

Schweikert Offers Bills Changing How CMS, FDA Treat AI

Rep. David Schweikert (R-AZ) has introduced two bills on the use of artificial intelligence in health care, the first legislative proposals on AI in the 119th Congress, signaling the continued high-profile role the link between AI and health care will have under the new Republican majority.

Schweikert on Jan. 3 introduced [H.R. 238](#) to amend federal drug law to allow AI to be a prescribing practitioner and [H.R. 193](#) to require HHS clarify the use of AI in Medicare payments.

His legislative proposals are the first on AI of the 433 bills introduced as of Jan. 10 since Congress reconvened on Jan. 3.

Schweikert in the last Congress was chairman of the Ways and Means oversight subcommittee, and the full committee in June [cleared his proposal](#) directing HHS to issue reimbursement guidance for remote monitoring devices that use AI for patient treatments. That proposal was referred to and stalled in the Energy and Commerce Committee.

The eight-term lawmaker's latest proposal, H.R. 238, would revise "the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to clarify that artificial intelligence and machine learning technologies can qualify as a practitioner eligible to prescribe drugs if authorized by the State involved and approved, cleared, or authorized by the Food and Drug Administration, and for other purposes," according to a brief summary.

H.R. 193 would "direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to issue guidance on payment under the Medicare program for certain items involving artificial intelligence," according to a summary. The full text of either bill has not yet been posted on Congress.gov, and Schweikert's office did not respond to requests for copies of the legislation.

H.R. 193 was referred to both the Ways and Means and Energy and Commerce committees, while H.R. 238 was referred to just the Energy and Commerce Committee.

AI and its impact on health care is listed by Schweikert as among his legislative priorities.

"Technology has to be part of the way we bend the borrowing and debt curve. AI technologies can enhance everything from diagnostics to front and back office medical operations, such as automating the process of filling out a patient intake form," Schweikert says on his website.

"The next step is understanding how this type of technology fits into everything from building medical records, tracking you, helping you manage any pharmaceuticals you use for your heart issues, even down to producing data sets for your cardiologist to remotely look at your data," he argues.

"It's here, we now just have to build the infrastructure around it; the technology is starting to move much faster than our regulatory rules," he adds.

Schweikert lists 16 bills and legislative proposals he offered in the last Congress on AI and health care.
-- Rick Weber (rweber@iwpnews.com)

