

INSIGHTS

Summary of Select Health Care Bills from Senate HELP Executive Session

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On July 22, 2026, the Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions (HELP) Committee held an [executive session](#) to consider health care legislation including three bills aimed at increasing price transparency and improving workforce shortages. Those bills were batched together and were agreed to, as amended, by a roll call vote of 21-1, with Sen. Rand Paul (R-KY) voting no. Please see below for a description of each of those bills, any notable discussion, and amendments considered.

OPENING STATEMENTS

- [Chairman Bill Cassidy \(R-LA\)](#)
- [Ranking Member Bernie Sanders \(D-VT\)](#)

SELECT LEGISLATION ADVANCED IN THE MARKUP

[S. 2355](#), Patients Deserve Price Tags Act (Sen. Roger Marshall (R-KS), Sen. John Hickenlooper (D-CO), and Sen. Maggie Hassan (D-NH)), to enforce health care price transparency by requiring hospitals, labs, and surgical centers to publish upfront, actual dollar amounts for services.

- Sen. Paul shared his view that the problem is that prices are fixed by insurers (either government or private) and simply publicizing prices won't change them.

[S. 4110](#), EMPOWER for Health Act (Sen. Jack Reed (D-RI) and Sen. Lisa Murkowski (R-AK)), to reauthorize Title VII health professions workforce development programs through FY2030 to address medical provider shortages and diversify the health care workforce.

- Sen. Lisa Blunt Rochester (D-DE) offered an [amendment](#) to give the Health Resources Services Administration (HRSA) the authority to create a federal nursing data collection center.
 - The amendment passed by voice vote.

[S. 1847](#), Title VIII Nursing Workforce Reauthorization Act (Sen. Jeff Merkley (D-OR)) to reauthorize HRSA nursing education through federal funding and expanded access to clinical training in underserved areas.

- Sen. Blunt Rochester offered an [amendment](#) to establish a state and regional nursing workforce center data collection pilot program.
 - The amendment passed, with Sen. Paul recorded as nay.

- Sen. Murkowski offered an [amendment](#) to provide for a wage differential program to support new nursing school faculty members.
- The amendment passed, with Sen. Paul and Sen. Alan Armstrong (R-OK) recorded as nay.

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