



May 13, 2022



THIS WEEK IN WASHINGTON: Twitter Bid Locked in Birdcage?

It appeared this week that the additional \$40 billion aid package for Ukraine might receive a vote and pass the Senate. This comes after leaders in the House and Senate detached the COVID-19 assistance language from the Ukrainian assistance. On Thursday, the progress for the \$40 billion in aid halted when there was no vote on the calendar, and it seemed like Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-NY) did not have the votes needed to pass this package.

While \$40 billion in aid seems like a lot, its not as much as the \$44 billion bid by Tesla and SpaceX CEO Elon Musk to buy a majority stake in the social media giant, Twitter. Musk has received some controversy over this move, and it seems that this bid is on hold for the time being. While this does not seem political by nature, Musk's claims of defending the first amendment and protecting the "virtual town hall" have caused conversations around town in D.C. and across the country.

Hearings the Week of May 16, 2022

[Creating A More Resilient Nation: Stakeholder Perspectives](#)

House Committee on Homeland Security
Tuesday, May 17, 2022 at 9:00am ET

[Examining Potential Reforms of Emergency Powers](#)

House Committee on Judiciary, Constitution, Civil Rights, and Civil Liberties Subcommittee
Tuesday, May 17, 2022 at 9:30am ET

[Preparing for Take-Off: Examining Efforts to Address Climate Change at U.S. Airports](#)

House Committee on Transportation & Infrastructure, Aviation Subcommittee
Tuesday, May 17, 2022 at 1:00pm ET

[Securing The Dotgov: Examining Efforts To Strengthen Federal Network Cybersecurity](#)

House Committee on Homeland Security, Cybersecurity, Infrastructure Protection, & Innovation Subcommittee
Tuesday, May 17, 2022 at 2:00pm ET

[Examining DHS's Effort to Combat the Opioid Epidemic](#)

House Committee on Homeland Security
Wednesday, May 18, 2022 at 2:00pm ET

[Cybersecurity in the Health and Education Sectors](#)

Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pension
Wednesday, May 18, 2022 at 10:00am ET

More News from the Nation's Capital...

FEMA Releases New Flood Insurance Resources

This week, FEMA released some additional resources to help individuals navigate their new Risk Rating 2.0 rating system. These resources were developed by FEMA in response to stakeholder engagement, aiming to answer the questions "How does FEMA calculate my rate?" and "How can I reduce my flood risk and pay less?".

To provide answers to these important questions, FEMA has published new materials to the Risk Rating 2.0: Equity in Action [resource webpage](#) on FloodSmart.gov. These user-friendly educational tools are a part of the agency's commitment to increasing transparency and communication. The materials provide in-depth explanations on topics ranging from flood risk variables and individualized policy pricing to discounts and other options available to policyholders.

This collection is updated regularly and insurance providers are encouraged to use and share these resources to help their clients protect lives and to help close the flood insurance gap.

CISA and Partners Issue New Cybersecurity Advisory

On Wednesday, CISA, NSA, FBI, and international partners released an advisory today with cybersecurity best practices for information and communications technology (ICT), focusing on enabling transparent discussions between managed service providers (MSPs) and their customers on securing sensitive data.

The advisory provides several actions that organizations can take to reduce their risk of becoming a victim to malicious cyber activity. Additionally, MSP customers should ensure their contractual arrangements specify that their MSP implements the measures and controls in this advisory. The full advisory can be found [here](#).

GAO Releases Report on CBP Drug Seizure Recommendations

On Wednesday, GAO released report after being asked to review issues related to CBP's drug seizure data and training. The report examines how CBP collects and categorizes drug seizure data in its systems and monitors trends in drug seizures, and to what extent CBP trains its officers and agents on the process for recording drug seizures and evaluates its training.

From the report, GAO is making three recommendations, that CBP assess the drug type categories available in its data systems, and that OFO and Border Patrol each finalize and implement a plan to regularly evaluate their post-academy drug seizure training. DHS concurred with the recommendations.

The full report can be found [here](#) and highlights of the report can be found [here](#).

OIG Releases Report on FEMA's Waiver Authority under DRRA

On Thursday, the Office of the Inspector General released a [report](#) on FEMA's waiver authority under the Disaster Recovery Reform Act of 2018. Section 1216 of the DRRA authorizes FEMA to waive certain debts resulting from covered assistance provided to individuals and households on or after October 28, 2012, when the assistance was distributed in error by FEMA. OIG conducted this audit to determine whether covered assistance distributed in error by FEMA to individuals and households, in any 12-month period, exceeded 4 percent of the total amount of covered assistance distributed.

In attempting to meet this mandated audit, however, OIG discovered that FEMA did not have the resources or data to conduct and audit in the outlined process. Instead, OIG analyzed summaries from Individuals and Households Program. In doing so, they found a one percent error and made no recommendations.

Other News from DC and Around the Country:

Route Fifty: [Katrina Survivors Were Told They Could Use Grant Money To Rebuild. Now They're Being Sued](#)

Governing: [Local Governments Search for Answers to Hiring Challenges](#)

HSToday: [DHS Details Preparations to Process Migrant Surge After End of Title 42](#)

PoltiFact: [What Exactly Will New DHS 'Disinformation Governance Board' Do?](#)

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