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Legislative update: Ways and Means approves bill extending healthcare-related PCORI fee

The U.S. House Ways and Means Committee today approved by a vote of 26 - 15, H.R. 3439, the "Protecting Access to Information for Effective and Necessary Treatment and Services Act of 2019" (PATIENTS Act).

The bill would extend the healthcare inflation-adjusted excise taxes imposed by Code sections 4375 and 4376 (commonly referred to as the "PCORI fee") on health insurance policies and self-insured health plans through 2026. These taxes are currently scheduled to expire for policy years and plan years ending after September 30, 2019. Further, the bill includes authorization through 2026 of the transfer of funds raised through these fees to the Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Trust Fund (PCORTF) and authorization for certain expenditures from the fund.

The legislation, including the adopted amendment in the nature of a substitute, can be found on the Ways and Means Committee [website](#).

The next step for the legislation would be consideration by the full House of Representatives.

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