

# American Nephrology Nurses Association

Daily Capitol Hill Update - Wednesday, January 27, 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: President Biden receives presidential daily brief
- 11am: White House Covid-19 response team, including Anthony Fauci, Andy Slavitt, Rochelle Walensky, holds press briefing
- 12:15pm: Press briefing with Press Sec. Jen Psaki, Special Presidential Envoy for Climate John Kerry, and National Climate Advisor Gina McCarthy
- 1:30pm: Biden delivers remarks, signs exec. actions on climate change

### CONGRESS

- Senate meets at 10:30am with no votes scheduled at present

## Congressional, Health Policy, and Political News

- **Modern Healthcare: CMS Pauses Three Trump-Era Proposed Rules:** The proposed rules would affect in-center dialysis coverage requirements for third-party payment programs, enable seniors to keep their Social Security retirement benefits if they opt out of Medicare Part A coverage and increase oversight of accrediting organizations. The White House budget office had been reviewing all three rules. CMS withdrew the proposed rules following a memo last week from White House Chief of Staff Ron Klain directing agencies to freeze new regulations that hadn't taken effect. The moves don't take any of the policies off the table, but the Biden administration won't sign off on any rules until it's had a chance to review them. HHS froze a new regulation targeting community health centers' 340B drug discounts last week.
- **Bloomberg Government: Retroactive Tax Hikes Aren't a 'First Choice':** The Biden administration isn't actively considering retroactive tax increases, which fail to give individuals and businesses time to respond to the higher rates, a Treasury Department official said. "You want to have a tax system where people -- taxpayers -- can react to the increases in the tax system so that they can change their behavior," Mark Mazur, the Treasury Department's deputy assistant secretary for tax policy, said yesterday at an American Bar Association virtual event. "When you do retroactive tax increases that's not possible. That tends to be not the first choice."
- **Democrats Work to Move Quickly on Stimulus:** Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-N.Y.) said he's ready to start moving on a Democrat-only Covid-19 relief plan as soon as next week if Republicans continue to reject Biden's \$1.9 trillion proposal. "In keeping our options open, on our caucus call today I informed senators to be prepared that a vote on a budget resolution could come as early as next week," Schumer said at a press briefing yesterday.

- A budget resolution is the first step toward a so-called reconciliation bill, which allows the Senate to proceed on a simple-majority vote basis -- avoiding the need for 60 votes to cut off the filibuster. It makes all the difference given the chamber's partisan 50-50 split. The House would also need to pass a budget resolution with reconciliation instructions.
- The House has reworked its schedule for February, Majority Leader Steny Hoyer (D-Md.) told colleagues in a letter, as that chamber also considers work on a budget resolution.
- The House will return next week for a session that could extend into the weekend, according to Hoyer. That will be followed by two "committee work weeks," during which there will be no floor activity. Hoyer said lawmakers should also expect further changes, with Democrats working on a virus relief package ahead of the expiration of some unemployment benefits on March 14.