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04/25/22 Weekly Washington Update

Headlines to Know

- Inflation continues to rise with no reprieve in sight for the American consumer. Prices have hit the biggest one-year jump since 1981, forcing low-income families to adopt considerable cost cutting measures. The pressure is on the federal government to act. In the Medicare sector, prescription drug price increases have been tabbed as a solvable issue with bipartisan support in Congress.
- Congress was unable to pass additional pandemic relief funding for “urgent COVID needs”. Moderates in the Senate, led by Mitt Romney (R-UT) wanted to attach additional amendments to the bill that would delay the White House’s repeal of Title 42. Unwilling to agree with this, Majority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-NY) called off plans to vote on the bill.

Other News to Know

- This week, U.S. Diplomats will begin returning to Ukraine for the first time since Russia’s invasion. Diplomatic trips have already begun with U.S. Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin and U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken visited the Ukrainian President Sunday. President Biden has already announced Bridget Brink as a candidate for U.S. ambassador to Ukraine and further diplomatic envoys are likely to be announced.
- This past Sunday, Emmanuel Macron won France’s presidential election with 58.5% of the vote. This win carries massive implications for France’s future, particularly stemming from the defeat of Macron’s opponent Marine Le Pen. Le Pen had stated that France would increase internal focus at the detriment of the European Union, pulling back somewhat from the status quo. More controversially, Le Pen is a longtime ally of Russian President Vladimir Putin and had received campaign funds from a bank connected to the Russian President in the past.

This Week on Capitol Hill

Hearings of Interest: (all times EST)

- Tuesday, April 26th | 2:30 PM Senate Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs Subcommittee on Economic Policy Hearings to examine child care and other policy tools to combat bottlenecks and inflation.
- Wednesday, April 27th | 10:00 AM House Small Business Hearing on Small Business Administration’s FY 2023 Budget

- Wednesday, April 27th | 2:00 PM House Transportation and Infrastructure Subcommittee on Highways and Transit Hearing on “Examining Workforce Development and Job Creation in Surface Transportation Construction”
- Wednesday, April 27th | 2:30 PM Senate Small Business and Entrepreneurship Hearing to examine the Small Business Administration.
- Thursday, April 28th | 10:00 AM House Appropriations Subcommittee on Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Hearing on Fiscal Year FY2023 Budget Request for the Department of Education

Schedule of Floor Activity:

- Both the House and the Senate are in session this week.