

American Nephrology Nurses Association

Daily Capitol Hill Update - Friday, October 22, 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, and will depart Washington at 8 p.m. to arrive in Delaware shortly before 9 p.m.

CONGRESS:

- The House is set to vote today on a bill to give nursing mothers more accommodations in the workplace.
- The Senate is not in session.

Congressional, Health Policy, and Political News

- **AP: Biden Bill Would Put US Back On Path Of Reducing Uninsured:** The Democrats' social spending and climate change bill would put the United States back on a path to reducing its persistent pool of uninsured people, with estimates ranging from 4 million to 7 million Americans gaining health coverage. Those getting covered would include about one-third of uninsured Black Americans, according to an analysis by the Urban Institute and the Commonwealth Fund, nonpartisan research groups that support the goal of expanding health insurance. Other estimates from the Congressional Budget Office and the center-right American Action Forum project a similar overall trend.
- **Bloomberg Government: Drugmakers Boost Lobbying Spending:** The pharmaceutical industry spent heavily on lobbying over the past three months, putting several companies on track for record spending as Democrats look to reduce what patients pay for many of the most-expensive drugs. The Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America, the industry's main lobbying body, spent \$7.4 million on lobbying from July through September, up from about \$6 million in the same span in 2020, filings to Congress show.
 - PhRMA has spent \$22.4 million on lobbying this year, compared with \$25.5 million during all of 2020 and \$28.8 million in all of 2019. The lobbying rush comes as lawmakers debate how to leverage the power of the federal government to lower what Americans pay for medicines and offset the cost of Biden's sweeping domestic spending legislation (H.R. 5376).
- **Bloomberg Government: Drugmakers Get FDA Real-World Data Guidance:** Drugmakers yesterday received insight on how they can transform real-world evidence into tangible data for studies supporting approval applications. The FDA's draft guidance includes recommendations on how to include these data sources in regulatory submissions in

compliance with the Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act. Real-world data include indicators of a patient's health or the delivery of health care, gathered from e-health records.

- **Bloomberg Government: Inflation Risk:** In negotiating a slimmed-down, front-loaded version of his agenda, Biden could end up worse off on two fronts: The 10-year program will likely be less economically transformative than he once hoped, while still running the risk of stoking inflation in the shorter term. “Longer-term growth could be materially impacted by scaling back the legislation,” said Mark Zandi, chief economist at Moody’s Analytics, who briefed House Democratic lawmakers on Wednesday. Unless Congress extends programs, “the impact they’ll have in transforming the economy in the long run” will depend on “what is scaled back, which at this time is highly uncertain,” he said.
- **The New York Times: Democrats' Campaign To Control Drug Prices Nears Collapse:** When a powerful Democratic Senate chairman assembled his Special Committee on Aging to confront what he called a “crisis of affordability” for prescription drugs, he proposed a novel solution: allow the government to negotiate better deals for critical medications. The year was 1989, and the idea from that chairman, former Senator David Pryor of Arkansas, touched off a drive for government drug-price negotiations that has been embraced by two generations of Democrats and one Republican president, Donald J. Trump — but now appears at risk of being left out of a sprawling domestic policy bill taking shape in Congress.
- **Bloomberg Government: Biden Open to Ending Filibuster for Debt Limit, Voting Rights:** Biden indicated he’d support ending the filibuster rule in the Senate to address the debt ceiling and voting-rights legislation -- and possibly other items -- after Republican members of the chamber used that mechanism to block bills on the two issues this month. The debt-ceiling 60-vote requirement is absurd, Biden said when asked about the filibuster -- which requires 60 votes to cut off debate -- at the town hall yesterday in Baltimore.
 - Biden said his focus on securing congressional Democratic support for his economic agenda has distracted him from pursuing police reform and voting-rights legislation.
- **Bloomberg Government: Duckworth Bill to Invest in Liver Cancer Research:** Sen. Tammy Duckworth (D-Ill.) re-introduced legislation that seeks to boost “federal support for liver cancer research and help make life-saving preventive and treatment services more accessible to people all across the country,” according to a statement. It would boost funding for liver cancer research at the National Institutes of Health by \$45 million and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention by \$90 million, the statement says.