December 5, 2016

Sink the Cures Act

Beware the Lame Duck Session. The 996-page “Cures Act” has a $6.3 billion price tag funded by the sale of America’s Strategic Oil Reserves. Twenty Republicans and six Democrats in the House voted against it. The Senate could vote today.

The bill eliminates consent requirements for certain research, embeds federal controls on physician decisions, erodes privacy protections, moves to link medical records, and imposes fines for information blocking. The bill advances full interoperability of electronic medical records for “complete access, exchange, and use” under applicable state and federal laws. The Senate should sink the Cures Act.