

# American Nephrology Nurses Association

Daily Capitol Hill Update - Tuesday, October 13, 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

- 5:50pm: Trump departs White House en route to Pa. for rally
- 7pm: Trump delivers remarks at rally in Johnstown, Pa.
- 9:30pm: Trump returns to 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: Trump's Supreme Court pick Amy Coney Barrett appears before Senate Judiciary Committee for second straight day; Barrett to be questioned on Obamacare, abortion as Democrats focus on how she might move court in more conservative direction

## Congressional, Health Policy, and Political News

- **Bloomberg Government: People Without Subsidies Leaving Obamacare Market, HHS Says:** People who make too much money to get Obamacare subsidies continue to leave the individual market, the Trump administration reported Friday. From 2016 to 2019, unsubsidized enrollment in Affordable Care Act-compliant individual plans dropped by 2.8 million people or 45%, the Department of Health and Human Services said. A large share of people enrolled in ACA plans are low- to middle-income people who benefit from subsidies, and the number of people who receive subsidies dropped far less than the number who didn't get the subsidies.
- **Bloomberg Government: Explaining Recusal:** Senate Democrats demand that Barrett recuse herself from the Obamacare fight and any potential general election legal disputes that could sway the outcome of the 2020 vote should she be confirmed to the Supreme Court. High court recusals are rare, particularly in cases in which the justices have agreed to take up a dispute as is the case of the Affordable Care Act challenge they'll hear in November soon after the election.
- **The Washington Post: Amy Coney Barrett Confirmation: Trump's Nominee Vows To Be Apolitical As Democrats Warn Of Threat To Health Care:** Supreme Court nominee Amy Coney Barrett presented herself to the nation Monday as a humble and apolitical judge, opening a pandemic-altered Senate confirmation hearing that Democrats tried to make as much about health care, covid-19 and President Trump as about Barrett's qualifications. It was the start of what will be an acrimonious four days, as Republicans embark just weeks

before Election Day on a historic move to lock in a long-sought 6-to-3 conservative majority on the Supreme Court and perhaps boost Trump's and their own reelection prospects.

- **Bloomberg Government: Summers Says Covid-19 Will Cost \$16 Trillion:** The Covid-19 pandemic will exact a \$16 trillion toll on the U.S. -- four times the cost of the Great Recession -- when adding the costs of lost lives and health to the direct economic impact, according to former U.S. Treasury Secretary Lawrence Summers and fellow Harvard University economist David Cutler. About half of that amount is related to lost gross domestic product as a result of economic shutdowns and the ongoing spread of the virus, while the other half comes from health losses including premature death and mental and long-term health impairments, Cutler and Summers wrote in an essay published online yesterday in the Journal of the American Medical Association.
- **Bloomberg Government: Washington Readies One-Two Antitrust Punch on Big Tech:** U.S. Attorney General William Barr and Rep. David Cicilline (D-R.I.) are far from ideological soulmates. But in a one-two punch, they're about to take on the country's biggest technology platforms and could drive the most significant changes to antitrust law enforcement in decades. Barr, one of Trump's most loyal cabinet members, is poised to file a monopoly-abuse lawsuit as soon as this week against Google. Cicilline is preparing legislation based on last week's report alleging wide-ranging antitrust violations by Google, Facebook, Apple and Amazon. While the Justice Department case, which is expected to focus on Google's monopoly over internet search, could take years to resolve, Cicilline's legislation could have immediate effect if passed -- and could be far more consequential for the tech industry as a whole.
- **The New York Times: The Race For A Super-Antibody Against The Coronavirus:** Even as vaccines are hailed as our best hope against the coronavirus, dozens of scientific groups are working on an alternate defense: monoclonal antibodies. These therapies shot to prominence just this month after President Trump got an infusion of an antibody cocktail made by Regeneron and credited it for his apparent recovery, even calling it a "cure." Monoclonal antibodies are distilled from the blood of patients who have recovered from the virus. Ideally, antibodies infused early in the course of infection -- or even before exposure, as a preventive -- may provide swift immunity.