# PTX Updates

## BBB -- Dead as a door knob

#### BBB is dead—Manchin watered it down to a Medicare bill that doesn’t solve the DA’s impacts

David Dayen 22, 7-15-2022, "May Build Back Better Never Be Spoken Of Again," American Prospect, https://prospect.org/blogs-and-newsletters/tap/may-build-back-better-never-be-spoken-of-again/

In the end, having to negotiate with a coal baron on transitioning away from fossil fuels was not the most reliable option. As you and the rest of the world know by now, Joe Manchin walked away from adding climate measures or tax increases to any party-line reconciliation package. What was once a transformative, multitrillion-dollar agenda to face numerous long-standing crises in domestic policy has narrowed to an exceptionally narrow drug price reform, the main part of which—price negotiation in Medicare—doesn’t kick in until 2026, two years after the next presidential election, and a two-year extension on ACA subsidies that were set to expire at the end of the year. Eighteen months of fruitless negotiation has come down to that. There’s going to be a ton to say about this in the coming days, and we’re certainly going to say it. We’re going to note that progressives who said that the social-spending and infrastructure plans had to be tied together or else the social spending wouldn’t happen were proven entirely correct. We’re going to reinforce that Manchin was never a viable partner in this enterprise, something that we’ve known for at least this entire year. We’re going to note that the Trump tax cuts—opposed unanimously by every Democrat in or out of Congress—are now looking incredibly likely to become permanent, without much of a fight. We’re going to try and draw lessons out of the policy and governance structures of the Democratic Party that led to this utter failure. We’re going to once again highlight, as we have for three years, the importance of executive action as the main path forward for progress in Washington. (The states are a different matter, and we’ll talk about that, too.) But first things first. Staring us in the face is this health policy bill that by all accounts has the support of all 50 Democratic senators. That should be passed the moment that those 50 senators are physically available to cast a vote in the chamber. Manchin made a play at walking back his comments on local radio today, saying that climate measures weren’t dead, that he just wants to see one more inflation report, just one more set of data, before coming back and hammering something out in September. Humoring him would be a colossal mistake. Manchin has shown the world who he is; Chuck Schumer spending one more second in a room with him would be absurd. If he wants to go down in history as the man responsible for the diminishment of life on Earth, that’s between him and his network of coal companies. What we’re left with on the table isn’t great, but it is, and this is a low bar, a lot better than nothing. The drug price reform is narrow and pinched and limited mostly to seniors and it still saves nearly $300 billion in Medicare costs, plus a lot more for individual patients. Extending the ACA subsidies prevents the self-own October surprise of a spike in insurance premiums. Yes, a two-year extension sets up the same brinkmanship and potential premium spike before the presidential election, but Republicans will share some of the blame for that if they control the House and/or Senate, and a presidential race could be a better stage for highlighting that issue. Most important, stopping the will-they-or-won’t-they is an absolute political imperative. The party is exhausted by failure, and won’t hold out for another couple months of wishes and hopes. Eighteen months of Joe Manchin being America’s most well-known Democrat is enough. Just put the bill on the floor and get this over with. Get something completed, and spend the August recess thinking about how we got here.

#### Manchin pulled the plug – no more BBB, makes their impacts inevitable

Laura Benshoff 22, 7-15-2022, "Sen. Joe Manchin pulled the plug on major spending to address climate change," 90.5 WESA, https://www.wesa.fm/2022-07-15/sen-joe-manchin-pulled-the-plug-on-major-spending-to-address-climate-change

AILSA CHANG, HOST:

Last night, Democratic Senator Joe Manchin of West Virginia pulled the plug on major spending to address climate change. Manchin said he was concerned about inflation right now but is open to negotiating more later. Even so, his fellow Democrats say his refusal to act before the August recess dooms any climate policy deal before the midterms.

NPR's Laura Benshoff is here to help us understand what that means for the U.S. and its commitment to lower emissions. Hey, Laura.

LAURA BENSHOFF, BYLINE: Hi, Ailsa.

CHANG:OK. I mean, we've seen these negotiations stop and start for - what? - at least a year at this point. So what was even on the table at this point when it came to climate policy

BENSHOFF: Basically, a lot of money. There is already a massive energy transition underway. People are moving towards electric vehicles, and renewable energy is growing. And the idea behind the climate spending that was in both the Build Back Better bill last year and reconciliation negotiations this year was to speed up that transition and make it more affordable, make it more attractive to invest in. Most recently, the size of that federal subsidy was reported to be as much as $300 billion, with Democrats trimming and tailoring the package to keep Manchin on board. Trevor Higgins with the Center for American Progress gives one example of a proposed program to incentivize clean energy manufacturing in areas that depend on coal, such as Manchin's home state of West Virginia.

TREVOR HIGGINS: And he has spiked all of that. And he's done it, he says, because of inflation. But these investments were designed to cut energy costs.

CHANG: So how did Manchin explain his decision here?

BENSHOFF: He gave an interview on a local radio show in West Virginia this morning, and he said year-over-year inflation is what gave him pause. Those numbers came out this week. And energy prices are a driver of inflation. They caused about a third of the price increases we've all seen in the last year and a half, according to the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas. But the Democrats who wanted climate action say that means Manchin just blew a chance to do something about inflation by rejecting policy that would have subsidized energy. I should say NPR reached out to Manchin's office multiple times, and we've had no response yet.

CHANG: No response. OK. Well, we should remind people that President Biden promised his administration would reduce U.S. emissions by, like, half before the decade is out. So how is that goal looking after this development?

BENSHOFF: Not good. I talked to Jesse Jenkins, who leads a team at Princeton University which models the impact of federal policy on climate goals. And he says since Biden took office, the sum of congressional action on climate change has basically barely moved the needle.

JESSE JENKINS: It is extremely likely that the United States will fall well short of our climate goals without the Senate passing some kind of clean energy investment package.

BENSHOFF: And representatives for renewable energy manufacturers echoed this. You know, wind and solar adoption is strong. But in order for the U.S. to cut emissions as quickly as it wants to, they'll have to speed up considerably.

CHANG: OK. Well, I mean, are there other options available at this point? Is there a Plan B, a Plan C? What do you think?

BENSHOFF: You know, environmental groups say failure is not an option. Any action is better than no action. And in a statement today, President Biden vowed to use executive orders for things like energy security and to address climate change. But, of course, those orders often bring lawsuits from fossil fuel companies or GOP state officials, so they can get hung up in court. And, you know, this is something that, without legislative action now, it could be off the table for years to come.

CHANG: That is NPR's Laura Benshoff. Thank you so much, Laura.

BENSHOFF: Thank you for having me.

## BBB-- AHA! its still alive

#### Manchin walked back and is open to climate negotiations later – only by walking on egg shells can the bill be passed in September – floor time and PC are key

Emily Cochrane 22, 7-15-2022, "Manchin Dangles Hopes of a Future Compromise. Democrats Revolt.," https://www.nytimes.com/2022/07/15/us/politics/joe-manchin-senate-climate-tax.html?auth=login-google

WASHINGTON — It was a familiar, if excruciating, position for Democrats. A day after pulling the plug on his party’s plans to pass a climate, energy and tax package this summer, Senator Joe Manchin III of West Virginia, the conservative-leaning Democrat who has repeatedly flirted with compromise only to scuttle his party’s highest ambitions, called in on Friday to a West Virginia radio show. Perhaps, he suggested, in another month or so, he might see his way clear to salvaging the last bits of President Biden’s domestic agenda. There was no guarantee, of course, and the comments were only the latest instance of Mr. Manchin capitalizing on his role as a swing vote in an evenly divided Senate to dictate his party’s legislative strategy, leaving Democrats at his mercy. This time, Democrats had had enough. Rather than engage in another round of will-he-or-won’t-he negotiations with Mr. Manchin, Mr. Biden let it be known that he was done trying to secure his climate agenda in Congress. Mr. Manchin’s abrupt withdrawal left Senator Chuck Schumer, Democrat of New York and the majority leader, jilted after months of courting a colleague whose demands and red lines seemed to shift by the day, or the latest economic projection. And it prodded many Democrats into open revolt against Mr. Manchin, blaming him for the demise of their ambitions and the last chance for their party to tackle the existential threat of climate change. Mr. Manchin, said Representative Pramila Jayapal of Washington, the chairwoman of the Congressional Progressive Caucus, “has shown that he doesn’t know how to close a deal — or he doesn’t want to close a deal — and that you can’t trust him.” For more than a year, Mr. Manchin, who at 74 is serving his third term in the Senate, has been situated exactly where he prefers to be: at the center of a high-stakes political and policy negotiation, with attention and speculation focused on him. Democrats have toiled to win his vote on any piece of their once-ambitious domestic agenda, tailoring their policy moves so as not to alienate him. They have contorted themselves to suit his often-changing dictates and have scaled back their ambitions repeatedly to stay within his red lines, but they have so far come away empty-handed on their biggest priorities. Because of Democrats’ razor-thin margin of control in the 50-50 Senate and unified Republican opposition to most of their agenda, Mr. Manchin has effective veto power over the party’s legislative strategy — and has exercised it often and unapologetically. But while Mr. Biden and congressional Democrats have pushed for transformative policies to confront generational challenges such as climate change, Mr. Manchin, who channels the desires of his very conservative, coal-and-gas-producing state, has focused on nearer-term issues. On Friday, he said he had told party leaders he wanted to wait another month — until inflation numbers for July were released — before he could decide on whether to act on climate change. ‘Build Back Better.’ Before being elected president in 2020, Joseph R. Biden Jr. articulated his ambitious vision for his administration under the slogan “Build Back Better,” promising to invest in clean energy and to ensure that procurement spending went toward American-made products. A two-part agenda. March and April 2021: President Biden unveiled two plans that together formed the core of his domestic agenda: the American Jobs Plan, focused on infrastructure, and the American Families Plan, which included a variety of social policy initiatives. A $6 trillion budget. June 2021: President Biden proposed a $6 trillion budget for 2022. The proposal detailed the highest sustained levels of federal spending since World War II, with the goal of funding the investments in education, transportation and climate initiatives articulated in the two plans. The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act. Nov. 15, 2021: President Biden signed a $1 trillion infrastructure bill into law, the result of months of negotiations. The president hailed the package, a pared-back version of what had been outlined in the American Jobs Plan, as evidence that U.S. lawmakers could still work across party lines. The Build Back Better Act. Nov. 19, 2021: The House narrowly passed a $2.2 trillion social spending bill intended to fund a package of initiatives from the American Families Plan and the American Jobs Plan. But on Dec. 19, 2021, Senator Joe Manchin III, Democrat of West Virginia, said he would not support the bill as written, dooming his party’s drive to pass it. A new attempt. July 15, 2022: Efforts to revive the bill, in a much smaller form, ahead of the midterm elections were dealt a severe blow when Mr. Manchin told Senator Chuck Schumer, the majority leader, that he was unwilling to support funding for climate or energy programs or raising taxes on wealthy Americans and corporations. “I am where I have been — I would not put my staff through this, I would not put myself through this if I wasn’t sincere about trying to find a pathway forward to do something that’s good for our country,” Mr. Manchin said on Friday in the interview with the radio host Hoppy Kercheval. “They cannot come to grips because I have a ‘D’ by my name or someone has an ‘R’ by their name, we should do whatever one side wants. That’s not me.” Mr. Biden made no mention of Mr. Manchin in a statement issued on Friday. Asked at a news conference in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, whether the West Virginian had been negotiating in good faith, the president demurred, saying he was not the one who had been negotiating with him. But angry congressional Democrats pinned their frustration on the West Virginia Democrat. One, Senator Martin Heinrich of New Mexico, mused publicly about whether Mr. Manchin deserved his chairmanship of the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. “It’s been a really, really terrible day,” Senator Tina Smith, Democrat of Minnesota and a key champion of the climate provisions, said in an interview. “If Senator Manchin wants a deal on climate and energy, he can have one in a heartbeat. This is Senator Manchin’s deal for the taking, and if it doesn’t happen, it is on him.” On Capitol Hill, Mr. Manchin is something of a unicorn — the only national Democrat from his ruby-red state — and acts and votes accordingly. Set to face voters in 2024, he is unlikely to be threatened by a primary challenger in a state former President Donald J. Trump won by nearly 40 points in 2020. That has given Mr. Manchin leverage to accomplish his own policy goals — including holding firm against moving entirely away from oil and gas — and resist what he considers his party’s lurch toward its liberal base. He appears happiest when he is in the middle of a consequential policy negotiation; he has been wined and dined as a crucial participant in bipartisan talks, invited to Mr. Biden’s Wilmington home for breakfast and pursued by the White House officials, lawmakers, aides and reporters who dissect his every syllable for a kernel of insight. But the murkiness, and at times inconsistency, of Mr. Manchin’s positions has increasingly grated on his Democratic colleagues. Barely three months into the Biden administration, he prompted the longest open vote in modern Senate history by raising a last-minute objection to the size of unemployment benefits in the $1.9 trillion pandemic aid plan. Democrats had to slash the jobless payments to win his vote, which cemented passage of the package. He refused to help Democrats change filibuster rules to enact voting rights legislation, killing the effort even after Mr. Schumer gave him the lead role in writing an alternative bill to ensure he would support it. But on no issue has Mr. Manchin bedeviled Democrats more than on their ambitious social safety net, climate and tax package. To win his vote to begin work on the plan, Mr. Schumer signed on to a secret memo with Mr. Manchin that made clear that the West Virginian had no intention of accepting the $3.5 trillion in spending envisioned in Democrats’ budget. The document outlined Mr. Manchin’s much narrower parameters for a $1.5 trillion package, including income thresholds for social programs and accommodations for fossil fuel tax credits and natural gas. “I will try to dissuade Joe on many of these,” Mr. Schumer scrawled on the document, which enraged many Democrats when it became public. He never could. Six months later, Mr. Manchin abruptly walked away from talks on the package. Democrats regrouped in January and began efforts to rebuild their shattered plan, adhering strictly to the components Mr. Manchin had repeatedly laid out: paying down the national debt, overhauling parts of the tax code and lowering the cost of prescription drugs by allowing Medicare to negotiate prices and some spending. By early this month, Senate Democrats had begun rolling out pieces of a package they believed could win Mr. Manchin’s support, including a drug pricing proposal and a plan to shore up the solvency of a key Medicare program by increasing taxes for some high-earning Americans. But by Thursday evening, after news that prices had surged 9.1 percent in the year ending in June, Mr. Manchin balked again, telling Mr. Schumer that he wanted to wait on any climate or tax proposals until seeing inflation figures for July. Should Democrats insist on pushing forward with legislative action before then, Mr. Manchin said, they should act only on proposals aimed at lowering the cost of prescription drugs and extending expanded Affordable Care Act subsidies. “Let’s wait until that comes out, so we know that we’re going down the path it won’t be inflammatory, to add more to inflation,” Mr. Manchin said in the radio interview. Recounting Mr. Schumer’s response, Mr. Manchin added: “I said, ‘Chuck, it’s wrong. It’s not prudent to do the other right now.’” “I want climate. I want an energy policy,” he said, adding, “I thought we were moving truly in the right direction.” But Mr. Schumer appeared to have grown exasperated and convinced that Mr. Manchin’s vote was not obtainable. One official said that Mr. Manchin had rebuffed major concessions that would have enraged progressive Democrats, including adding more drilling measures, removing a key electric vehicle tax credit and dropping tax increases he had resisted. Mr. Manchin’s stance effectively scuttled the chances of action in the coming days on a critical priority for Democrats and strongly suggested that unless they abandoned the climate and tax proposals altogether, they might not salvage any of their domestic policy package before the midterm congressional elections in November. In September, after a five-week planned recess, lawmakers will have only a limited window to act on the package. And they are eager to give themselves as much time as possible to campaign on whatever they pass before the November elections. Bearing political scars from a year of fractious talks, few Democrats on Friday seemed willing to gamble that there was a larger deal to be had in September. “I can’t get blood from a stone,” said Representative Elissa Slotkin, a Michigan Democrat facing re-election in a competitive district. “I’m not in the Senate. They’re clearly having problems negotiating among themselves. And I will just — for my constituents — take what I can get.”

#### Their evidence exaggerates Manchins claim—he just didn’t want to pass the bill in July

Jacob Fischler 22, 7-15-2022, "Climate change legislation still could pass Congress this year, Manchin insists," Iowa Capital Dispatch, https://iowacapitaldispatch.com/2022/07/15/climate-change-legislation-still-could-pass-congress-this-year-manchin-insists/

U.S. Sen. Joe Manchin III on Friday held open the prospect of Congress passing significant climate legislation yet this year, denying reports he’s tanked the effort by walking away from talks with leadership. The reports have brought a flood of criticism for Manchin from fellow members of Congress, who say the very survival of the planet is at stake. Manchin, a moderate West Virginia Democrat, gains unusual national attention for his remarks because he is in the center of his party’s negotiations over a major spending bill and represents a crucial vote in the evenly divided Senate. Manchin on a West Virginia radio station talk show on Friday said he told Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer that after June’s consumer price index showed a 9.1% increase, he wanted to wait to see July’s inflation numbers and Federal Reserve interest rates before deciding what clean energy programs and tax changes he could support. “Let’s wait until that comes out so that we know that we’re going down the path that won’t be inflammatory to add more to inflation,” Manchin said he told Schumer, a New York Democrat. “Inflation is absolutely killing many, many people… Can’t we wait to make sure that we do nothing to add to that?” Schumer “took that as ‘no,’ I guess, and came out with this big thing last night,” Manchin told Hoppy Kercheval, the host of the Metronews Talkline radio show in West Virginia. The New York Democrat or someone close to him then told The Washington Post that talks were dead, Manchin implied. The Post published a story Thursday night saying Manchin told Democratic leaders he wouldn’t support new climate programs or raising taxes on the wealthy. Manchin seemed surprised by the Washington Post report, saying during a 15-minute interview with Kercheval that Schumer’s team knew where the West Virginian stood and that the sides had made major progress in the past few months. He seemed to view the leak as a negotiating ploy, rejecting the conclusion that talks were at an end or even seriously set back. “I’m not stopping,” he said. “This is rhetoric. I’ve been through this all my life, politically. I’ve never seen it at this level… thinking they’re going to put all this pressure on me. I am where I have been. I would not put my staff through this, I would not put myself through this if I wasn’t sincere.” Reconciliation bill Manchin said Schumer wanted an agreement by the end of July on a budget reconciliation bill — a legislative tool that would allow Senate Democrats to pass legislation with a simple majority vote, which they’d gain with Vice President Kamala Harris breaking a tie. Inflation figures for July will not be released until August, when the Senate will be in a month-long recess. Manchin has also set a Sept. 30 deadline to reach a deal on a spending bill, making the four weeks the chamber is in session in September a crucial period. That tight timeline was not an obstacle, he said Friday. “We could come back the first of September and pass this legislation,” he said. “If it’s a good piece of legislation.” Manchin said he thought he was “close” to a deal with Schumer. “I thought we were,” he said. “I thought we were moving truly in the right direction.” Energy policy differences Manchin, who has financial ties to his state’s coal industry, said he supports spending for clean energy programs, but had disagreements with Democratic colleagues who he said wanted to eliminate production of oil, gas and coal. That may happen in 20 years, but would not be possible in the next decade, Manchin said. The U.S. should instead work on making fossil fuel production cleaner and on developing non-fossil fuel sources, including hydrogen and nuclear, he said. Carbon emissions from fossil fuels are the dominant cause of global warming, according to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. The international group has called for significant reductions to fossil fuel emissions in order to curb the worst effects of climate change. President Joe Biden has joined international efforts to reduce carbon emissions, including cutting greenhouse gas emissions to 50% of 2005 levels by 2030. The White House proposed — and the Democratic-controlled House passed last year — more than $550 billion for climate programs, mostly tax credits for energy producers that use renewable sources. Manchin’s objections sidelined that bill in December. Manchin ‘whims’ criticized Climate advocates in and out of Congress slammed Manchin on Friday, reacting to apparent news he had again blocked even a slimmed-down climate bill. “Like most Americans right now, I am sickened that the changing whims of one man could put the very near future of our country, our planet, and our health and safety on the brink,” U.S. House Natural Resources Committee Chairman Raúl M. Grijalva of Arizona said in a statement. “I think it’s shortsighted at best, reckless endangerment at worst.” Grijalva also blamed Republicans for the impasse. “It’s infuriating and nothing short of tragic that Senator Manchin is walking away, again, from taking essential action on climate and clean energy,” Minnesota Democratic Sen. Tina Smith said in a statement. “The world is literally burning while he joins every single Republican to stop strong action to cut emissions and speed the transition to clean energy for the survival of our planet.” “We have an opportunity to address the climate crisis right now,” U.S. Sen. Martin Heinrich of New Mexico, who sits on the Energy and Natural Resources Committee that Manchin chairs, wrote on Twitter. “Senator Manchin’s refusal to act is infuriating,” Heinrich added. “It makes me question why he’s Chair of ENR.” “This failure falls squarely on Joe Manchin and the Republicans, as do the barren croplands, flooded homes, and incinerated communities that will result from this inaction,” said Manish Bapna, the president and CEO of environmental group NRDC Action Fund. “One of those senators must reconsider.” Representatives for Schumer, who has been absent from the Senate with COVID-19, did not respond to a message seeking comment Friday.

## Midterms

#### Healthcare bill passage before midterms boosts dem popularity

Margot Sanger-Katz 22, 7-15-2022, "Build Back Better Is a Health Care Bill Now," No Publication, https://www.nytimes.com/2022/07/15/upshot/build-back-better-health-care-biden.html

WASHINGTON — President Biden and Democrats in Congress had hoped to pass a broad domestic policy package that would expand the social safety net, raise taxes on corporations and the wealthiest Americans, and tighten regulation of climate-changing pollutants. But the decision by Senator Joe Manchin of West Virginia to withdraw his support from other aspects of an already-shrunken package this week leaves nothing but health care on the table. But even if what was once a sidecar of sorts to the so-called Build Back Better Act is now the only vehicle left on the road, it would still have a substantial impact on the lives of many Americans. And unlike other provisions that faced a mixed political reception, the central health care proposal that remains is enormously popular with the public — including Republicans. That piece is prescription drug price reform, which Democrats have been promising for years and many Americans tell pollsters they want. The bill would take several whacks at the price of drugs — directly regulating prices for a group of expensive medications purchased by Medicare and punishing drug companies that raise prices too fast on existing medicines for all Americans. The legislation under discussion would also expand Medicare’s prescription drug benefit, increasing financial help for poorer seniors and eliminating the program’s current unlimited cost sharing, which leaves some beneficiaries facing more than $10,000 a year in medication costs. No one on Medicare would be asked to pay more than $2,000 a year for prescription drugs under the legislation, a significant benefit to patients who take expensive medications for serious diseases like cancer and multiple sclerosis. The prescription drug provisions are unusual in that they offer Americans tangible benefits — lower drug prices, more financial protections — while actually saving the federal government money. That’s because the bill essentially puts the savings on the back of the pharmaceutical industry, which will have to accept lower prices for some of its big sellers. Understand What Happened to Biden’s Domestic Agenda Card 1 of 6 ‘Build Back Better.’ Before being elected president in 2020, Joseph R. Biden Jr. articulated his ambitious vision for his administration under the slogan “Build Back Better,” promising to invest in clean energy and to ensure that procurement spending went toward American-made products. A two-part agenda. March and April 2021: President Biden unveiled two plans that together formed the core of his domestic agenda: the American Jobs Plan, focused on infrastructure, and the American Families Plan, which included a variety of social policy initiatives. A $6 trillion budget. June 2021: President Biden proposed a $6 trillion budget for 2022. The proposal detailed the highest sustained levels of federal spending since World War II, with the goal of funding the investments in education, transportation and climate initiatives articulated in the two plans. The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act. Nov. 15, 2021: President Biden signed a $1 trillion infrastructure bill into law, the result of months of negotiations. The president hailed the package, a pared-back version of what had been outlined in the American Jobs Plan, as evidence that U.S. lawmakers could still work across party lines. The Build Back Better Act. Nov.19, 2021: The House narrowly passed a $2.2 trillion social spending bill intended to fund a package of initiatives from the American Families Plan and the American Jobs Plan. But on Dec. 19, 2021, Senator Joe Manchin III, Democrat of West Virginia, said he would not support the bill as written, dooming his party’s drive to pass it. A new attempt. July 15, 2022: Efforts to revive the bill, in a much smaller form, ahead of the midterm elections were dealt a severe blow when Mr. Manchin told Senator Chuck Schumer, the majority leader, that he was unwilling to support funding for climate or energy programs or raising taxes on wealthy Americans and corporations. Defenders of the industry in Congress, and the drug companies themselves, argue that the change could thwart innovation and cost jobs. Such arguments have staved off drug price reforms in the past. But previous rounds of negotiation suggest that this package is likely to have enough votes to pass the Senate. Dig deeper into the moment. Special offer: Subscribe for $1 a week. Mr. Manchin has also signaled his support for another health provision that has received less attention in recent reports of the emerging deal. He said he was open to an expansion of premium subsidies that lower the price of insurance for Americans who buy their own coverage, rather than get it through the government or a job. Those subsidies were already expanded as part of Congress’s pandemic relief bill last year, but the expansion will expire in December unless new legislation continues them. The subsidies are important to many Democratic lawmakers because they are seen as fulfilling the promise of the Affordable Care Act. The extra money lowers premiums for nearly every American who buys a health plan through the Obamacare marketplaces, making certain plans free for lower-income Americans and offering financial support for higher-income people who previously received no help paying for insurance. In a statement on Friday supporting the measures in which he called on the Senate to pass the legislation before its August recess, Mr. Biden said Democrats had “come together” and “beaten back the pharmaceutical industry.” “This will not only lower the cost of prescription drugs and health care for families,” he added, “it will reduce the deficit and help fight inflation.” But for Democrats who had hoped for social spending on programs other than health care, the price of extending the Obamacare subsidies may disappoint. A slightly outdated estimate suggests they will cost the federal government nearly as much to extend as the drug-pricing provisions would save — $220 billion over a decade, compared with about $288 billion in savings. Mr. Manchin has said he might be open to considering climate and tax provisions in the fall. If he is also hoping for deficit reduction, there may be less money to spend than some lawmakers expected.

#### Manchin’s refusal to cooperate on climate policy energizes democratic voter’s

Hans Nichols 22, 7-16-2022, "Democrats' Manchin rage," Axios, https://www.axios.com/2022/07/16/democrats-manchin-rage

Democrats are publicly fuming that Sen. Joe Manchin (D-W.Va.) can't be trusted and has doubled-crossed them yet again on Build Back Better. But privately, they're taking him at his word that he's still committed to working with them to lower prescription drug prices.

Why it matters: Party leaders are moving to vote on a drug pricing and health care subsidy package this month. Capping drug costs is hugely popular across party lines and could give Democrats a major boost ahead of November if infighting doesn't sink a deal.

From President Biden to Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-N.Y.) Democrats are seizing on Manchin’s public comments that he’s willing to a support a package focused on deficit reduction, allowing Medicare to directly negotiate drug prices and two years of funding to bolster the Obamacare insurance exchanges.

Driving the news: Democrats made no attempt to hide their rage and indignation after reports Thursday night that Manchin had told party leaders that due to inflation concerns he was out on any economic package with climate change spending or new taxes on the wealthy or corporations.

After negotiating with Schumer all spring on a modified package to include $1 trillion in revenue and $500 billion in new spending, he was again taking his ball and going home.

What they're saying: "We're going to have to get two more Democrats — real Democrats — who will actually help us to implement the president's agenda and not obstruct it," Rep. Pramila Jayapal (D-Wash.), the chair of the House Progressive Caucus, told reporters.

Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.) told SiriusXM host Dean Obeidallah that "Manchin is not particularly concerned about President Biden succeeding. He's not particularly concerned about the needs of working people.”

"Senator Manchin’s refusal to act is infuriating,” Sen. Martin Heinrich (D-N.M.) tweeted.

Manchin somewhat tempered his stance on Friday, telling a radio show in his home state that he simply wants more time and to see how the Federal Reserve responds to the 9.1% June inflation report. He also underscored his willingness to get the Medicare piece done now.

Reality check: Dems fear if they wait another month for Manchin to get comfortable with approximately $300 billion to fight climate change, they'll get nothing.

They're left shouting their outrage on twitter and cable news.

But their anger and frustration won’t change the fundamental filibuster math that has governed the Senate for 18 months.

How we got here: Frustration with Manchin in the Democratic caucus runs deep. It stems, in part, due to his crafty habit of always playing for more time.

Last September, he first called for a "strategic pause," in a Wall Street Journal op-ed.

In November, he told Fox News he wanted to "slow down and take a breath."

All the while, Manchin's relationship with Schumer was deteriorating, with both sides questioning if the other could be trusted.

A February effort to mend fences over Italian food didn't help them reset their relationship.

What we’re watching: Manchin’s call to dedicate most of $287 billion in estimated Medicare savings towards deficit reductions, with only $40 billion for the insurance exchanges, isn’t guaranteed to sail through both chambers.

A group of centrist House lawmakers is already making noise that they want tax increases to be included in any package.

“There are numerous options for raising the revenue necessary to get our nation on a sustainable fiscal trajectory,” nine lawmakers, including Rep. Carolyn Bourdeaux (D-Ga.) and Ed Case (D-Hawaii) wrote to their party leaders.

The bottom line: Democrats are hopping mad at the senator from West Virginia and aren't trying to hide it. But they also know they need Manchin to deliver the 50th vote on any reconciliation bill.