

# American Nephrology Nurses Association

Daily Capitol Hill Update – Monday, January 25, 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

- 9:30am: Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris receive the President's Daily Brief
- 11:30am: Biden meets with Harris, Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin and Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Mark Milley
- 12:30pm: Harris swears in Austin as secretary of defense
- 1pm: White House press briefing
- 3:45pm: Biden makes remarks on strengthening American manufacturing and signs related executive order

### CONGRESS

- House not in session
  - 6:55pm: Chamber's single article of impeachment against former President Donald Trump will be ceremoniously delivered to the Senate and read aloud
    - House Democratic impeachment managers and Trump's defense team then have until the week of Feb. 8 to draft opposing briefs
    - Deferred impeachment trial timetable allows Senate to press on with confirmation votes on Biden's cabinet picks
- Senate meets at 3pm; starts consideration of Yellen to be treasury secretary
  - At 5:30pm will vote on Yellen nomination

## Congressional, Health Policy, and Political News

- **Bloomberg Government: Biden Health Picks Stuck With Power-Sharing in Flux:** The Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee is stuck in a holding pattern until Senate leaders are able to reach a power-sharing agreement, potentially pushing back a confirmation hearing for Biden's pick to lead the Health and Human Services Department. Committees aren't formally adding any new members or chairs until the agreement is struck, leaving the Senate HELP Committee without a ranking member and delaying the committee's work in scheduling hearings for Xavier Becerra, according to two Democratic Senate aides.
- **Stat: PhRMA Sues To Block Trump Administration 340B Rule:** The trade group for the pharmaceutical industry on Friday sued to block a new process, outlined by the Trump administration, that aimed to help drug makers and health care providers resolve disputes over a federal drug discount program.
- **Bloomberg Government: Trump's Senate Trial Divides GOP:** Prospects for convicting Trump in his impeachment trial are waning as more Republicans embrace the argument that a conviction would be divisive, unwarranted or even unconstitutional. A key point of

argument is whether the Constitution allows Congress to try a president who has left office. Many constitutional scholars and 19th century precedent say yes; a growing number of Republicans -- even some who have decried Trump's conduct -- say no.

- Sen. Mitt Romney (R-Utah) is one of few Republicans to publicly say Trump, now a private citizen, should stand trial on the House's charge that he incited his supporters to storm the Capitol on Jan. 6. "The preponderance of the legal opinion is that an impeachment trial after someone's left office is constitutional," Romney said yesterday on CNN's "State of the Union" program. "I believe that what is being alleged and what we saw, which is incitement to insurrection, is an impeachable offense. If not, what is?"
- **Bloomberg Government: Biden to Push Congress on Stimulus:** President Joe Biden will escalate appeals for Congress to back his top priority, \$1.9 trillion in pandemic relief, seeking to overcome Republican opposition to the plan as he enters his first full week in office. Biden's top economic adviser, Brian Deese, spent more than an hour yesterday discussing the proposal with a bipartisan group of lawmakers. Some asked the White House to further justify what would be the second-largest emergency spending measure in U.S. history and expressed interest in a much narrower bill focused on accelerating coronavirus vaccine distribution, according to Sen. Angus King (I-Maine) and people familiar with the matter.
  - Deese and other officials provided details and context in response to the senators' questions, according to an administration official. Senior White House aides plan to keep talking with lawmakers in both parties this week to hear their concerns but also press for urgent action, the official said.
- **CNN: 'Healthy, Young' Americans Will Likely Get Covid-19 Vaccine In Mid- To Late Summer, Expert Says:** It likely will be months from now until the vaccine is widely available to the American public, infectious disease expert Dr. Celine Gounder told CNN Sunday night. "We're looking at probably middle of the summer, end of the summer before the average, healthy, young American has access to vaccination," Gounder told CNN Sunday.
- **Modern Healthcare: COVID-19 Pushes Healthcare Providers To Travel Nurses:** As the pandemic nears the one-year mark, healthcare providers still struggle to find travel nurses to handle the surge of COVID-19 patients. And those workers come at a price, with the competition for nurses doubling or even tripling normal pay rates, meaning wealthier hospitals can woo a disproportionate number of nurses. Staffing agencies said the demand they're seeing is unprecedented in their company histories. "The industry has never seen demand like this," said April Hansen, executive vice president of the staffing firm Aya Healthcare. "This is new territory for everyone."