campaign on during the Presidential election. As the next COVID-19 relief package draws closer, we can expect the conversation on drug pricing legislation to ratchet up between Congress and the administration.

You can view the full Politico Pro analysis [HERE](#) with a Politico Pro subscription. If you do not have a subscription, please don't hesitate to reach out and PRG will provide you with a copy.

H.R. 3 – Not Dead Yet

House Democrats are planning a “kitchen sink” approach for the next budget reconciliation package. This could possibly include infrastructure, climate change provisions, immigration reform, and drug pricing legislation.

House Democrats are talking about including H.R. 3 – Elijah E. Cummings Lower Drug Costs Now Act, the House Democrat's sweeping drug pricing legislation from the 116th Congress, in the next reconciliation bill. Should this legislation be included, it would be a huge win for Democrats and President Biden. Additionally, passing this sweeping legislation would allow Democrats to campaign on taking action against rising drug prices during the 2022 midterm elections. However, even if House Democrats can't get all Democrats on board to support H.R. 3, there are a number of other more moderate drug pricing proposals that could potentially be included.

Below is a quick refresher as to what is included in H.R. 3.

[H.R. 3- Elijah E. Cummings Lower Drug Costs Now Act](#)

The Seven Titles in the bill are:

- Lowering Prices Through Fair Drug Price Negotiation
- Medicare Parts B and D Prescription Drug Inflation Rebates
- Part D Improvements and Maximum Out-of-Pocket Cap for Medicare Beneficiaries
- Drug Price Transparency
- Program Improvements for Medicare Low-Income Beneficiaries
- Providing for Dental, Vision, and Hearing Coverage Under the Medicare Program
- NIH, FDA, and Opioids Funding

What does the bill do?

- The legislation has the Health and Human Services Department (HHS) directly negotiate the prices of the most expensive drugs, biological products, and insulin.

- The measure would cap the prices of the selected drugs at 120 percent the average price in Australia, Canada, France, Germany, Japan, and the United Kingdom. For reference, President Trump proposed a slightly less stringent price cap of 126 percent.
- The bill would require drug manufacturers to pay rebates to Medicare for drug price increases that exceed inflation.
- The legislation would create a \$2,000 out-of-pocket cap for Medicare prescription drug plan beneficiaries.

How would price negotiations work?

- HHS would establish a Fair Price Negotiation Program that identifies “negotiation eligible drugs.”
- In 2023, the first year of the plan, HHS would publish a list of 25 drugs and biological products, along with insulin, that will be subject to negotiations.
- From 2024 onward, HHS will have to select at least 50 drugs to negotiate.
- HHS would select drugs with the greatest potential to result in savings for the government or individuals. It would do this by comparing the drug’s price in the US versus its average international price.
- Drugs subject to negotiation would be selected from a list of 125 drugs with the greatest net spending under Medicare Advantage, Medicare Part D, and an additional list of 125 drugs with the greatest overall spending in the US.
- HHS would then negotiate a “maximum fair price,” which is not to exceed 120 percent of the average international price. The maximum fair price would consider the manufacturer’s research and development (R&D) costs, unit costs of production and distribution, and comparison to existing therapeutic alternatives.
- If a drug lacks international price information, the maximum fair price would be capped at no more than 85 percent of the average manufacturer price.
- If a manufacturer sells above the maximum fair price, it would be subject to a civil monetary penalty equal to ten times the difference between the price they charged and the maximum fair price amount. Additionally, each violation of a fair price agreement could be subject to a civil penalty not to exceed \$1 million.
- If manufacturers do not enter an agreement with HHS, H.R. 3 would impose a non-deductible excise tax on the company for the days they sell the selected drug outside of an agreement.

How does this affect brain tumor drugs?

The bill would cap the prices of the most expensive drugs sold in the US. ***To the extent that brain tumor drugs qualify as such, then H.R. 3 would reduce their prices.*** The bill applies to Medicare plans, which cover cancers drugs through parts B and D—both would be subject to negotiation.

Drug manufacturers will argue that lower drug prices will undermine the innovation necessary to find new breakthrough drugs to treat conditions like brain cancer. Consumer advocates will say that the bill increases access to life-saving medicine. With regard to the claim that the bill would hurt new drug development, the legislation contains provisions that account for R&D costs and innovation when negotiating the maximum fair price. This combined with the fact

that manufacturers sell the same drug for less abroad undermines the claim that high prices are necessary for innovative drug development. Consequently, do not expect research into brain tumor drugs to suffer as a result of lower drug prices.

The Congressional Budget Office estimated that the plan would lower spending by \$456 billion over ten years with the inflation rebates saving another \$36 billion. But it would also result in eight fewer new drugs being introduced to the US market over that same period.

President Biden's Health and Human Services Leadership Takes Shape

President Biden's pick for HHS Secretary, Xavier Becerra, was confirmed by the Senate on Thursday, March 18, 2021. His confirmation makes him the first Latino HHS Secretary. The confirmation vote was narrow, with Becerra being confirmed favorably 50-49 with Sen. Susan Collins (R-ME) voting with the Democrats. Republicans generally did not support Becerra due to his views on abortion rights and lack of experience in the health care space.

In addition to Secretary Becerra, a number of top health officials were confirmed throughout the month of March. Dr. Vivek Murthy, President Biden's pick for Surgeon General, was confirmed and then subsequently sworn in on March 25th. Murthy previously served as Surgeon General in the Obama administration.

Dr. Rachel Levine, President Biden's pick for Assistant Secretary of Health, was also confirmed by the U.S. Senate on March 24th by a vote of 52-48, with Senators Lisa Murkowski (R-AK) and Susan Collins (R-ME) voting with the Democrats. She is the first transgender official to be confirmed by the Senate in the Nation's history.

H-1B Visa Program Update

On March 3, 2021, Senator Chuck Grassley (R-IA), Ranking Member of the Senate Judiciary Committee, joined the committee's chair, Senator Dick Durbin (D-Ill.), in sending a letter to the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) urging the agency to retain and expeditiously implement the H-1B selection rule published on January 8, 2021. This comes after President Biden has yet to make a move to reverse some of the Trump administration's immigration rules that were issued during his final days in office.

It is widely speculated that immigration reform could be a significant portion of the next budget reconciliation package, utilizing the framework President Biden released on his first day in office. His framework was subsequently turned into the U.S. Citizen Act of 2021 and introduced into both Chambers of Congress by Rep. Linda Sanchez (D-CA) and Senator Bob Menendez (D-NJ). You can view the framework [HERE](#).

PRG will continue to monitor this issue and provide updates as necessary.

What's Going on With President Trump's Flurry of Final Rules?

Former President Trump issued a number of health related rules and regulations in the final days of his administration. On President Biden's first day in office, he issued an Executive Order

that stopped, or put a pause, on any regulation that was finalized in the final days of the Trump administration. Consequently, there are a number of health related regulations that are currently in limbo, with the Biden administration having not made a decision as to whether they will move forward. Below you will find relevant health related regulations and their current status.

Regulation encouraging primary-care coordination for seriously ill Medicare beneficiaries

The model was originally set to kick off on April 1, 2021.

Status: Delayed as of March 8.

Regulation establishing an alternative payment model for rural health

Status: Application deadline extended through May 11, 2021.

Regulation barring PBMs from keeping Medicare Part D drug rebates

Status: On pause. The rule now won't fully take effect until at least Jan. 1, 2023.

Regulation cutting 340B drug discounts

Status: On pause as of March 19. The rule was slated to take effect Mar. 22. But the Biden administration delayed its effective date until July 20.

Regulation changing outpatient drug prices

Status: No action yet.

Regulation expanding value-based drug pricing

Status: No action yet.

Regulation covering breakthrough medical devices

Status: On pause until May 15, 2021. The Biden administration will continue to take comments on the proposed rule until April 17, 2021.

You can find the full list of regulations and more information about each [HERE](#).

Up to Date List of Drug Related Legislation for the 117th Congress

- [H.R. 2148](#)
This bill, introduced by Rep. Ro Khanna (D-CA) on March 23, 2021, aims to significantly lower prescription drug prices for patients in the United States by ending government-granted monopolies for manufacturers who charge drug prices that are higher than the median prices at which the drugs are available in other countries.

- [S. 909](#)
This bill, introduced by Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-VT) on March 23, 2021, aims to significantly lower prescription drug prices for patients in the United States by ending government-granted monopolies for manufacturers who charge drug prices that are higher than the median prices at which the drugs are available in other countries.
- [S. 898](#)
This bill, introduced by Sen. Tammy Baldwin (D-WI) on March 23, 2021, requires reporting regarding certain drug price increases, and for other purposes.
- [S. 833](#)
This bill, introduced by Sen. Amy Klobuchar (D-MN) on March 18, 2021, amends XVII of the Social Security Act to allow the Secretary of Health and Human Services to negotiate fair prescription drug prices under part D of the Medicare program.
- [H.R. 597](#)
This bill, introduced by Re. Jan Schakowsky (D-IL) on January 28, 2021, requires any COVID-19 drug developed in whole or in part with Federal support to be affordable and accessible by prohibiting monopolies and price gouging, and for other purposes.
- [S. 141](#)
This bill, introduced by Sen. Jeanne Shaheen (D-NH) on January 28, 2021, amends the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to deny the deduction for advertising and promotional expenses for prescription drugs.
- [H.R. 153](#)
This bill, introduced by Rep. Bobby Rush (D-IL) on January 4, 2021, prohibits brand name drug manufacturers from compensating generic drug manufacturers to delay the entry of a generic drug into the market, and to prohibit biological product manufacturers from compensating biosimilar and interchangeable product manufacturers to delay entry of biosimilar and interchangeable products, and for other purposes.

In The News

[Axios](#) (3/25/2021): **Hospitals still in "survival mode"** - A year into the pandemic, hospitals say they're still in "survival mode," according to a new report from the Health and Human Services Department's inspector general.

[Modern Healthcare](#) (3/25/2021): **How burnout and supply chain issues impact hospital quality and safety** - Hospitals across the country have struggled with overload issues throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, and they've left a mark on quality and safety.

[Modern Healthcare](#) (3/25/2021): **Uber to expand its prescription delivery service** - Ridesharing company Uber is making a bigger investment into healthcare with plans to expand its prescription medication delivery service that started last August.

[Politico](#) (3/24/2021): **BIDEN GETS HIS SURGEON GENERAL** — Murthy was confirmed by the Senate Tuesday, winning votes from seven Republican senators in addition to every Democrat and independent, POLITICO's Alice Miranda Ollstein reports. Murthy also served as surgeon general during the tail end of the Obama administration and has since been a close Biden confidant.

[The Hill](#) (3/24/2021): **Senate confirms first openly transgender official, approving Levine for HHS** - The Senate on Wednesday confirmed Rachel Levine to be assistant secretary for health at the Department of Health and Human Services, making her the first openly transgender official ever approved by the upper chamber.

[Politico](#) (3/24/2021): **OBAMACARE'S PANDEMIC ENROLLMENT PERIOD ROLLS ON** — The Biden administration is lengthening the special enrollment period it opened for the pandemic, POLITICO's Rachel Roubein reports. That means would-be enrollees will get until Aug. 15 to choose their plans.

[The Hill](#) (3/24/2021): **Uber expanding prescription deliveries** - The ride-sharing forum said in a blog post that it is partnering with prescription drug delivery service ScriptDrop on a partnership that would allow pharmacies in 37 states to offer delivery services.

[Politico](#) (3/23/2021): **BIDEN CELEBRATES 11 YEARS OF THE ACA** — The administration is dispatching top officials across the country to mark the 11th anniversary of Obamacare's passage and promote expansions to the health law codified as part of Democrats' Covid aid package. And BIDEN himself is headed to Ohio to promote Obamacare on a visit to a cancer center.

[The Hill](#) (3/23/2021): **Vivek Murthy confirmed as surgeon general** - The Senate voted Tuesday to confirm Vivek Murthy to be President Biden's surgeon general, handing the administration one of its top public health officials amid the coronavirus pandemic.

[The Hill](#) (3/23/2021): **Pelosi: Drug pricing measure under discussion for infrastructure package** - Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) on Tuesday said that lawmakers are discussing including legislation to lower prescription drug prices as part of the next major legislative package, centered on infrastructure.

[The Hill](#) (3/23/2021): **Obama ties Biden priorities to ObamaCare anniversary: 'We've still got more work to do'** - Former President Obama tied President Biden's priorities to expand health care access to the 11th anniversary of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) on Monday, noting that, "We've still got more work to do."

[Politico](#) (3/22/2021): **BECERRA TAPS ADVISER LOVENHEIM AS TOP HHS SPOKESPERSON** — Becerra will make longtime aide Sarah Lovenheim the department's top spokesperson. Lovenheim spent the past four years working for Becerra while he served as California attorney general, and she was a lead figure in promoting the office's dozens of legal challenges to Trump-era policies.

[Politico](#) (3/22/2021): **FIRST IN PULSE: HERE'S WHO WILL SHAPE HHS' COVID MESSAGING** — Newly confirmed HHS Secretary Xavier Becerra has brought on Kristina Schake as his counselor for

strategic communications, POLITICO's Adam Cancryn reports. Schake will direct HHS' public education campaign around the pandemic response, with a specific focus on its effort to vaccinate millions of Americans.

[Politico](#) (3/22/2021): **DEMOCRATS TARGET DRUG PRICES FOR NEXT BIG BILL** — House Democratic leaders are thinking of using the same arcane budget process that allowed Democrats to pass Biden's coronavirus aid bill without any GOP votes to muscle through other top priorities, POLITICO's Sarah Ferris reports.

[Modern Healthcare](#) (3/19/2021): **Senate narrowly confirms Becerra as HHS secretary** - The Senate narrowly confirmed President Joe Biden's nominee to lead HHS, with almost all Republicans voting no.

[Politico](#) (3/19/2021): **REMOTE MONITORING FOR MOMS** — A bipartisan group of senators has revived a bill aimed at increasing access to technology that allows doctors to monitor patients' health remotely and offer virtual care. Sens. Bill Cassidy (R-La.), Maggie Hassan (D-N.H.), Tom Carper (D-Del.), Todd Young (R-Ind.) and Jacky Rosen (D-Nev.) Connected Maternal Online Monitoring Services Act pushes CMS to recommend coverage for, and help states expand use of, devices that measure blood pressure, blood glucose and heart rate.

[Modern Healthcare](#) (3/18/2021): **CMS ends policy allowing some Medicare Part D plans to cover fewer drugs** - The Trump administration hoped additional flexibilities would encourage more plans to take part in the Part D Payment Modernization model. But the Biden administration killed the changes after pushback from patients, providers and politicians.

[The Hill](#) (3/18/2021): **Senate confirms Becerra in tight vote with just one GOP defection** - The Senate on Thursday narrowly confirmed Xavier Becerra as secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) by a 50-49 vote.

[Modern Healthcare](#) (3/18/2021): **'Medicare for All' introduced with support of key House members** - Rep. Pramila Jayapal (D-Wash.) and other members of the Congressional Progressive Caucus reintroduced "Medicare for All," and have secured promised hearings on the proposal.

[Politico](#) (3/18/2021): **BECERRA ON THE VERGE OF CONFIRMATION** — The Senate will vote at noon to confirm California Attorney General Xavier Becerra to helm HHS, at last filling a key post in Biden's Cabinet. The vote is likely to be a narrow one, with the vast majority of Republicans objecting to his confirmation. But Becerra appears to have the votes, on the strength of support from Sens. Joe Manchin (D-W.Va.) and Susan Collins (R-Maine).

[Politico](#) (3/18/2021): **How the bitter political fight over painkillers could derail Biden's FDA pick** - Joe Biden's pick to head the Food and Drug Administration was supposed to be an easy one.

[The Hill](#) (3/19/2021): **Amazon to expand virtual health program nationwide** - Amazon on Wednesday announced plans to dive into the health care industry by expanding its telemedicine program into a service available to other employers nationwide.

[Modern Healthcare](#) (3/16/2021): **The boom in out-of-state telehealth threatens in-state providers** - A year into the pandemic, telehealth has become widely accepted. Some states are

now looking to make permanent the measures that have fueled its growth. But with it have come some unintended consequences.

[Modern Healthcare](#) (3/16/2021): **MedPAC cautious on permanent telehealth expansion** - The Medicare Payment Advisory Commission recommended that policymakers continue some expanded telehealth services for one to two years after the public health emergency ends to allow for studies on telehealth's effects on Medicare access, quality, cost and fraud.

[Axios](#) (3/16/2021): **Virtual mental health visits skyrocketed** - Virtual behavioral health visits in the first half of 2020 were hundreds of times higher than the year before, according to a new analysis by Well Being Trust and Milliman.

[Politico](#) (3/16/2021): **SURVEY: THOUSANDS OF FOREIGN NURSES WAITING ON VISA APPROVALS** — More than 5,000 foreign nurses say their attempts to secure visas to work in the U.S. have stalled at U.S. embassies around the world, according to a new survey from the American Association of International Healthcare Recruitment.

[Politico](#) (3/16/2021): **PROGRESSIVES MAKE PANDEMIC SINGLE-PAYER PUSH** — House progressives led by Rep. Pramila Jayapal (D-Wash.) will reintroduce their “Medicare for All” legislation on Wednesday. But ahead of the rollout, advocacy group Public Citizen is previewing its newest argument in favor: Private insurance made the pandemic worse.

[Politico](#) (3/16/2021): **SANDERS PLOTS DRUG PRICE HEARING** — Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.) will hold a hearing on rising drug prices next week in front of the Senate HELP subcommittee he chairs, staffers tell POLITICO’s Susannah Luthi. The March 25 session will focus on the prices Americans pay for drugs compared with their costs abroad.

[Modern Healthcare](#) (3/12/2021): **Democrats muscle ahead with Biden's health secretary pick** - As California's attorney general, Xavier Becerra specialized in trying to block Trump administration actions, filing nine lawsuits alone on Trump's final full day in office and taking the administration to court more than 120 times in four years.

[Politico](#) (3/11/2021): **Biden's new Covid workplace rules set to collide with reopenings** - The Biden administration is expected to issue new temporary rules next week to curb Covid-19 spread in the workplace, setting a collision course with the growing number of states loosening restrictions on businesses to aid their reopening.

[Politico](#) (3/11/2021): **Biden signs \$1.9 trillion Covid relief bill** - President Joe Biden on Thursday signed into law the \$1.9 trillion coronavirus relief package, sealing his first significant legislative achievement in office.

[Modern Healthcare](#) (3/11/2021): **Surprise billing ban details yet to be determined, leaving industry fights to come** - The No Surprises Act effectively banned balance billing. But the battle isn't over yet, as federal regulators still have a lot of details to work out before the law takes effect next year.

[Politico](#) (3/11/2021): **BECERRA'S NOMINATION GETS SENATE PROCEDURAL VOTE** — The Senate will take a procedural vote today on Becerra's nomination to run HHS, ahead of a final confirmation vote expected next week, Alice reports.

[The Hill](#) (3/10/2021): **Here's what's in the \$1.9T COVID-19 relief package** - President Biden is on the precipice of the biggest legislative win so far in his time in office: the signing of a \$1.9 trillion COVID-19 relief package the House is expected to approve Wednesday.

[Modern Healthcare](#) (3/9/2021): **Healthcare industry gearing up to try to find common ground with Biden** - Major stakeholder groups share President Joe Biden's goal of increasing insurance coverage, but how to get there is a different story.

[The Hill](#) (3/9/2021): **Koch network urges lawmakers to back 'personal option' health plan** - A group backed by the wealthy conservative donor Charles Koch is pushing lawmakers in Washington to consider a new alternative to the health care reform supported by the Biden administration.

[Politico](#) (3/8/2021): **SENATE ADDS LAST-MINUTE MEDICAID BOOST TO RELIEF PACKAGE** — Early Saturday morning the Senate raised the House-passed federal funding boost for Medicaid home and community-based care to 10 percentage points, up from 7.35 percentage points, POLITICO's Susannah Luthi reports.

[The Hill](#) (3/8/2021): **House vote on COVID-19 relief expected by Wednesday** - An expected House vote on Tuesday to send the \$1.9 trillion COVID-19 relief package to President Biden's desk may not end up happening until Wednesday.

[Axios](#) (3/4/2021): **Telehealth industry takes off** - The surge in telehealth use during the pandemic has been a boon for the tech companies that make the virtual doctor's visits possible, Axios' Kim Hart reports.

[Politico](#) (3/4/2021): **BROOKS-LaSURE'S BACKSTORY** — CMS Administrator nominee Chiquita Brooks-LaSure's five years at consulting firm Manatt Health included work that netted tens of thousands of dollars from health care companies, according to financial disclosures and an ethics agreement filed as part of the confirmation process.

[Politico](#) (3/3/2021): **NEW HOME HEALTH COALITION LAUNCHES TODAY** — Seven health care companies are forming a new alliance to advocate bringing clinical care into patients' homes, POLITICO's Rachel Roubein reports.

[The Hill](#) (3/3/2021): **Biden convenes bipartisan meeting on cancer research** - President Biden on Wednesday met with a bipartisan group of lawmakers to discuss investments in cancer research and treatment, a personal cause for the 46th president that he has vowed to make a priority of his administration.

[Modern Healthcare](#) (3/3/2021): **MetroHealth forms Center for Cancer Research** - The center brings together nationally and internationally recognized researchers to focus on more than curing one of the most feared diseases. It also will work to end racial, ethnic, social and economic inequities that affect cancer diagnosis and treatment.

[The Hill](#) (3/3/2021): **Senate panel splits along party lines on Becerra** - The Senate Finance Committee split evenly Wednesday on party lines in a vote on advancing Secretary of Health and Human Services (HHS) nominee Xavier Becerra, highlighting the GOP resistance to his nomination.

[Modern Healthcare](#) (3/3/2021): **House health panel chair says it's time to make Medicare telehealth permanent** - Telehealth has proved popular amid the COVID-19 pandemic, but providers still may not know the long-term outcomes of that delivery method, experts said at a House subcommittee hearing.

[Politico Pro](#) (3/2/2021): **BECERRA'S COMMITTEE VOTE SET** — The Senate Finance Committee will vote Wednesday on advancing California Attorney General Xavier Becerra's nomination for health secretary, POLITICO's Alice Miranda Ollstein writes.

[Politico](#) (3/2/2021): **ON THE MEDICAID FRONT:** Multiple sources told PULSE that Vikki Wachino is a top contender to lead the Center for Medicaid and CHIP Services, though no final decisions have been made.

[The Hill](#) (3/1/2021): **Senate to vote on \$1.9 trillion coronavirus relief bill this week** - The Senate will vote this week on a sweeping \$1.9 trillion coronavirus relief bill, as Democrats try to get the legislation signed into law before federal unemployment benefits expire.

[Politico](#) (3/1/2021): **BIDEN: WE NEED THE RELIEF PACKAGE FAST** — Biden was quick Saturday to call on the Senate to swiftly pass what his administration has dubbed the American Rescue Plan to meet some of these vaccine distribution and equity challenges.



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