

American Nephrology Nurses Association

Daily Capitol Hill Update – Wednesday, October 28, 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

- 2pm: President Trump speaks at campaign rally in Bullhead City, Arizona
 - 4:45pm: Trump holds campaign rally in Goodyear, Ariz.
 - Trump then travels to Doral, Fla. where he'll remain overnight
- VP Mike Pence holds campaign rallies in Mosinee, Wisc., and Flint, Mich.

CONGRESS

- House, Senate out

Congressional, Health Policy, and Political News

- **Bloomberg Government: Pre-Election Stimulus Hopes Fizzle Out:** Trump and his aides yesterday appeared resigned to waiting until after the election to get a coronavirus aid package and put blame on Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) for the delay. "After the election we'll get the best stimulus package you've ever seen," Trump told reporters. Pelosi responded that Trump's words only have weight "if he can get Mitch McConnell to take his hand off the pause button," referring to the Senate majority leader's reluctance to embrace a larger-scale relief bill.
- **The Hill: Hoyer Lays Out Ambitious Democratic Agenda For 2021, With Health Care At Top:** House Majority Leader Steny Hoyer (D-Md.) on Tuesday outlined a broad and ambitious legislative agenda for 2021, predicting Democrats will have unified power to move the party's priorities on issues as varied as health care, infrastructure, climate change and gun reform. "I think we're going to deal with all of those – and more," he said on a call with reporters.
- **Bloomberg Government: Early-Voter Turnout Surpasses 50% of 2016 Total:** Americans have already cast half the total votes counted in 2016, as voters show intense enthusiasm and take precautions against Covid. One week out from Election Day, 69.5 million early votes have been cast, already 50.4% of the total turnout from 2016, according to the U.S. Elections Project, which tracks early voting. That includes 46.3 million votes cast by mail-in ballots and 23.1 million in-person votes. There were 47.2 million early votes cast in all in 2016.
- **The Hill: Bipartisan Lawmakers Call For Overhauling Medical Supply Chains:** The U.S. needs to review and overhaul its medical supply chains amid the pandemic, lawmakers on both sides of the aisle said Tuesday. Speaking at The Hill's "America's Agenda: COVID-19

& A Responsive Rx Supply Chain" event, Rep. Elissa Slotkin (D-Mich.) said the U.S. needs "a soup-to-nuts look and identification of the very specific supply chains with national security importance."

- **Bloomberg Government: California Hospital Workers Vote to Go on Strike:** More than 4,000 workers at 11 California hospitals have voted to strike in the coming days, alleging that their employer, Tenet Healthcare, refused to bargain over Covid-19 protections. SEIU-United Healthcare Workers West said yesterday that Tenet rejected most of its pandemic-protection requests, including more protective equipment and testing for employees. The vote margin was 96% percent in favor of a strike, the union said.
 - "We are scared to come to work knowing we are at great risk of exposure to COVID-19," Gisella Thomas, a respiratory therapist at Desert Regional Medical Center in Palm Springs, said in a written statement. "We want to work with management at our hospitals to increase protections for our health, our patients' health, our families' health, and the health of our communities. We have put forth a pandemic safety proposal that addresses issues workers are concerned about, like staffing, PPE, and increased COVID-19 testing for employees."
- **The Washington Post: Kansas Nursing Home Faces Severe Federal Penalties After Deadly Coronavirus Outbreak:** The first hint that the novel coronavirus was tearing through the nursing home in rural Kansas arrived in a Facebook post this month. The Andbe Home was in the grips of "a full COVID outbreak," administrator Megan Mapes wrote, "despite the precautions we have been taking since March." But behind the walls of the facility, nursing home officials had failed to take the most basic measures to prevent the spread of the highly contagious virus after learning two residents were infected, according to a blistering report released Tuesday by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, which resulted in severe penalties.