

# American Nephrology Nurses Association

Daily Capitol Hill Update – Monday, October 18, 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

- Biden has no public events scheduled.

### CONGRESS:

- The Senate plans to vote on Biden's nominee to be a judge for the U.S. First Circuit Court of Appeals.
- The House returns tomorrow.

## Congressional, Health Policy, and Political News

- **NPR: Federal Government Pledges \$100 Million To Address Health Care Worker Shortages:** As health care workers face increased pandemic burnout, some states – particularly in underserved areas – have had challenges retaining existing staff and recruiting new clinicians. The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) is now committing \$100 million through the American Rescue Plan to help solve the problem. "Our health care workers have worked tirelessly to save lives throughout this pandemic and now it's our turn to invest in them," Health and Human Services Secretary Xavier Becerra said in a statement.
- **Bloomberg Government: Lawmaker Moves to Set Up Biden Biomed Agency:** Biden's proposal to create a biomedical innovation hub within the National Institutes of Health is getting another jumpstart after being held up in the annual appropriations process. Rep. Anna G. Eshoo (D-Calif.), head of a key House health panel, introduced a bill Friday to authorize the Advanced Research Projects for Health, a new NIH entity meant to catalyze cutting-edge discoveries through a public-private partnership approach rather than the grant process the agency has used for more than a century.
- **Bloomberg Government: CFPB Rules Pose Test for Student, Medical Debt:** Debt collection firms are running into outdated billing procedures, particularly in student loans and medical debt, as they look to overhaul consumer communication practices as mandated by new federal rules. Beginning on Nov. 30, the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau's rules, the first federal regulations for the industry, require debt collectors to give consumers a clear description of the amount of money they allegedly owe.
- **New York Post: Johnson And Johnson Vaccine Recipients Urged To Get Booster Shot ASAP:** Experts are urging those who received the Johnson and Johnson vaccine to get the booster shot as soon as possible after a new study showed a drop in its effectiveness during

the Delta variant surge. ... "J&J is a very good vaccine. I also believe it's probably a two-shot vaccine," Dr. Ashish Jha, dean of the Brown University School of Public Health, told CNN. "It's really urgent that people get that second shot pretty quickly."

- **Stat: Five Ways The FDA Could Build Transparency Into AI Devices:** Artificial intelligence tools in health care should be safe and effective. They should be fair to people of different races, genders, and geographies. And they should be monitored to ensure they are improving outcomes in the real world. Most participants agreed on those goals in a Food and Drug Administration workshop on the regulation of artificial intelligence late last week. But how to accomplish them remained a source of considerable debate.
- **Modern Healthcare: Mobile Tools May Manage Hypertension, Study Finds:** Mobile apps may help patients with hypertension manage their blood pressure levels over the long term, according to a new study, but more evidence is needed to determine if such tools can address longstanding health gaps among more vulnerable patients. Using a blood pressure monitor paired with a smartphone app that provided medication reminders and lifestyle coaching was associated with lowering blood pressure levels in more than 85% of adults with stage 2 hypertension after one year. Those who participated for three years had a mean systolic blood pressure reduction of 20.9 mmHG and maintained lower levels over the study period.