

# American Nephrology Nurses Association

Daily Capitol Hill Update - Thursday, October 22, 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

- 12:40pm: Trump departs White House for Nashville, Tenn.
- 4pm: Trump participates in roundtable with supporters in Nashville
- 9pm: Trump participates in presidential debate
- VP Mike Pence travels to Waterford Township, Michigan; holds rally at 12:35pm
- Pence then travels to Fort Wayne, Indiana for rally at 4:30pm

### CONGRESS

- House on recess until mid-November
- Senate meets at noon; resumes consideration of judicial nominees
  - Senate Democrats hold press conference at 10:15am on Supreme Court nominee
- 9am: Senate Judiciary Cmte plans vote to advance Barrett's nomination to Supreme Court; Majority Leader Mitch McConnell expects to bring her nomination to Senate floor on Oct. 26
- Judiciary panel also has subpoena authorization for CEOs of Facebook, Twitter on its agenda for today but says staff are continuing negotiations with companies for voluntary testimony

## Congressional, Health Policy, and Political News

- **Bloomberg Government: Pelosi, Mnuchin to Talk Stimulus Again:** Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) and Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin will pick up discussions for a stimulus package again today with time running ever shorter for a deal before the election, with Trump seeking to blame Democrats for any failure. The two sides "are better prepared to reach compromise on several priorities" after yesterday's call between the main negotiators, Pelosi spokesman Drew Hammill tweeted. Pelosi and Mnuchin will speak again today as they seek to "resolve open questions," he said.
  - Senate Republicans remain the ultimate roadblock to enacting a roughly \$2 trillion deal being negotiated by Pelosi and Mnuchin. McConnell has made no promises on when the Senate might take up any compromise agreement, and some senior GOP lawmakers expressed skepticism whether the chamber would vote on one even after the election.
  - Funding for state and local governments, a key issue dividing Democrats and Republicans going back to the summer, was singled out by both sides as a remaining stumbling block. Trump and his allies have characterized large-scale aid to local authorities as an effort to bail out poorly run, Democratic states.

- **Bloomberg Government: White House Backs Off Pre-Election Drug Card Plan:** The White House is backing away from a plan to send \$200 prescription drug discount cards to American seniors before Election Day after widespread criticisms that the effort could violate election laws. “I don’t anticipate that anything gets there before Election Day,” Chief of Staff Mark Meadows said, citing a “concern that there might have been a look that this was done for a political motivation,” but adding that it wasn’t true.
- **Politico: CDC Broadens Definition Of Who's At Risk Of Getting Coronavirus:** The CDC on Wednesday ramped up its criteria for who's at risk of contracting the coronavirus, in a move with major implications for school and workplace reopenings. The updated guidance defines a “close contact” as anyone who spends at least 15 minutes within six feet of an infected individual over a 24-hour period. The agency previously applied that designation to people who spent 15 consecutive minutes within six feet of someone with Covid-19.
- **Politico: Senate Dems Block Republicans’ Narrow Covid Relief Plan:** Senate Democrats on Wednesday blocked a narrow \$500 billion Republican-led coronavirus relief proposal, as the path forward on a broader deal still remains elusive just two weeks before the election. The Republican measure, which failed to clear the 60-vote threshold needed to move forward, was nearly identical to the Senate GOP bill Democrats rejected in September. Republicans are accusing Democrats, who are pushing for a multi-trillion dollar plan, of taking an all-or-nothing approach to coronavirus relief, while Democrats dismissed Wednesday’s vote as nothing more than a political stunt.
- **USA Today: COVID Vaccine Is Coming In 'A Matter Of Weeks Or Months,' HHS Says:** At least one COVID-19 vaccine should be available as soon as the end of this year, and the general public should be able to get vaccinated by early spring, Health and Human Services Secretary Alex Azar said Wednesday. “There is hope on the way in the form of safe and effective vaccines in a matter of weeks or months,” said Azar, speaking in Atlanta at the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. At the rare public briefing, Azar laid out a specific timetable that didn't exactly match what the government has previously said.