

# American Nephrology Nurses Association

Daily Capitol Hill Update - Wednesday, January 13, 2021

The following information comes from directly from news sources including Bloomberg Government, Kaiser Health News, and other news sources.

## Schedules: White House and Congress

### WHITE HOUSE

- President Trump, Vice President Mike Pence have no public events scheduled

### CONGRESS

- House to vote this afternoon on impeachment of President Trump for his role in inciting a mob to storm the Capitol last week
  - At least five House Republicans, incl. the No. 3 House Republican leader Liz Cheney, say they will vote to impeach Trump
- Senate convenes Friday for pro forma session, and for business on Jan. 19

## Congressional, Health Policy, and Political News

- **Bloomberg Government: U.S. to Require Negative Tests for Foreign Visitors:** The U.S. will require proof of a negative Covid-19 test before allowing visitors to fly into the country from other nations, in an effort to help airlines regain some of their most lucrative international travel. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said it approved the new anti-pandemic measure that will take effect on Jan. 26. It requires travelers receive a test within three days before leaving for the U.S. and provide documentation of the negative test.
- **The Washington Post: Biden Team Sees Risks In Trump Decision To Widen Vaccine Pool:** Advisers to President-elect Joe Biden are balking at a decision by the Trump administration to dramatically increase the number of people eligible for the coronavirus vaccine, believing the changes could overwhelm states and create unrealistic expectations for millions of Americans waiting for shots. At issue are changes to the vaccine rollout announced Tuesday by the Trump administration. Officials instructed states to begin vaccinating tens of millions of people with a high-risk medical condition putting them at increased risk of dying from the coronavirus, along with all adults 65 and older. Including both those groups immediately adds another 100 million people potential seeking shots, bringing the total to about 184 million and intensifying demand on already stressed sign-up systems.
- **Bloomberg Government: Uber, Moderna to Use In-App Messaging to Boost Vaccine Awareness:** Uber customers could be getting notifications in the app about more than just the status of their ride. The company is partnering with Covid-19 vaccine developer Moderna to provide vaccine information, and eventually even help schedule rides to appointments.
- **The Washington Post: Supreme Court Restores Requirements For Medication Abortions, Siding With Trump Administration:** The court's conservative majority did not

explain its reasoning, as is common in emergency applications. But it has been strengthened by the addition of Justice Amy Coney Barrett, who joined the court since it last considered the issue and refused to reinstate the requirements. Chief Justice John G. Roberts Jr. wrote separately to say he went along with the decision to dissolve the lower court's stay out of respect for government experts.

- **Bloomberg Government: AstraZeneca Sues HHS Over Advisory Opinion on Drug Discounts:** AstraZeneca Pharmaceuticals LP is suing the Department of Health and Human Services over a policy push for drugmakers to provide discounts to pharmacies that contract with low-income health centers and hospitals, arguing the approach misrepresents the point of a federal drug pricing program.
  - HHS General Counsel Robert Charrow issued an advisory opinion in December requiring drug manufacturers to give the same substantial discounts provided to institutions serving vulnerable populations under the 340B program to their contract pharmacies.
- **Modern Healthcare: New Rule Makes It Harder For HHS To Penalize Guidance Violations:** HHS officials bolstered President Donald Trump's deregulation agenda on Tuesday, signing off on a rule that makes it more difficult for regulators to go after individuals and organizations for not following standards laid out in guidance documents. The rule effectively bans the department from penalizing individuals and organizations for noncompliance with a standard or practice if HHS only announced it in a guidance document. It also lays out a substantial process HHS must follow to carry out civil enforcement actions for potential violations. HHS said the rule is necessary to ensure fairness.