



# TRAFFIC ALERT

VirginiaDOT.org

**RELEASE: IMMEDIATE**

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## **EXTENDED DAYTIME LANE CLOSURES SCHEDULED FOR GEORGE P. COLEMAN MEMORIAL BRIDGE**

*Northbound single-lane closure scheduled from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Sunday, Nov. 19, weather permitting*

**YORK COUNTY**– Contractor crews with the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) are scheduled to start rehabilitation work on the George P. Coleman Memorial Bridge (Route 17) this weekend, requiring extended, daytime single-lane closures northbound.

The first northbound single-lane closure is scheduled to take place on Sunday, Nov. 19, from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., weather permitting. Additionally, between 8 a.m. and 8 p.m. on the day of the closure, all bridge openings will be restricted for maritime traffic until the completion of the rehabilitation work for that day and a successful test opening has been performed. An inclement weather date for this work has been tentatively scheduled for the same time frame on Sunday, Dec. 3.

The George P. Coleman Bridge is a double-swing span bridge structure over the York River that connects Gloucester Point and Yorktown. This rehabilitation work on the bridge's wedge drive motors requires 12-hour periods of daylight to perform the work safely and efficiently; however, VDOT attempts to schedule maintenance and non-emergency repair work during travel periods when traffic volumes are lower to reduce impacts on motorists.

Before heading out on the road, motorists are advised to check for current bridge openings underway and plan their commute by using VDOT's free traffic information tools:

Motorists are advised to plan their commute by using VDOT's free traffic information tools:

- [Download](#) the 511 smartphone app, or 511-integrated [Waze](#) app.
- Visit the [511 Virginia website](#) or dial 511 for traffic information on your phone.

(END)

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# Executive Insight Brief

November 17, 2023

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## View From The Hill



Congress [passed](#) Speaker Mike Johnson's "laddered" continuing resolution (CR) this week, averting a government shutdown until early 2024. The first tier of funding runs through January 19th, and includes funding for the Departments of Agriculture, Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, Veterans Affairs, and Energy. The rest of the U.S. Government, including the Department of Defense, is funded through February 2nd. This approach punts the most difficult fights over spending levels into next year and will require additional action to avert a sweeping, government-wide cut of one percent in 2024. Democrats, while displeased with the two-tiered approach and concerned over looming domestic spending cuts, ultimately supported the measure, voting for the Speaker's plan in greater numbers than Republicans. With a shutdown temporarily avoided, lawmakers left town until after Thanksgiving, breaking the weeks-long session slog which saw tempers [flare](#) and [threats](#) of physical altercation.

The prospects for congressional action related to a Ukraine-Israel supplemental funding bill [remain](#) up for debate, as the Senate continues to grapple with border security policy and Members remain divided over how to structure the aid packages. In a surprising turn of

events, Senate Armed Services Ranking Member Roger Wicker (R-MS) [forced](#) Majority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-NY) to formally enter into conference negotiations with the House on the Fiscal Year 2024 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) by threatening to hold up the CR. While negotiations to reconcile the House and Senate versions of NDAA have been occurring in the background for months, the existence of a formal conference negotiation likely enhances Member buy-in and may improve overall chances of final passage by the end of the calendar year. With government funding temporarily settled, House and Senate leadership can also grant more bandwidth to NDAA negotiations.

Disgraced Rep. George Santos (R-NY) [announced](#) his decision not to seek reelection this week, after a damning report from the House Ethics Committee revealed “substantial evidence” related to misuse of campaign finances, including the revelation that the congressman used campaign funds on Botox treatments and extravagant personal travel. The House is now expected to again bring up a motion to expel Santos.

## Aerospace & Defense

### [Here's when the US Navy plans to sell subs to Australia under AUKUS \(Defense News\)](#)

The U.S. Navy intends to sell Australia used Virginia-class attack submarines in 2032 and 2035, plus a new boat in 2038, leaders said. This timeline provides a more detailed breakdown of the submarine-sharing arrangement between the United States, Australia and the United Kingdom announced in March. Those three countries, which are signatories to the trilateral security agreement AUKUS, are working to familiarize Australian sailors as well as the shipbuilding and ship repair workforce with nuclear submarines. As training efforts in the U.S. and Australia ramp up, the partners should be ready to declare Australia “sovereign ready” by the early 2030s, Capt. Lincoln Reifsteck, the AUKUS integration and acquisition program manager, said last week at the Naval Submarine League’s annual symposium. Assuming that designation is met on time, Australia will start building its inventory of nuclear-powered submarines almost immediately. In 2032 and 2035, the U.S. will sell in-service Block IV submarines, Reifsteck said, which are currently under construction. The first Block IV boat was commissioned in 2020, and the final will likely commission around 2026, meaning Australia would receive submarines with between six and 15 years’ worth of use.

### [Pratt wins engine-work contract to keep aging B-52, AWACS flying](#)

### [USAF Considering Aerial Refueling For Early CCAs \(Aviation Week Network\)](#)

The U.S. Air Force wants its early Collaborative Combat Aircraft (CCA) to have range equal to or beyond that of fighter aircraft, with potentially aerial refueling capacity in the first increment. The service plans to field its first increment of CCAs by 2028, with programs such as a new experimental operations unit standing up to evaluate how the systems can be integrated into Air Force units and operations. Air Force Secretary Frank Kendall has said he wants to see about 1,000 of the uncrewed aircraft to fly alongside the Next Generation Air Dominance (NGAD) platform, F-35s and F-22s. Thomas Lawhead, the acting head of Air Force Futures and assistant deputy chief of staff for strategy, integration and requirements, said Nov. 15 that this first increment will have the range “relatively the same as the current fighter fleet, potentially a little bit longer.” The service is now working through concepts of employment based on that range, and the uncrewed systems’ ability to provide missions such as electronic warfare, off-board sensing and additional munitions.

### [The Indo-Pacific’s new missile age demands Washington’s attention](#)

#### [Kendall Reveals Secret X-Plane Program Paved the Way for NGAD \(Air & Space Forces Magazine\)](#)

There was a secret, multi-agency X-plane program to explore future fighters that paved the way for the Next-Generation Air Dominance program, Air Force Secretary Frank Kendall revealed at the POLITICO Defense Summit on Nov. 14. Although Kendall and other Air Force officials have previously said there were flying prototypes before the current stage of the NGAD program, his new remarks provided more details about the highly classified project, including the agencies involved, some of the money spent, and the fact that the NGAD will control the uncrewed fighters escorting it. He also noted that the uncrewed Collaborative Combat Aircraft program won’t get started until the fiscal 2024 defense bill is passed. The Air Force said in May that it expects to award an NGAD contract in 2024. Kendall has previously said the NGAD will cost “multiple hundreds of millions” of dollars per tail. Asked what most excites him about the NGAD, Kendall said it is the inclusion of a “family of systems” in the program, which includes autonomous escort platforms, new weapons—including the secret AIM-260 Joint Advanced Tactical Missile—and “offboard sensors. Initiative,” he explained.

## **Budget & Appropriations**

### [Stopgap spending bill raises sequester specter at Pentagon \(Roll Call\)](#)

With Congress poised to punt fiscal 2024 appropriations bills into the next calendar year, U.S. national security programs are bracing for the possibility they may net \$82 billion less in the next two fiscal years than the amounts set by June's bipartisan debt limit law. That statute requires that funding for all departments and agencies — defense and nondefense — must be set 1 percent below fiscal 2023 levels in each of the next two fiscal years in the event that any of the 12 fiscal 2024 appropriations bills is not enacted by Jan. 1. As of now, it appears unlikely that any of the bills will be enacted by then. For defense programs, an automatic cut, if it happens, would result in \$36.5 billion in fiscal 2024 below the debt limit law's cap and \$45.43 billion less in fiscal 2025, according to a Congressional Research Service report updated last week. The House easily passed a continuing resolution Tuesday that would keep government programs operating at current funding levels into next year — until late January or early February, depending on the department. The Senate is poised to clear that measure by the end of the week. Senate Majority Leader Charles E. Schumer, D-N.Y., said Tuesday the House measure is acceptable because it does not require funding cuts.

### [Pentagon fails sixth audit, with number of passing grades stagnant](#)

#### [NDIA's Norquist explains the harm of a continuing resolution \(Defense News\)](#)

During his 30 years as a financial and national security expert in the public and private sector, David Norquist has seen the U.S. government's budget process devolve from a fairly reliable funding method to a nearly perennial source of dysfunction. In all but one of the last 15 budget cycles, the Pentagon was forced to rely on continuing resolutions — a stopgap measure that funds agencies at the same level as the previous year — for varying amounts of time. Earlier this year, Congress passed a short-term spending bill set to expire Nov. 17. And if January rolls around without the government's overdue spending bill for fiscal 2024 in place, a full-year continuing resolution — with a 1% cut to all federal agencies, including the Defense Department — will kick in. What most concerns Norquist, who now leads the National Defense Industrial Association, is the normalization of continuing resolutions. But the regularity of CRs, Norquist said, should not obscure the harm and disruption they cause to the Pentagon and the defense industry — particularly as the U.S. tries to restock its weapons inventory and prepare for a potential fight against China.

### [Global economy to slow down but likely avoid recession in 2024](#)

### [Ukraine, Israel aid in limbo as US Congress beats shutdown deadline \(Reuters\)](#)

The U.S. Congress closed its doors for nearly two weeks on Thursday without passing emergency aid for Israel and Ukraine, as lawmakers argued over unrelated immigration policy and faced pockets of resistance from Republicans on continued aid for Kyiv's war against Russia. The Senate adjourned well after midnight after passing a stopgap spending bill to avert a government shutdown. Supporters of the foreign military aid had hoped it would be included in the spending bill, known as a continuing resolution. President Joe Biden asked Congress to approve the money last month. Its omission from the spending bill raised concerns that funding for Kyiv might never be appropriated especially after the Republican-led House passed a bill this month including assistance for Israel, but not Ukraine. The Senate's Democratic leaders rejected that bill. A vocal bloc of Republicans oppose sending more aid to Kyiv as it fights a nearly 21-month-long Russian invasion. Opponents of the aid say U.S. taxpayer money should be spent at home, but majority of Republicans and Democrats in Congress still support aid to President Volodymyr Zelenskyy's government.

## **Advanced Technologies**

### [Biden-Harris Administration Launches National Spectrum Strategy To Advance U.S. Wireless Leadership \(Dept. of Commerce\)](#)

The Biden-Harris Administration released a National Spectrum Strategy identifying more than 2,700 megahertz of airwaves to study for innovative new uses by both the private sector and federal agencies. President Biden also released the Presidential Memorandum on Modernizing United States Spectrum Policy and Establishing a National Spectrum Strategy, which will promote a trustworthy, predictable and evidenced-based process for ensuring spectrum serves its highest and best use. The National Spectrum Strategy will advance U.S. leadership globally while also providing Americans with the best services that advanced wireless technology offers. These technologies will improve not only consumer wireless networks but also services in vital economic sectors such as aviation, transportation, manufacturing, energy and space. "Spectrum is a limited resource that enables the everyday and the extraordinary - from checking the weather on our phone to traveling into space. As demand for this resource increases, the U.S. will continue to lead the world in spectrum innovation, and President Biden's bold vision for spectrum policy will provide the foundation for that leadership," said U.S. Secretary of Commerce Gina Raimondo.

## [Amazon's prototype Kuiper satellites operating successfully](#)

### [Thune, Klobuchar release bipartisan AI bill \(The Hill\)](#)

Sens. John Thune (R-S.D.) and Amy Klobuchar (D-Minn.) introduced an artificial intelligence (AI) bill that would direct federal agencies to create standards aimed at providing transparency and accountability for AI tools, according to a copy of the bill released Wednesday. The bipartisan Artificial Intelligence Research, Innovation, and Accountability Act of 2023 will define terms related to generative AI, including what is considered “critical-impact,” as well as create standards for AI systems to follow. Notably, the bill would set in place a system to require “critical-impact” AI organizations to self-certify as meeting compliance standards. The proposal would task the Commerce Department with submitting a five-year plan for testing and certifying critical-impact AI. The department would also be required to regularly update the plan. The bill, which is co-sponsored by Sens. Roger Wicker (R-Miss.), John Hickenlooper (D-Colo.), Shelley Moore Capito (R-W.Va.) and Ben Ray Lujan (D-N.M.), would also direct the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) to develop standards for the authenticity of online content.

## [Election ads are using AI. Tech companies are figuring out how to disclose what's real.](#)

### [Lockheed will deliver advanced TPY-4 radar to Air Force for evaluation \(Defense News\)](#)

Lockheed Martin is preparing to send the U.S. Air Force its advanced TPY-4 radar for further evaluation, following months of internal testing and tweaks at company facilities in rural New York. The software-defined sensor, capable of detecting and tracking everything from small drones to jets to ballistic missiles, is slated to replace the decades-old TPS-75 radar as part of the Three-Dimensional Expeditionary Long Range Radar effort, or 3DELRR. The Air Force picked Lockheed's technology last year, beating out an offering from Northrop Grumman. The service at the time cited production and sustainment costs as well as overall capability in its decision-making. “One thing that's great about the TPY-4, as an example, is it's a software-defined radar upfront,” Steve Allen, Lockheed's program director for ground-based air surveillance, told reporters during a Nov. 2 tour of the company's test range and assembly lines. “When we have changes of targets, or what we're looking for, it becomes a lot of ‘how do we change our software?’”

## Military Installations & Communities

### [In a first, Uber drivers now can pass through gates at Joint Base San Antonio \(San Antonio News Express\)](#)

For the first time, Joint Base San Antonio is allowing Uber drivers to pass through its gates. Uber access will be subject to tight security, as you'd expect for a military base. Even so, it's big news for the thousands of people who work or have business there. JBSA comprises major military installations that cover large swaths of San Antonio: Randolph Air Force Base, Lackland AFB, Fort Sam Houston and Camp Bullis. Collectively, they're San Antonio's largest employer with more than 82,000 civilian and military employees. That's 7% of all jobs in the city. Yet until now, people who had to get on or off the base could not use Uber. On Tuesday, JBSA announced that Uber "has been authorized to provide transportation services to Department of Defense members at Joint Base San Antonio installations." To pass through the gates, Uber drivers must have been "pre-vetted" by JBSA security and issued a Defense Biometric Identification System ID.

### [One Million Strong: VA's Million Veteran Program makes history](#)

### [Tricare Costs Are Going Up Again in 2024 \(Military.com\)](#)

Military service members, families and retirees will pay more for Tricare in 2024, with modest increases generally amounting to about 3%. Costs also went up moderately this year. The 2024 increases for many using Tricare Prime and Tricare Select will mainly be to their annual enrollment fees and deductibles, with smaller increases in copayments for medical services. Tricare open enrollment season, which allows members to change their health insurance coverage for the upcoming year, runs from Nov. 13 to Dec. 12. Guard and reserve members, as well as transitioning troops and young adults enrolled in Tricare plans, will also see price increases in 2024, as will Tricare for Life beneficiaries who pay Medicare Part B premiums. Tricare costs depend on which Tricare "group" a military member belongs to. A member's Tricare group is determined by when they first entered the military. Group A consists of those who entered service before Jan. 1, 2018, while Group B are those who entered after that date.

### [Veteran Psychedelic Therapy Gets Cautious Support at First House](#)

## Hearing of Its Kind Since 1960s

### Authorities investigating multiple deaths at Fort Stewart in Georgia (CBS News)

Authorities are investigating multiple deaths at Fort Stewart Hunter Army Airfield on Nov. 15, the base's public affairs office said on Thursday. According to a social media post from Fort Stewart, the installation's law enforcement was "on the scene of an incident in on-post housing" at around 5:20 p.m. local time Wednesday. Kevin Larson, the chief of public communications at the public affairs office, said in a statement that there "are deceased individuals," but did not say how many people were dead, how they had died, or how the military was made aware of their deaths. The identities of those who died will not be released until their next of kin have been notified, Larson said. The Facebook post and Larson both said that "there is no reason to believe that there is an extended threat to our community." The incident is being investigated by Fort Stewart law enforcement and the Department of the Army Criminal Investigation Division. Larson said no additional information would be provided due to the ongoing investigation. Fort Stewart is about 40 miles southwest of Savannah, Georgia, and at 280,000 acres is the largest Army base east of the Mississippi River. The Third Infantry Division is based out of the fort.

## **Homeland Security**

### Nikki Haley calls for name verification in social media profiles: "This is a national security threat" (CBS News)

Republican presidential candidate and former South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley, on Tuesday, called for name verification on all social media profiles saying anonymous accounts and bots spreading misinformation are a national security threat. "When I get into office, the first thing we have to do, social media companies, they have to show America their algorithms. Let us see why they're pushing, what they're pushing," Haley said in an interview with Fox News Tuesday. The former U.N. ambassador blamed Russia, China, Iran and North Korea for spreading misinformation on social media that divides Americans. "This is a national security threat," Haley said during a Tuesday morning appearance on the "Ruthless Podcast," where she first raised the idea of name verification on social media. "They are giving the narrative to the American people, so you've got college kids everywhere on campuses thinking that they are fighting the occupation of Gaza. There are no Israelis in Gaza. There are no Jewish people in Gaza. There is only Hamas and Gaza."

## [Senate Passes Peters, Lankford & Cornyn Bipartisan Bill To Increase Support For Victims Of Human Trafficking](#)

### [FBI Director Wray Confirms The Border Crisis Poses Major Homeland Security Threats, DHS Secretary Mayorkas Stonewalls \(House Homeland Security Committee\)](#)

Today, the House Committee on Homeland Security, led by Chairman Mark E. Green, MD (R-TN), held a hearing to examine global threats to the U.S. homeland and America's interests abroad. The hearing featured testimony from Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas, Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) Director Christopher Wray, and National Counterterrorism Center (NCTC) Director Christine Abizaid. In the hearing, members received confirmation of the urgent national security threat posed by the nearly 1.8 million known gotaways and the rising number of individuals on the terrorist watchlist apprehended crossing the Southwest border—especially as America's enemies, including Iran-backed Hamas and Hezbollah, have been emboldened to spread their malign influence following the October 7 terrorist attacks on our ally, Israel. Wray confirmed these facts in his testimony and alluded to Chairman Green that the national security consequences of the crisis have turned every state into a border state.

## [Lawmakers push 702 reauthorization requiring warrant to access info on Americans](#)

### [Google's New Titan Security Key Adds Another Piece to the Password-Killing Puzzle \(Wired\)](#)

Passwords are a woefully insecure—and frustrating—authentication technology, but after decades of digital use, they're ubiquitous. Recently, though, the global tech industry has been working to promote a simpler and more secure alternative known as passkeys. Along with its other initiatives to champion the login tech, Google announced today that it is launching a new version of its Titan hardware authentication keys that can store passkeys directly on the device. For most people on most accounts, passkeys are managed directly from a smartphone or laptop. But for anyone seeking an alternative, either because they prefer a stand-alone key for ease of use or because they want maximum security separation, storing passkeys on a hardware token is a valuable option. The new Titan keys are available now and can store more than 250 unique passkeys. They are replacing Google's existing USB-A and USB-C Titan devices. "We're excited about the potential of passkeys, but know there's no security silver bullet for everyone," Google wrote in a blog

post published today. "Some people require a solution not dependent on smartphones or use devices that don't support passkeys—everyone has different approaches to security, but we all share one goal: stop attacks.

## Transportation & Infrastructure

### [Biden-Harris Administration Announces Nearly \\$5 Million Funding Opportunity to Improve Transit Access for Older Adults, People with Disabilities, and Low-Income Individuals \(DOT\)](#)

The U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Transit Administration (FTA) announced today the availability of approximately \$4.7 million in competitive grant funding to projects that improve access to vital transportation services for older adults, people with disabilities, and low-income individuals. "For seniors, for people with disabilities, for low-income families, transit access isn't just about getting where you need to go—it's about dignity and independence," said U.S. Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg. "Thanks to President Biden, we are proud to provide new funding that will connect underserved populations with necessities such as medical care and groceries through affordable, accessible public transit." The funding is available through FTA's Innovative Coordinated Access and Mobility (ICAM) pilot program, which supports projects that improve transportation coordination and enhance mobility, including access to non-emergency medical transportation.

### [White House Proposes Transportation, Commerce Agencies Handle New Space Regulations](#)

### [Boeing, Zero Petroleum to partner on sustainable aviation fuel \(Transportation Today\)](#)

On Tuesday, Boeing and Zero Petroleum announced they would be collaborating on the next generation of technologies to advance sustainable aviation fuels (SAF). For Boeing, the partnership represents investments in SAF globally as part of a continuing effort to reduce aviation industry emissions and support the industry's goals of net zero by 2050, officials said. British company Zero Petroleum manufactures whole-blend and 100 percent fossil free synthetic fuels, including gasoline, diesel and jet fuel. The company's technology produces SAF from air and water, the company said. By obtaining carbon from direct air capture and hydrogen from water electrolysis, the technology has the potential to reduce emissions across the fuel lifecycle, provided there is an abundance of renewable energy,

officials said. Under the agreement between the two companies, Boeing will establish a testing program for Zero's SAF at the University of Sheffield's Energy Innovation Center and at its SAF research facility.

### [Bipartisan group introduces bill ensuring fair pay for truckers working overtime](#)

#### [Auto strikes sink US manufacturing output in October \(Reuters\)](#)

Production at U.S. factories dropped more than expected in October as strikes by the United Auto Workers (UAW) union against Detroit's "Big Three" automakers depressed motor vehicle production, but manufacturing elsewhere continued to hold up. Manufacturing output fell 0.7% last month, the Federal Reserve said on Thursday. Data for September was revised lower to show production at factories rising 0.2% instead of the previously reported 0.4%. Economists polled by Reuters had forecast factory output dropping 0.3%. Production at factories declined 1.7% on a year-on-year basis in October. Motor vehicle and parts output plunged 10.0% after sliding by 0.5% in September. The UAW has ended its industrial action at U.S. factories owned by General Motors (GM.N), Ford (F.N) and Chrysler parent Stellantis (STLAM.MI). Excluding motor vehicles and parts, manufacturing production edged up 0.1%. Manufacturing, which accounts for 11.1% of the economy, has been hobbled by higher borrowing costs, with business spending on equipment declining in the third quarter.

## **Biotechnology & Healthcare**

#### [Biden calls for nursing home ownership transparency \(The Hill\)](#)

The Biden administration will require nursing homes to disclose more information about their ownership and management, in an effort to provide more clarity about whether private equity companies or real estate investment trusts are involved. The final rule comes amid mounting concerns about the role private equity companies and other investment firms play in the quality of care in nursing homes. Studies show that private equity ownership is associated with poorer staffing conditions and decreases in quality of care, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services said. The final rule includes specific definitions of private equity and real estate investment trusts, setting the stage for identifying whether a nursing home belongs to one of those types of owners. The rule will require nursing homes that receive Medicare and Medicaid reimbursement to disclose additional information regarding

their owners, operators and management; for example, nursing homes will disclose individuals or entities that provide administrative services or clinical consulting services to the nursing homes.

### [Compensation Is Key to Fixing Primary Care Shortage](#)

#### [Proposals on PBMs and medical devices advanced by House subcommittee \(Fierce Healthcare\)](#)

The House Committee on Energy and Commerce health subcommittee pushed forward 21 proposals on Tuesday, some of which will restrict the power of pharmacy benefit managers (PBMs). Democrats supported many of the proposals put forward by Republicans, including legislation reining in PBMs that had support from 60 organizations representing patients, providers, pharmacists, small businesses and advocates, but expressed disapproval of proposals regarding durable medical equipment and the breakthrough products pathway. Still, all proposals discussed were passed and will head to full committee for a future vote. Mirroring the Senate Finance Committee earlier this month, the House agreed that PBMs are engaging in unfair practices. The Protecting Patients Against PBM Abuses Act would delink PBM compensation from cost of medications, ban spread pricing and require PBMs to reimburse network pharmacies the same as affiliated pharmacies. Several transparency and enforcement provisions are included in the proposal including a requirement to submit an annual certification of compliance.

### [FDA recalls another 27 eye drop products](#)

#### [Amazon's One Medical partners with employer group for primary care \(Healthcare Dive\)](#)

Amazon's One Medical will serve as primary care provider for employers who participate in Health Transformation Alliance, the partners announced Wednesday. The HTA is a cooperative of nearly 60 employers — including companies like Coca-Cola, American Express, Marriott, Boeing and JPMorgan — that aims to combine resources and develop value-based care tools to lower the cost of employees' care.

The partnership marks the latest deal for the primary care chain, which also announced this week it would stand up new clinics in New Jersey through a partnership with Hackensack Meridian Health. HTA's members manage care for more than 4 million lives with a collective annual healthcare spend of \$27 billion, according to the employer group. The partnership with One Medical will include digital health tools and primary care services for member companies, "addressing the inefficiencies and costs that plague our system,"

HTA CEO Robert Andrews said in a statement.

## Climate & Development

### [Can US, China Climate Talks Spur Progress at COP28? \(Inside Climate News\)](#)

New climate talks between the United States and China could set an encouraging signal for the upcoming United Nations COP28 climate summit, but only if the world's biggest greenhouse gas polluters follow up on their words with actions. If the two countries don't make big emissions cuts soon, the world is likely to quickly heat well beyond the 1.5 degree Celsius goal of the Paris Agreement, new research shows. But the joint statement from China and the U.S. released late Tuesday does not mention fossil fuels as the root of the climate problem. That strikes activists and many energy analysts as a key omission that enables governments to pursue contradictory climate policies, as noted by climate journalist and activist George Monbiot. But if cooperation between the U.S. and China leads to some real progress toward reducing emissions, it could benefit the larger COP process, where it has been cumbersome and time-consuming to find consensus among nearly 200 countries for minor side agreements, and almost impossible to do so for controversial topics like a fossil fuel phaseout, said Aaron Thierry, a social scientist at Cardiff University.

### [Biden's Fifth National Climate Assessment found these 5 key ways climate change is affecting the entire U.S.](#)

### [US hydrogen tax credit rule could slip into 2024 amid debate over its design -sources \(Reuters\)](#)

The Biden administration could push the release of a highly anticipated rule guiding the use of clean hydrogen tax credits into next year as Treasury officials struggle to resolve disputes between environmentalists and the industry over how "green" to make the incentive, according to two sources familiar with the administration's plans. Treasury officials were expected to release the rules for the hydrogen production tax credit - one of the most generous in President Joe Biden's landmark bill - by the end of the year, but internal squabbling over its design has some officials signaling to stakeholders a release as late as March. "They are basically nowhere on resolving the disagreements," said a source who is working with the administration on promoting hydrogen projects. Treasury spokesperson Ashley Schapitl said: "The Treasury Department expects to release

guidance on the Clean Hydrogen Production Tax Credit by the end of the year.” Biden is banking that clean hydrogen will replace natural gas to fuel manufacturing plants and power plants as part of the administration's ambitious plan to decarbonize the economy in order to fight climate change. Last month, Biden awarded \$7 billion in grants to proposed "hydrogen hubs" in 16 states to jump-start the emerging industry

### [Climate engineering could slow Antarctic ice loss](#)

#### [In a Report Card on Global Warming, Nations Get a Very Poor Grade \(NYT\)](#)

Despite the clear human and environmental toll of global warming, countries are taking only “baby steps” to rein in greenhouse gas emissions, a senior United Nations official said, summarizing a new U.N. report card on the promises made by governments so far. The U.N. findings, published Tuesday, are the latest of several assessments that paint a dire picture in which the countries aren’t doing nearly enough to keep global warming within relatively safe levels. “Today’s report shows that governments combined are taking baby steps to avert the climate crisis,” said Simon Stiell, the executive secretary of the U.N. climate change agency. “And it shows why governments must make bold strides forward.” Notably, a separate study from researchers in Saudi Arabia found that the country could face an “existential crisis” — threatening food and water supplies, along with the health of religious pilgrims during the Hajj — if global average temperatures rise by 3 degrees Celsius, or 5.4 degrees Fahrenheit, compared with pre industrial times. That’s roughly the level of warming that is projected if every country meets its climate goals.

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### **Next Week's Hearings**

The House and Senate will be in recess in the week of November 20th.

Please note that the next Executive Insight Brief will be sent out on December 1st.

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November 14th, 2023

**Elana Broitman, Senior Advisor at The Roosevelt Group,  
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## Explains A.I. & National Security

### **About Elana:**

Elana Broitman joined The Roosevelt Group as a Senior Advisor in October 2023. Elana has over 30 years of experience in government, the technology sector, and nonprofits, and is a seasoned senior Capitol Hill and DOD leader. To find out more about Elana please visit our [website](#).

### **Experts to Explain Everything Podcast:**

In this podcast Elana joins Catalina Villegas on Rolli's "Experts to Explain Everything Podcast," which features the world's leading experts on a variety of topics. This week Elana and Catalina dive into the following topics:

- Who is winning the Artificial Intelligence national security race?
- What players pose the biggest threat to the U.S. for A.I. misuse?
- What are the applications for A.I. in national security?
- What should lawmakers consider when writing legislation?

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