



American Clinical Neurophysiology Society (ACNS) Monthly Policy Update – April 2021

Senate Confirmations of Administration Nominations

Vivek Murthy, MD, nominee for surgeon general, served in this role during the Obama administration. The Senate confirmed his nomination on March 23.

Chiquita Brooks-LaSure, nominated to lead the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), previously led HHS' efforts to carry out the Affordable Care Act. The Senate Finance Committee held a joint confirmation for her and Andrea Palm who was nominated to serve as Department of Health and Human Services Deputy Secretary on April 15, and votes on both nominations have not yet been scheduled.

President's Skinny Budget Proposal

On April 9, President Biden released his [skinny budget proposal](#), which set out an overview of the administration's policy and funding priorities for Fiscal Year (FY) 2022. The brief document includes significant increases for federal health agencies, including the National Institutes of Health and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Appropriators began holding hearings this week with Cabinet secretaries on the budget requests for each agency and are expected to begin work on the FY 2022 spending bills shortly. A more detailed version of the President's budget request is expected in late May or early June. House and Senate appropriations committees will work to draft and pass funding bills over the spring and summer, before the new fiscal year begins on October 1.

Introduction of the American Jobs Plan

President Biden released his American Jobs Plan on March 31, which is the first part of the administration's infrastructure plan that will be their focus for legislative action in the coming months. The plan includes investment in broadband services, which will be important as ACNS continues to work to expand access to telehealth services. We expect the second part of the plan to include a "human infrastructure" component, although we have not seen more details at press time.

Congress is now working on drafting legislation to implement the American Jobs Plan, and will have to do the same for the human infrastructure proposal as well. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi has said that her goal is to have the legislation pass the House by July 4, and to have the President sign the bill by the August recess.