CMS Administrator Announces Resignation

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) Administrator Marilyn Tavenner announced that she will be resigning in February. Tavenner was appointed interim head of CMS in 2011. Two years later, she became the first CMS Administrator to win Senate confirmation since 2006. Tavenner did not give a reason for her departure.

Tavenner will be succeeded by Andrew Slavitt, currently the second-highest ranking CMS official, in the capacity of Acting Administrator. As a top executive at UnitedHealth Group, Slavitt had worked closely with the agency on HealthCare.gov’s technical issues and was brought in-house in 2014. Slavitt will ultimately need Senate confirmation if he is to become the agency’s permanent Administrator. With many Republicans in the GOP-controlled Senate pressing for major changes to the 2010 health law, the confirmation process could again be difficult.