

## American Nephrology Nurses Association

### Daily Capitol Hill Update - Friday, October 11, 2019

(The following information comes from Bloomberg Government Website)

#### Schedules: White House and Congress

##### WHITE HOUSE

- 1:45pm: Trump participates in photo opportunity with Little League baseball and softball champion teams
- 2:45pm: Trump meets with China Vice Premier Liu He in Oval Office
- 4:10pm: Trump due to depart White House for Louisiana for campaign rally in evening
- 8pm: Trump holds rally in Lake Charles, Louisiana
- Louisiana is the only state in the Deep South with a Democratic governor, John Bel Edwards, who's seeking re-election. Trump said on Twitter that he's trying to force a run-off vote
- Trump Rallies No Longer Assured Airtime as TV Networks Reassess

##### CONGRESS

- House, Senate on recess
- House Speaker Nancy Pelosi set to hold a conference call with Democrats to chart next steps in impeachment inquiry
  - More: Pelosi Confronts Decision on Impeachment Vote Amid Trump Taunts
- Former U.S. ambassador to Ukraine, Marie Yovanovitch, is scheduled to testify to panels on impeachment inquiry behind closed doors
  - Latest: Trump's EU Envoy Subpoenaed to Appear Before House Committee

#### Congressional, Health Policy, and Political News

- **Drug Industry Group Slams Pelosi Bill:** The pharmaceutical industry's main lobbying group told reporters in a briefing yesterday that the drug pricing bill from House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) will take \$1 trillion from drugmakers and result in the loss of 1 million U.S. jobs. The warning is part of the Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturer's offensive against the two main drug pricing measures in Congress, the Pelosi-backed Medicare negotiation bill (H.R. 3) and another from the Senate Finance Committee. It was a look inside PhRMA's messaging on the issue, which says both measures take too much from the industry and threaten to stymie investment by private companies into drug development.

- **Giuliani Draws Prosecutors' Scrutiny:** Rudy Giuliani, Trump's attorney, is being scrutinized by federal investigators for his financial dealings following the indictment of two of his associates for violating campaign finance laws, according to a law enforcement official. The official, who asked to remain anonymous speaking about the sensitive matter, declined to discuss details about the scrutiny, but it's a dramatic development for a man who made his reputation as a crusading mob prosecutor when he was the U.S. attorney in Manhattan. He now finds himself drawn into an expanding criminal probe run by his old office into illegal campaign contributions.
- **Perry Gets Subpoena:** Energy Secretary Rick Perry was subpoenaed by three House committees as part of Democrats' impeachment inquiry. In a letter, the committee chairmen demanded documents from Perry to help them determine if he played a role in "conveying or reinforcing the president's stark message" to Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskiy about a possible investigation into Biden and his son.
- **Shielding Whistleblower:** House officials say they are considering several ways of protecting the whistleblower's identity, including questioning at a location away from the Capitol, and a setting in which committee members wouldn't see the whistleblower. Those ideas may involve the use of a screen and possibly a voice disguiser. There remains no agreement on a date for the session. The whistleblower is asking to provide testimony to House committees in the form of written answers to questions instead of testifying in person, a separate person familiar with the matter said.
- **Gowdy Can't Start Yet:** Trump said former Rep. Trey Gowdy (R-S.C.) can't start work as the president's outside counsel on his impeachment defense until after January because of apparent restrictions related to lobbying work. "I just heard Trey Gowdy can't start until sometime after January because of the lobbying rules and regulations. So I don't know. So we'll have to see," Trump said yesterday.
- **DeLauro, Kaptur Eye Appropriations Chair:** Reps. Rosa DeLauro (D-Conn.) and Marcy Kaptur (D-Ohio) both say they're interested in being the next top Democrat on the House Appropriations Committee, following a statement from Chairwoman Nita Lowey (D-N.Y.) announcing her retirement yesterday.
- **House GOP to Offer Turkey Sanctions:** Rep. Liz Cheney (R-Wyo.) said nearly 30 of her Republican colleagues will unveil legislation to impose sanctions on Turkey in response to its military actions in Syria. "These sanctions are not only a response to the Erdogan regime's violent attacks in northern Syria. Congress has long had concerns about the regime's cooperation with U.S. adversaries, such as Russia," Cheney said in a statement. House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy (R-Calif.) and Minority Whip Steve Scalise (R-La.) will be co-sponsors, Cheney said.
  - The decision on Syria has tested Republican support for Trump more than any of the president's scandals and allegations of wrongdoing -- right when he needs GOP lawmakers to protect him from impeachment.
- **NRA-Russia Probe:** The IRS shouldn't launch an investigation into the National Rifle Association at the request of Democratic lawmakers, Senate Finance Chairman Chuck Grassley (R-Iowa) said yesterday. Senate Finance Democrats in September released a report detailing links between the NRA and Russia in advance of the 2016 election,

including possible violations of U.S. tax laws. The Democrats, led by ranking member Ron Wyden (D-Ore.), urged the IRS to review the NRA's status as a tax-exempt organization.

- **Repealing Power Rule Rollback:** Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-N.Y.) vowed yesterday that Democrats would force a Senate floor vote to repeal the Trump administration's efforts to weaken carbon pollution limits for U.S. power plants. Democrats plan to launch the maneuver next week as Congress returns from a two-week recess, Schumer said. Democrats will try to leverage expedited floor procedures provided under the Congressional Review Act, a 1996 law signed by President Bill Clinton that gave Congress fast-track procedures for holding an up-or-down vote on final regulations, policy guidance, and other final agency actions.
- **Subpoenas for Customs, Immigration Agency Chiefs:** House Oversight and Reform Chairman Elijah Cummings (D-Md.) said he'll subpoena acting Director of U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services Ken Cuccinelli and acting Director of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement Matthew T. Albence to testify before the panel on Oct. 17. The move is part of the committee's investigation into the Trump administration's decision to deport critically ill children and their families, Cummings said in memo.
- **Biden Camp Warns Rivals Off Attacks on Family:** Joe Biden has a warning for his Democratic rivals as they prepare for the fourth televised debate next week: Stay away from the issue of Ukraine and Hunter Biden. The 12 candidates participating in Tuesday's debate in Westerville, Ohio, are honing their answers to questions about the House impeachment inquiry. But the front-runner's campaign suggests they shouldn't stray into shots about the Biden family. An aide to Biden said that any candidate who "calls themselves a 'Democrat'" and repeats what the aide said were "discredited lies" about Biden and his son "would be making a profound statement about themselves."
- **Buttigieg Recalls Inner 'Civil War' Over Identity:** Pete Buttigieg, the first openly gay Democratic presidential candidate, recalls the battle he fought within himself to understand and accept his sexuality. "What it was like was a civil war because I knew I was different long before I was ready to say that I was gay and long before I was able to acknowledge that that was something that I didn't have power over," Buttigieg said last night in Los Angeles at a town hall on LGBTQ issues hosted by the Human Rights Campaign.
- **Warren Responds to 'One Man and One Woman':** Democratic co-frontrunner Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.) was asked at the CNN town hall what she'd say to a supporter on the campaign trail who says their faith teaches them that marriage is only between one man and one woman. Her response is going viral. "Well, I'm going to assume it's a guy who said that and I'm going to say, "Then just marry one woman. I'm cool with that." She paused as the crowd laughed and applauded. Then resumed: "Assuming you can find one."
  - The question strikes at a key issue for the progressive Warren, who has faced concerns over how she'll approach voters who flipped from Barack Obama to Trump, especially in rural areas and the Midwest. Yet Warren has methodically

risen in Democratic primary polls in recent months into a virtual tie with Biden, who pushed the Obama administration to embrace same-sex marriage equality but hasn't defined as clearly how he'd move from this point forward.

- **Trump Rallies No Longer Assured Airtime:** Trump's rallies were once a surefire magnet for live TV, with cable news networks drawn to the chanting crowds, the unscripted candidate and even occasional fisticuffs in packed arenas. Three years later, the novelty is waning and the events are drawing less airtime. Networks criticized for handing free airtime to Trump are cutting back, worrying some of the president's backers. That was evident last night when CNN and MSNBC stuck to scheduled news programming as Trump's rally began in Minneapolis. Fox News, known for its closeness to the Trump administration, carried the event live from its start to its finish more than 90 minutes later.
- **Trump Floats Mediator Role:** Trump said the U.S. has three options in dealing with Turkey's incursion into northern Syria: send the American military back in, unleash punishing sanctions on Turkey or mediate between the two sides. Trump has pushed back at rising bipartisan criticism of his decision this week to have U.S. forces in northern Syria pull back as Turkish troops move into the country, attacking Kurdish militias that long fought Islamic State terrorists alongside U.S. troops. Trump says he's carrying out campaign promises to start getting the U.S. out of "endless wars," but critics say he's exposed loyal allies to risks of slaughter.
  - Meanwhile, European Union leaders said they'll discuss sanctions against Turkey at a summit next week in protest against the offensive in northern Syria. The Turkish operation has provoked criticism from the U.S., the EU and some Arab states and Erdogan has threatened to "open the doors" to Europe for 3.6 million refugees currently sheltering in Turkey.
- **Trump Touts Day One of U.S.-China Trade Talks:** Trump said the first day of high-level trade negotiations between the U.S. and China yesterday went "very well" and that he plans to meet with the top Chinese negotiator Friday. The talks between Chinese Vice Premier Liu He, U.S. Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer and Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin are expected to resume today, Trump told reporters as he left the White House. It's the first senior-level in-person talks since late July to try and end an 18-month trade war that is taking a toll on the global economy and U.S. manufacturing.
- **Lawyers See Blunted Impact from Trump's Executive Orders:** Environmental law experts are still grappling with the implications of a pair of executive orders aimed at revamping how agencies use informal documents while regulating. Trump signed the two orders Oct. 9, promising protection from "out-of-control bureaucracy." One of Trump's new orders requires agencies to review all guidance documents, rescind any they find "should no longer be in effect," and post the remaining ones online. The second blocks agencies from enforcing rules or interpretations they haven't publicized. But the directives include a variety of exceptions and disclaimers that could blunt their effects on the ground.
- **Trump Better for Western States Than Reagan, Official Says:** Trump has been better for Western states than President Ronald Reagan, said William Perry Pendley, acting

director of the Bureau of Land Management. "Frankly he had more to work with," Pendley said of Trump, during an exclusive interview Oct. 10 at the bureau's National Operations Center in Lakewood, Colo. "President Reagan was responding to one-term Jimmy Carter, which for Westerners was bad enough," Pendley said. "But President Trump was responding to 16 years of [Bill] Clinton and [Barack] Obama and righting the wrongs during that."