

American Nephrology Nurses Association

Daily Capitol Hill Update – Monday, October 12, 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

- 12:30pm: Vice President Mike Pence speaks at a campaign rally in Columbus, Ohio
- 4:35pm: President Trump leaves White House for Florida
- 7pm: Trump speaks at a campaign rally near Orlando, in Sanford, Fla.
- 10:30pm: Trump arrives back at White House

CONGRESS

- House on recess until mid-November, though lawmakers could be called back with 24 hours' notice to vote on any economic stimulus deal
- Full Senate on recess until Oct. 19
- 9am: Judiciary Committee holds first day of confirmation hearings on the nomination of Amy Coney Barrett to serve on the Supreme Court; 216 Hart
- Barrett will cast herself as a jurist committed to avoiding policy making and keeping her personal views out of rulings

Congressional, Health Policy, and Political News

- **Bloomberg Government: Trump, Pelosi Spar Over Stimulus:** Trump's attempt to jolt negotiations on a new economic stimulus plan has left talks at a familiar stalemate with Republicans and well as Democrats balking at his latest offer. Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) and Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin are expected to talk more this week. Even if they manage to strike a deal, there's almost no chance of getting legislation written and passed by Congress before the election, in which control of the White House and the Senate is at stake.
 - Trump's whipsaw changes last week -- first calling off talks in a tweet, then saying he wanted a bigger package than even Democrats have proposed -- may have hardened Pelosi's resolve to stick with the Democrat's \$2.2 trillion proposal. Mnuchin has countered with a \$1.8 trillion stimulus plan. Pelosi yesterday called the White House offer a "miserable and deadly failure." Trump accused the House speaker of dragging out the talks in an attempt to "influence the election."
- **Roll Call: Lawmakers Want Widespread COVID-19 Testing On The Hill:** Lawmakers continued to press for widespread testing in the Capitol complex Friday as another member announced they had contracted COVID-19. Sen. Christopher S. Murphy, D-Conn., told reporters on a press call that he had not heard any reports of progress on Senatwide testing and called it "an abomination." Murphy, the ranking Democrat on the Legislative Branch Appropriations Subcommittee, said, "The cost is likely negligible in the grand

scheme of things. So the issue here is not, is not, cost. The issue is a Republican Senate majority that just doesn't want to let people know the extent of the spread in the White House, and in their caucus." Murphy's call for more testing comes as another member of Congress, Illinois Republican Rep. Mike Bost, said the COVID-19 test he sought after experiencing symptoms was positive.

- **FierceHealthcare: CMS: Unsubsidized ACA Exchange Population Declined By 45% Over 4 Years:** The population on the Affordable Care Act's (ACA's) exchanges that do not get subsidies declined by 45% from 2016 to 2019, a new report from the Trump administration found. The report, released Friday (PDF) from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), argues that people who don't qualify for income-based subsidies to lower the cost of insurance are being priced out of the exchanges.
- **The Washington Post: Trump Pivots Again On Stimulus Talks After Bipartisan Backlash:** The White House again pivoted its approach to stimulus negotiations on Sunday, with the president's aides pushing for immediate action on a narrow measure after the administration's \$1.8 trillion proposal was rebuffed by members of both parties. In a letter to Congress sent Sunday, White House Chief of Staff Mark Meadows and Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin asked lawmakers to first pass legislation allowing the Trump administration to redirect about \$130 billion in unused funding from the Paycheck Protection Program intended for small businesses while negotiations continue on a broader relief effort.
- **The Hill: CDC Study: 'Urgent Need' To Slow Spread Of Coronavirus Among Young Adults:** A Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) study released Friday warned that there is an "urgent need" to address the spread of the coronavirus among young adults. The study found that increases among transmission in younger people are often a precursor to transmission among older, higher-risk people.
- **The Wall Street Journal: New U.S. Coronavirus Cases Dip Below 50,000 For First Time In Five Days:** The U.S. reported fewer than 50,000 new coronavirus cases for the first time in five days, while cases remained elevated in several states, particularly in the Midwest. In Wisconsin, the seven-day average of new coronavirus cases hit 2,510 as of Sunday, the highest level since the pandemic began, according to the state's Department of Health Services. Wisconsin's daily tally was more than 2,600, down from a peak of more than 3,000 reached Thursday.