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Good morning Ms Cathy Thompson

January 6, 2017

### Leading The News

#### **Ryan Vows GOP Will Pass Measures To Repeal And Replace ACA This Year.**

The [AP](#) (1/5, Fram) reports that on Thursday, House Speaker Paul Ryan (R-WI) said congressional Republicans will pass bills this year not only to repeal the Affordable Care Act, but also to replace it. He stated, "Our legislating on Obamacare, our repealing and replacing and transitioning, the legislating will occur this year." The AP points out that Ryan's comments "suggested a faster schedule than some had expected on reshaping the nation's health care system."

[McClatchy](#) (1/5, Lightman) reports that Ryan added, "What date all of this gets phased in on is something we do not know now." Ryan provided no details about how or when the ACA would be replaced, which has been a point of criticism from Democrats.

**McConnell Highlights Need For Quick Repeal Of ACA.** The [Wall Street Journal](#) (1/5, Armour, Hackman, Subscription Publication) reports that on Thursday, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) underscored the need to quickly repeal and replace the Affordable Act in the face of more questions regarding the chaos which could result from this move, particularly if the GOP has no viable alternative. He said, "We all know how harmful this failed, partisan experiment has been for those we represent."

**Ryan Says Defunding Planned Parenthood Part Of Upcoming Reconciliation Bill.** The [Washington Post](#) (1/5, Debonis) reports House Speaker Ryan on Thursday said Republicans plan to take away hundreds of millions of dollars in federal funding from Planned Parenthood. Ryan indicated that a defunding measure will be included in the special fast-track bill expected to pass Congress as early as next month. Ryan said, "Planned Parenthood legislation would be in our reconciliation bill."

**Some Senate Democrats Suggest Bipartisan Effort To Overhaul ACA Instead Of Repealing It.** [McClatchy](#) (1/5) reports "several moderate" Senate Democrats have asked Republicans "to consider bipartisan improvements before trashing the entire" Affordable Care Act. Thirteen Democrats said in a letter to Senate Majority Leader McConnell (R-KY) and other senior Republicans that "repealing this law will have immediate negative impacts on the people we represent and the economy as a whole."

**Poll Indicates Just 20% Of Americans Support Immediate Repeal Of ACA.** The [Washington Post](#) (1/6, Johnson) reports only 20% of Americans advocate Republicans' "repeal and delay" strategy, according to a new poll conducted by the Kaiser Family Foundation. [NPR's](#) (1/6, Kodjak) "Shots" blog reports the poll found that "75 percent of Americans say they either want lawmakers to leave Obamacare alone, or repeal it only when they can replace it with a new health care law." Just 20% of respondents would like to see the ACA repealed immediately.

### Psychiatric News Alert



[Study Suggests Incidence of First-Onset Psychosis May Exceed Prior Estimates](#)

[Alcohol Abuse Increases Risk of Multiple Cardiovascular Problems, Study Finds](#)

#### **Awards for Advancing Minority Mental Health – Applications Due Jan. 20**

The American Psychiatric Association Foundation is accepting applications for its 2017 Awards for Advancing Minority Mental Health. The awards, in the amount of \$5,000, recognize psychiatrists, other health professionals, mental health programs and other organizations that have undertaken innovative and supportive efforts to:

- Raise awareness of mental illness in underserved minority communities, the need for early recognition, the availability of treatment and how to access it, and the cultural barriers to treatment.
- Increase access to quality mental health services for underserved minorities.
- Improve the quality of care for underserved minorities, particularly those in the public health system or with

severe mental illness.

Applications must be postmarked by Jan. 20. [More information and apply.](#)



## Government and Psychiatry

### Texas House Committee Warns Of Perilous Consequences If State Does Not Take Bolder Steps To Fix Its Mental Health System.

According to the [Texas Tribune](#) (1/5, Evans), in a 109-page report issued Jan. 5, the Texas House Select Committee on Mental Health warned that if the state “doesn’t take bolder steps to fix its mental health system, the consequences could be perilous.” The report “outlines challenges and opportunities for the state in tackling issues troubling the system such as patient access to mental and behavioral health services; increasing the number of beds available in state hospitals; early intervention for schoolchildren with behavioral health issues; investing in jail diversion programs; and beefing up the state’s mental health workforce.”

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## Psychiatry and Public Health

### Minnesota One Of Eight States To Pilot Innovative Mental Healthcare And Substance Abuse Program.

The [Minneapolis Star Tribune](#) (1/5, Serres) reports that under a pilot mental health and substance abuse program announced Jan. 5 “and set to begin in July, six community clinics across the state” of Minnesota “will offer therapies for people suffering from multiple disorders, including chemical addictions and serious mental illnesses.” The aim of the program “is to bring a range of such services under the umbrella of these clinics, reducing the burden on patients and increasing the likelihood of follow-up visits and consistent care, state officials said.” Currently, “Minnesota is one of just eight states selected to experiment with the coordinated model under a two-year federal pilot program.”

### Nearly 500 Patients With PTSD Have Enrolled In NJ’s Medical Marijuana Program Since September.

The [Newark \(NJ\) Star-Ledger](#) (1/5, Livio) reports since New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie (R-NJ) signed a bill allowing patients with post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) access to medical marijuana in September, “nearly 500 people” with the disorder “have enrolled in the state’s medicinal marijuana program.” Donna Leusner, a state Health Department spokeswoman, pointed out that “PTSD qualified 466 people for the program – representing about 4 percent of the 10,800 patients who legally purchase pot from one of the state’s five dispensaries,” according to the Star-Ledger.

## Other News

### Adults with Diabetes May Often Remain Undiagnosed For Cognitive Disorders, Researchers Say.

[Endocrine Today](#) (1/5, Cox) reports, “Adults with diabetes – even those treated in a specialized diabetes clinic – often remain undiagnosed for cognitive disorders, including mild cognitive impairment and dementia,” researchers found after evaluating “30 adults with diabetes from the Mount Sinai Diabetes Center, as well as data from the Mount Sinai Alzheimer’s Disease Research Center on 189 adults without diabetes or cognitive impairment and 98 adults without diabetes and a diagnosis of amnesic mild cognitive impairment.” The [findings](#) were published online Dec. 22 in the Journal of Diabetes.

### Democratic Senators Call For House’s Office Of Congressional Ethics To Investigate Rep. Tom Price For Stock Sales.

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (1/5, Hughes, Subscription Publication) reports Democratic Senators are calling for the Office of Congressional Ethics to investigate Rep. Tom Price (R-GA), who has been picked by President-elect Donald Trump to head the Department of Health and Human Services. Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-NY) and other Democrats claim that Price trade healthcare industry stocks while he was advocating for legislation that could affect share prices.

The [New York Daily News](#) (1/5, Joseph) reports Sens. Patty Murray (D-WA) and Ron Wyden (D-OR), who are the ranking members

of the Senate HELP Committee and Senate Finance Committee, also called for Price to be investigated. The article mentions that the group Public Citizen released an open letter also calling for the office to investigate Price as well as Rep. Chris Collins (R-NY) for potential insider trading.

### **Cancer Report Shows 25% Decline In Cancer Death Rates Since 1991.**

The [Washington Post](#) (1/5, McGinley) reports the American Cancer Society released its Cancer Statistics 2017 [report](#), showing that cancer death rates are down 25% in the US from the 1991 peak, which it attributes "largely to reductions in smoking and improvements in the early detection and treatment of cancer." Meanwhile men have a 20% higher rate than women and the mortality rate from cancer is 40% higher for men than women. That is explained by the greater incidence of lethal cancers in men, specifically liver cancer, and "cancers of the esophagus, larynx and bladder." Overall, the most common cancers in men are "lung, colorectal and prostate," while for women they are "lung, breast and colorectal cancers." Black Americans also have a 15% higher cancer death rate than whites.

The [Los Angeles Times](#) (1/5, Healy) reports that for 2017, the report projects 1,688,780 cancer diagnoses in the US and 600,920 cancer deaths. The report finds that improved treatments led to "the most dramatic improvements in the survival of patients with malignancies of the blood and lymph system." That can be seen in five-year survival rates of 71% for acute lymphocytic leukemia, up from 41%, and up from 22% for chronic myeloid leukemia to 66%. Lung cancer and pancreatic cancer continue to have low survival rates at 8% for pancreatic cancer and 18% for lung cancer.

### **New Allergy Guidance: Young Children Should Be Given Peanuts.**

[NBC News](#) (1/5, Fox) reports even children "with the highest risk of having a peanut allergy should be tested with a tiny dose of the nut because it might prevent the allergy from ever developing, doctors said in new guidelines released Thursday." The new guidelines "from the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) and other groups follow up on findings that giving peanut to kids early enough in life can train their immune systems so they don't overreact and cause a dangerous allergic reaction." NIAID Director Dr. Anthony Fauci said, "Living with peanut allergy requires constant vigilance. Preventing the development of peanut allergy will improve and save lives and lower health care costs."

The [AP](#) (1/5) reports the new NIH guidelines "mark a shift in dietary advice, based on landmark research that found early exposure dramatically lowers a baby's chances of becoming allergic." Dr. Matthew Greenhawt of the American College of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology, a "member of the NIH-appointed panel that wrote the guidelines," said, "We're on the cusp of hopefully being able to prevent a large number of cases of peanut allergy." And NIAID Director Fauci said, "It's an important step forward. When you do desensitize them from an early age, you have a very positive effect."

The [New York Times](#) (1/5, Rabin, Subscription Publication) reports if "broadly implemented, the new guidelines have the potential to dramatically lower the number of children who develop one of the most common and lethal food allergies," according to NIAID Director Anthony Fauci, who said, "If we can put this into practice over a period of several years, I would be surprised if we would not see a dramatic decrease in the incidence of peanut allergies."

### **Norovirus Cases Expected To Increase As Winter Continues.**

The [Washington Post](#) (1/5, Sun) reports cases of norovirus, often referred to as the "stomach flu," are expected to increase as winter continues "because the arrival of cold weather usually coincides with an increase" in the illness. Aron Hall, an epidemiologist at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, said that colder temperatures may help the virus spread.

#### **Thursday's Lead Stories**

- [Senate Approves First Step Towards ACA Repeal In 51-48 Vote.](#)
- [Previous Traumatic Experiences Generally Associated With PTSD, Analysis Finds.](#)
- [State Medicaid Officials Call For CMS To Extend Length Of Stay For Inpatient Psychiatric Services From Current 15-Day Limit.](#)
- [Higher Dementia Risk May Be Associated With Living Near A Busy Road, Study Suggests.](#)
- [Impaired Social Functioning Appears To Be Most Common In Schizophrenia, Study Indicates.](#)
- [Several States Report Spikes In Flu Cases.](#)

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