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09/17/22 Weekly Washington Update

Headlines to Know:

- Congress returns from August recess in full-swing, with a busy few weeks ahead. This week, the Senate will be vetting circuit court nominations: 8 new nominations will be up for approval. There is a possibility that a vote may be held to codify same-sex marriage if an agreement can be made to reach 60 votes in the Senate. Senators Collins (R-ME) and Baldwin (D-WI) are looking to tack a “religious liberty” amendment onto this bill in order to bolster Republican support and end the filibuster. This amendment seeks to clarify that this bill would leave the 1993 religious freedom law intact and assure that the “status quo remains.”
- The August CPI report was released Tuesday morning. The consumer price index increased 0.1% and the inflation gauge (excluding food and energy) rose 0.6%, both higher than expected. The food index increased 0.8% in August and shelter costs, which make up about one-third of the weighting in the CPI, jumped 0.7% and are up 6.2% from a year ago. The stock markets slumped today after the figures were released, further raising the likelihood of the Fed raising interest rates, possibly by a full percentage point, at their meeting next week.

Hearings of Interest (All times EDT)

- Tuesday, September 13th | 10:00 AM Senate Judiciary Committee hearings to examine data security at risk, focusing on testimony from a Twitter whistleblower.
- Tuesday, September 13th | 10:00 AM Senate Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs hearings to examine new consumer financial products and the impacts to workers.
- Wednesday, September 14th | 10:00 AM House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure Subcommittee on Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation: "Cargo Preference: Compliance with and Enforcement of Maritime's Buy American Laws."
- Wednesday, September 14th | 3:30 PM Senate Judiciary Subcommittee on Privacy, Technology, and the Law hearings to examine protecting Americans' private information from hostile foreign powers.
- Thursday, September 15th | 10:00 AM House Education and Labor Subcommittee on Innovation and Workforce Investment Hearing on Back to School, Back to Startups: Supporting Youth Apprenticeship, Entrepreneurship, and Workforce Development
- Thursday, September 15th | 10:00 AM Senate Energy and Natural Resources hearings to examine the federal government's role in supporting the commercialization of fusion energy.

Markups of Interest

- Thursday, September 15th | 10:15 AM House Education and Labor Committee Markup on “H.Res. 1295 - Of inquiry directing the Secretary of Education to transmit certain documents to the House of Representatives relating to the Department of Education's cost estimates for the Secretary's waivers related to public service loan forgiveness and income-driven repayment; H.Res. 1296 - Of inquiry requesting the President and

directing the Secretary of Education to transmit, respectively, certain documents to the House of Representatives relating to the legal authority to forgive Federal student loan debt, and H.Res. 1273 - Of inquiry directing the President to provide certain documents in the President's possession to the House of Representatives relating to communication between the executive branch and the American Federation of Teachers regarding reopening schools and supporting safe, in-person learning.”

Congressional Schedule

- The House is in session this week
- The Senate is in session this week