

# American Nephrology Nurses Association

Daily Capitol Hill Update - Thursday, October 1, 2020

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

- 12:45pm: Trump departs White House for Bedminster, N.J.
- 3pm: Participates in roundtable with supporters; Bedminster
  - 3:45pm: Makes remarks at fundraising committee reception
- 4:55pm: Leaves Bedminster for Washington, D.C
- 6:30pm: Arrives at the White House

### CONGRESS

- House meets at 11am for legislative business; first vote earliest 2:30pm
  - To consider bills including 15 measures under suspension of the rules
  - May vote on \$2.2 trillion Democratic stimulus proposal that was put off Wednesday to give more time for a deal to be reached between Treasury Sec. Steven Mnuchin and House Speaker Nancy Pelosi
- Senate meets at noon
  - Starts consideration of Michael Jay Newman to be U.S. District Judge for Southern District of Ohio
- Proceeds to procedural vote tied to S. 4653, a bill from Senate Democratic leader Chuck Schumer aimed at protecting the Affordable Care Act

## Congressional, Health Policy, and Political News

- **Bloomberg Government: Mnuchin, Pelosi Extend Stimulus Talks:** Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin and Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) plan to resume discussions today on a new pandemic relief package, racing against the clock to resolve their differences on another round of coronavirus stimulus. Mnuchin and Pelosi yesterday held their first in-person talks since August, yet fell short of reaching an agreement that would bridge the gaps between the administration and Democrats on further aid for the U.S. economy. House leaders postponed a planned vote yesterday on a \$2.2 trillion Democrat-only stimulus bill that Pelosi had described as a “proffer” in negotiations with the White House. The proposal had no chance of getting Republican support, but it would give Democrats running for re-election something to tout to voters if talks failed. Some of them had been pressing Pelosi to hold the vote.
  - “The president has instructed us to come up significantly, so we have come up from the trillion-dollar deal,” Mnuchin said on Fox Business last night, adding that he and White House Chief of Staff Mark Meadows had met with Trump before they went to Capitol Hill for negotiations.
- **Stat: Diabetes, Disparities, And Covid-19: Three Intertwined ‘Epidemics’ Raise Risk:** Some of Mary-Elizabeth Patti’s patients with diabetes are in a bind. Careful to practice

social distancing, they tell her during telehealth visits they don't feel safe exercising outdoors in their congested neighborhoods — though they know staying active and maintaining good blood sugar levels may be their best defense against severe Covid-19.

- **Stat: Pharma And PBMs Must Jointly Face Insulin Price Fixing Lawsuit For First Time:** A federal judge ruled that a Texas county can proceed with a lawsuit accusing several drug makers and pharmacy benefit managers of conspiring to fix prices for insulin, the first time these companies will have to collectively defend their role in the rising cost of the life-saving diabetes medicine. In a lawsuit filed last year, Harris County officials claimed taxpayers were “fraudulently overcharged” for ongoing and drastic price hikes for a medication that has not substantively changed in many years.
- **FierceHealthcare: CMS Says Medicaid, CHIP Added 4M Between February And June:** New data from the Trump administration show that Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program recorded 4 million new enrollees between February and June of this year. That represents a nearly 5.7% increase in enrollment since the public health emergency covering COVID-19 began in March, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services said.
- **Bloomberg Government: Trump Signs Bill to Avert a Shutdown:** Trump signed stopgap spending legislation early today to avert a government shutdown weeks before the presidential election, the White House said. The spending authority of the U.S. lapsed at midnight. The White House announced he signed the bill shortly after returning from a campaign trip to Minnesota. The bill will keep the government operating through Dec. 11 at current spending levels. The Senate yesterday approved the bill, which easily passed the House last week.
- **Bloomberg Government: Hundreds Accused of Making \$6 Billion in False Health Claims:** Nearly 350 defendants, including 100 doctors, nurses, and other medical professionals, face charges they submitted more than \$6 billion in false and fraudulent claims to federal health-care programs and private insurers, the Justice Department said yesterday.
- **Bloomberg Government: NIH Funding Covid Research for Underserved:** The NIH poured \$234 million into programs to assess Covid testing patterns and disease progression among vulnerable populations like minorities, the elderly, the homeless, and pregnant women, the agency said yesterday. The funds come from the National Institutes of Health's RADx-UP program, part of the government's effort to improve data reporting, testing, and general knowledge about Covid.
- **Sacramento Bee: New California Law Lets Nurses Work Independently Of Doctors:** Gov. Gavin Newsom paved the way for nurse practitioners in California to practice medicine independent of doctors under a bill he signed Tuesday. Newsom's signature represents the culmination of a fight that has spanned several legislative sessions, pitting doctors groups against those that want to expand nurse practitioners' ability to treat patients. The measure, Assembly Bill 890, would allow nurse practitioners to practice independently in 2023. Nurse practitioners would have to operate under a doctor's supervision for a minimum three-year transition period before embarking on their own practices. Current California law requires nurse practitioners, who hold masters or doctorate degrees in nursing and additional certification beyond a regular nursing degree, to always operate under a doctor's supervision.

