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3/15/21 Weekly Washington Update

Headlines to Know

- Last Tuesday, the House voted to pass the Senate's revised Covid-19 Relief Package and President Biden signed it into law on Thursday, the one-year mark of the WHO officially declaring the Coronavirus a Pandemic. The bill will include \$1400 stimulus checks to individuals earning less than \$70k and married couples making less than \$150k, as well as \$1400 for each dependent. Several elements were left out of the Senate revised version including a minimum wage hike, and an increase in Unemployment check from an additional \$300/week to \$400/week.
- Just weeks after the Equality Act was passed in the House prohibiting discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity, several states have attempted to push through legislation banning Transgender students from participating in sports. Hearings are scheduled in the Senate Judiciary Committee this week Wednesday to discuss The Equality Act and LGBTQ Rights.

Other News to Know

- Biden's early focus on rolling back Trump's Immigration policy of separating families attempting to cross the Southern Border of the US aimed to correct the Humanitarian crisis prior policy caused. Now as the number of unaccompanied minors crossing the border increases, Biden is pushing for greater adoption of policies allowing minors to apply for asylum from their home countries.
- The Secretary of Defense, Lloyd J. Austin III, departed on Saturday for his first international trip visiting Japan, South Korea and India to discuss the strengthening of existing partnerships and alliances in the Indo-Pacific. This step comes as five Chinese companies have been determined by the FCC to pose "threats to US National Security."
- Several New York Congressmembers are calling for Governor Andrew Cuomo's resignation amid allegations of sexual harassment from former staff members. Governor Cuomo has repeatedly denied these allegations

This Week on Capitol Hill

Hearings of Interest:

- Tuesday, Mar. 16 | 10 a.m. Senate Finance Committee Chair Ron Wyden, D-Ore., will convene a hearing on how the tax code affects American manufacturing.

This Week on Capitol Hill *(continued)***Hearings of Interest:** *(continued)*

- Wednesday, Mar. 17 | 10 a.m. House Energy and Commerce Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee hearing on "Leading the Way Forward: Biden Administration Actions to Increase COVID-19 Vaccinations."
- Wednesday, Mar. 17 | 10 a.m. House Judiciary Courts, Intellectual Property, and the Internet Subcommittee hearing on "The SHOP SAFE (Stopping Harmful Offers on Platforms by Screening Against Fakes in E-Commerce) Act: Stemming the Rising Tide of Unsafe Counterfeit Products Online." 2141 Rayburn.
- Wednesday, Mar. 17 | 10 a.m. House Science, Space and Technology Investigations and Oversight Subcommittee hearing on "Brain Drain: Rebuilding the Federal Scientific Workforce." 2318 Rayburn.
- Wednesday, Mar. 17 | 11 a.m. Coronavirus Crisis Subcommittee hearing on "From Rescue to Recovery: Building a Thriving and Inclusive Post-Pandemic Economy."
- Wednesday, Mar. 17 | 11 a.m. Senate Budget Committee holds a hearing on "The Income and Wealth Inequality Crisis in America." 216 Hart.
- Wednesday, Mar. 17 | 1 p.m. House Education and Labor Higher Education and Workforce Investment Subcommittee hearing on "Rising to the Challenge: The Future of Higher Education Post COVID-19."
- Wednesday, Mar. 17 | 1 p.m. House Veterans' Affairs Economic Opportunity Subcommittee hearing on "Roundtable - Making Veteran Readiness and Employment Work for More Veterans."
- Wednesday, Mar. 17 | 2:30 p.m. Senate Small Business and Entrepreneurship Committee hearing on "The Paycheck Protection Program: Performance, Impact, and Next Steps." 301 Russell.
- Thursday, Mar. 18 | 10 a.m. House Small Business Underserved, Agricultural, and Rural Business Development Subcommittee hearing on "The Role of Community Navigators in Reaching Underserved Businesses." 2360 Rayburn.
- Thursday, Mar. 18 | 10 a.m. House Judiciary Constitution, Civil Rights and Civil Liberties Subcommittee hearing on "Discrimination and Violence Against Asian Americans." 2141 Rayburn.
- Thursday, Mar. 18 | 10 a.m. Senate Finance Committee hearing on "Fighting Forced Labor: Closing Loopholes and Improving Customs Enforcement to Mandate Clean Supply Chains and Protect Worker."
- Thursday, Mar. 18 | 11 a.m. House Appropriations Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Subcommittee hearing on "Efforts to Address Marine Plastic Pollution Through Recycling."

This Week on Capitol Hill *(final)*

Hearings of Interest: *(final)*

- Thursday, Mar. 18 | 2 p.m. House Transportation and Infrastructure Economic Development, Public Buildings and Emergency Management Subcommittee hearing on "Building Smarter: The Benefits of Investing in Resilience and Mitigation." 2167 Rayburn.
- Thursday, Mar. 18 | 2 p.m. House Appropriations Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Subcommittee hearing on "COVID Outbreaks and Management Challenges: Evaluating the Federal Bureau of Prisons' Pandemic Response and the Way Forward."

Schedule of Floor Activity

- The House will begin this week on Tuesday.
- The Senate will be in session beginning Monday taking a pause on Cabinet Confirmations with just 6 members left to go to focus efforts on committee work.