CONGRESSWOMAN
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OREGON'S 3RD CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Protect U.S. Preventive Services Task Force Integrity Act

Background: The Protect U.S. Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF or the Task Force) is a statutorily authorized task force that makes coverage recommendations that apply to private and public payers. In operation since 1984, the Affordable Care Act (ACA) expanded the authorization for USPSTF to include a requirement that private health insurance plans, self-insured plans, Medicare, and Medicaid provide coverage without cost-sharing for patients for preventive services that the Task Force rates "A" or "B." This means that services including cancer screenings, statins for cardiovascular disease, and HIV prevention drugs like preexposure prophylaxis (PrEP) are available at no cost to many Americans.

The Task Force has always been focused on prevention, and its members have historically been comprised of primary care providers and experts in prevention medicine. Specialists have consulted where appropriate on Task Force recommendations but have never been USPSTF members in part to prevent conflicts of interest.

Earlier this year, the Administration appointed eight new members to the Task Force – this was a major break from historic practices, including that five of the eight are specialists. Four of the eight also required conflict of interest waivers – which historically were unnecessary, as such conflicts were disqualifying.

Legislation: The Protect USPSTF Integrity Act would restore the Task Force to its original purpose as politically independent and prevention focused. Specifically, the bill would:

- Revert to historic membership qualifications prioritizing membership expertise in preventive and primary care medicine;
    - Additionally, the bill would add oversight to membership selection by requiring GAO review and publication of such review to Congress;
- Codifying standards for meeting frequency in line with previous standards;
- Creating standards for conflicts of interest and requiring relevant recusal;
- Codifying the historic standards and procedures manual (published April 2023), and requiring public input for any relevant Task Force changes; and
- Protecting against potential abuses including:
    - Preventing the Secretary from changing Task Force recommendations on the basis that it no longer effectuates Departmental standards;
    - Preventing the Secretary from unnecessarily delaying the implementation of Task Force recommendations unless such delay is evidence-based and aligns with Task Force procedures and processes.

Questions? For questions or to cosponsor, please reach out to Shibani Chettri (shibani.chettri@mail.house.gov) with Rep. Dexter's office.