



Call for Papers: 3rd Annual Washington Health Economics Symposium October 4-6, 2026 Washington, DC | U.S. Capitol & The Morning Consult

We are pleased to invite submissions for the 3rd Annual *Washington Health Economics Symposium*, to be held October 4-6, 2026, in Washington, DC, at the U.S. Capitol and The Morning Consult headquarters.

This national forum will highlight cutting-edge health economics research that informs public policy. An organizing committee composed of academic economists and former policymakers from both the executive and legislative branches will select **seven papers** to be presented during the symposium on October 4-6. Authors of selected papers will each receive a **\$4,000 honorarium** to support travel and lodging.

In addition to the featured papers, the symposium will include brief panel discussions with leading experts from the medical, health policy, and life sciences industries. The event is open to the public and expected to attract a diverse audience, including policymakers, congressional staff, academics, and other thought leaders.

We invite you to submit a **250-300 word abstract** and, if available, a draft of the full paper by **August 1, 2026**. Submissions should focus on policy-relevant research, ideally around **2,000 words** in length for the paper.

Papers should highlight original research or health economics policy analysis focused on the themes listed below. Examples of relevant topics are listed under each theme.

Insurance markets

- Drivers of insurance premium costs
- Barriers to insurance coverage of generic and biosimilar drugs
- Impacts of vertical integration between PBMs/insurers/pharmacies on market competition, costs, and access
- Economic and workforce impacts of Medicaid policy changes

Hospitals and health systems

- 340B Drug Pricing Program growth, transparency and accountability
- Impact of 340B on patient affordability and health system costs
- Drivers of hospital cost growth and competition
- Provider consolidation among 340B hospitals, impact on prices and patient access

Pharmaceuticals

- Impacts of U.S. drug pricing policies, such as the Inflation Reduction Act or the proposed Most Favored Nations policy, on patient access, provider reimbursement, R&D incentives, the market for generic and biosimilar drugs, and other economic outcomes
- Relationships between biopharma R&D investment and expected returns
- Role of intellectual property frameworks (e.g., Hatch-Waxman and BPCIA) in promoting competition and innovation
- Role of pharmaceuticals in healthcare cost growth, labor productivity, and other outcomes, including the long-term trade-offs between drug cost expansion and reductions in broader healthcare and non-medical social spending.
- Role of medical technology in cost growth, labor productivity, and other outcomes
- Growth in China's global competitiveness

The papers and presentation are expected to go beyond the 'what' and 'so what' of the analysis to include 'how' it can be applied to executive or legislative action. The format will be a 15-minute brief presentation

of the paper followed by participant discussion and questions. The proposed agenda for the meeting and its cadence are as follows. We look forward to your contribution to this important and timely conversation.

Submission Requirements

- Papers/abstracts must be submitted by the 1st of August 2025 (midnight, Hawaii time).
- A full paper or extended abstract (one page)
- Include the names and affiliated organization of the presenter
- Submit papers to: WHES@thehealnetwork.org

Presenters will be notified of their paper's acceptance by September 1, 2026.

Honoraria

A \$4,000 Honoraria will be provided to presenters for papers selected for presentation. The honorarium can be used for travel and lodging for two nights and travel to DC. WHES is supported by [The Health Economists & Academic Leaders \(HEAL\) Network](#).