

Below is this week's government and legislative affairs update. All previous legislative guidance and other affiliate resources are stored via the [VillageMD Affiliated Practices COVID-19 Resource Center](#).

This week the Senate was in session this week to vote on a "skinny" version of the COVID relief package. The House held Committee mark-ups but officially returns on Monday for three weeks of session.

Two big issues will dominate in debates September: COVID relief and a continuing resolution to fund the government. Congress has to pass a government funding bill by September 30th.

On Capitol Hill:

- A slimmed-down version of the Senate Republicans' coronavirus relief bill died, as expected, in the Senate on Thursday after a vote to end debate on the legislation failed to reach cloture (60 votes), with every Democrat voting against the bill.
- This version did not include additional funding relief for providers, any changes to telehealth waivers or Medicare Advance payment reimbursement.
- The House Energy & Commerce Committee passed 26 health bills on Wednesday, September 9, including three meant to boost Medicare patient protections and mental health services, sending them to the House floor.
- Senate committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions (HELP) held a hearing on testing and a distribution strategy for a [COVID-19 vaccine](#).
- HHS announced pharmacists will be allowed to administer COVID-19 vaccines to anyone three years or older without a prescription, [according to guidance HHS issued Wednesday, September 9](#).

PAC Update:

Gary attending a virtual event for Senator Cornyn (R-TX), member of the Senate Finance Committee.

Important Dates Ahead

- September 29th – Presidential debate in Cleveland, OH
- September 30th – deadline for Congress to fund the government