

American Nephrology Nurses Association

Daily Capitol Hill Update - Thursday, October 31, 2019

(The following information comes from Bloomberg Government Website)

Schedules: White House and Congress

WHITE HOUSE

- President Trump has no public events scheduled
- VP Mike Pence has no public events scheduled

CONGRESS

- House meets at 9am; first votes expected 10:30am-11am; last votes 11am-11:30am
 - House will vote on H.Res. 660, resolution that would set the terms for process of handling impeachment inquiry
- Senate meets at 10am; set to resume consideration of H.R. 3055, a four-bill appropriations package that includes Agriculture-FDA, Commerce-Justice-Science, Interior-Environment and Transportation-HUD spending

Congressional, Health Policy, and Political News

- **HELP Markup:** The Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee plans to mark up eight bills related to health care including: S. 1657, to provide assistance to combat the Lyme disease and other tick-borne illnesses; S. 1399, to extend nursing workforce development programs; and S. 1130, to improve child health and better understand and enhance awareness about unexpected sudden death.
- **Over-the-Counter Drug Bill:** Sen. Johnny Isakson (R-Ga.), before he retires at the end of the year, plans to take another shot at overhauling how over-the-counter medicines such as aspirin are regulated. Supporters of the bill say they hope to help the long-time Georgia Republican, who has been in Congress for 20 years, clear his long-stalled measure this year. "Maybe out of respect to Sen. Isakson we will finally do it," said Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Chairman Lamar Alexander (R-Tenn.), whose panel will consider the bill today.
- **Global Drug Suppliers Challenge FDA:** Regulators want to reduce U.S. dependence on foreign-made pharmaceutical ingredients, as a wave of recalls has raised questions about the safety of the global drug-supply chain. The FDA is encouraging drug companies to invest in new production technologies that could help return some manufacturing to U.S. shores. The U.S. is currently home to only about a quarter of global production capacity for active pharmaceutical ingredients, according to Janet Woodcock, director of the FDA's Center for Drug Evaluation and Research.
- **Bolton Is Asked to Testify:** Former National Security Adviser John Bolton has been asked to testify on Nov. 7 before the House committees conducting the impeachment

inquiry, according to a person familiar with the matter. Also asked to testify are NSC attorney John Eisenberg and White House NSC legal adviser Michael Ellis, who have both been requested to appear on Nov. 4, the person said. Bolton was ousted from the White House last month, but it's unclear how he'll respond to the deposition request.

- **NSC Aide Resigns:** National Security Council aide Timothy Morrison left his position a day before his scheduled testimony today, a senior Trump administration official said. Morrison served as special assistant to the president and the NSC's senior director for Europe and Russia.
- **Delay for Spending Talks Weighed:** Democrats and Republicans in Congress are deliberating whether to push a deadline to fund the government into early February to avoid having a budget fight amid an impeachment inquiry into the president that's set to stretch at least into December. That will mean enacting another stopgap spending bill to avert a federal shutdown when the current short-term funds run out Nov. 21, assuming the two sides won't be able to agree on a spending plan by then.
 - Senate Appropriations Chairman Richard Shelby (R-Ala.) has floated the idea of a stopgap spending measure until February, but he said he hasn't discussed it with Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.).
- **Undocumented Agriculture Workers:** A bipartisan bill aimed at giving thousands of undocumented agricultural workers a path to legal status in exchange for a stronger employee verification could reach the House floor before the end of the year, lawmakers said yesterday. The bill could serve as a potential first step toward getting additional immigration reform passed, Rep. Zoe Lofgren (D-Calif.) said after the bill's unveiling. Although it faces an uphill climb in the Republican-controlled Senate, the measure serves as a marker for potential bipartisan action in the future.
- **SALT Bill Prepped:** House Ways and Means Democrats met to discuss a bill that would temporarily repeal the \$10,000 cap on state and local tax deductions for a few years or would raise the dollar amount on the cap. The measure being considered would also fix what's referred to as the SALT marriage penalty, in which a single person and a married couple get the same \$10,000 deduction while an unmarried couple filing separately could get a \$20,000 deduction.
 - Meanwhile, the White House is reviewing proposed rules intended to shield businesses from an IRS crackdown on efforts to get around state and local deduction caps, according to an IRS spokesperson.
- **Ex-Im Bank Extension:** Key House and Senate Republicans said they would support a short-term extension of the Export-Import Bank in a new stopgap spending bill, with a long-term reauthorization delayed by a dispute over banning export credits for China's state-owned companies. The Ex-Im Bank's authority to approve U.S. export credits lapses Nov. 21 when the current stopgap spending law to fund the government expires.

- **Energy Tax Bill:** House Ways and Means Democrats continue work on a clean energy tax package even though a long to-do list may preclude such a package from advancing to the floor this year. Democrats on the tax-writing panel originally hoped to hold a markup this fall on a comprehensive package intended to encourage the use of clean energy. But no legislation has been released as of yesterday and the House is only scheduled to be in legislative session for 17 more days.
- **Interior IG Fighting Harassment:** The Interior Department's Office of Inspector General has opened 22 sexual harassment investigations since 2016, when the department was rocked by widely publicized allegations of sexual misconduct at the Grand Canyon and other national parks, the inspector general told a House panel yesterday. "We have uncovered sexual misconduct in parks as large as Yellowstone, and as small as Canaveral National Seashore," IG Mark Greenblatt told the House Natural Resources Committee's oversight panel.
- **Trump Airs Ad During World Series:** The Washington Nationals defeated the Houston Astros last night 6-2, winning the first World Series Championship in the franchise's history. Trump congratulated the team after the victory. "Congratulations to the Washington Nationals on a great season and an incredible World Series. Game 7 was amazing!" he tweeted.
 - During the game, Trump's re-election campaign broadcast a new advertisement hailing the candidate as "no Mr. Nice Guy." "He's no Mr. Nice Guy, but sometimes it takes a Donald Trump to change Washington," the commercial's narrator says. The ad goes on to claim that the Trump administration created 6 million new jobs, cut illegal immigration in half, and touts the killing of the Islamic State leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi. Democrats, the ad says, "would rather focus on impeachment and phony investigations." Trump's campaign manager tweeted: "Game 7 World Series ad, 1 year out. #WeAreComing and fighting for the forgotten Americans."
- **Trump Team Aims to Expand Base:** Flush with cash, Trump's re-election team envisions a greatly expanded campaign map in which he'll challenge his Democratic opponent in blue states he narrowly lost in 2016, including Minnesota, Colorado and even New Mexico and Oregon. Trump's campaign spent just \$30,000 in Minnesota in 2016 and lost by only 1.5 percentage points. This time around, the campaign plans to pour millions of dollars into the state in order to win its 10 electoral college votes. His campaign has also hired staff in Colorado, which he lost by about 5 points, and in New Mexico, which he lost by 8.
- **Trump Boasts on Economy Are Undercut:** Trump boasts that a robust economy will protect him from impeachment and ensure his re-election, but it's an argument resting on a shaky foundation. The middle-class Americans who are the main targets of Trump's economic pitch aren't sharing much in the gains of U.S. growth. Worse yet for

Trump, wage growth has been slower in the counties he carried in 2016. That risks blunting his message with the Republican political base.

- **Harris to Cut Staff:** Short on cash and falling in the polls, Sen. Kamala Harris (D-Calif.) plans to cut staff in her Baltimore headquarters and reduce pay for advisers in an effort to keep her presidential bid afloat. Campaign manager Juan Rodriguez outlined the restructuring in a memo, citing a need to reduce spending to maximize prospects in Iowa.
- **Biden's Lead Over Warren Narrows:** Biden's lead over Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.) has been halved in a national USA Today/Suffolk University poll released yesterday. The poll showed Biden on top with 26% support among likely Democratic voters, followed by Warren at 17%, Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.) at 13% and Pete Buttigieg at 10%. All other candidates were in the single digits.
- **Twitter to Ban Political Advertising:** Twitter will ban political advertising from its platform, CEO Jack Dorsey tweeted yesterday. The new policy, to be enforced globally, will go into effect Nov. 22. The company plans to publish a new political ads policy outlining the change in a few weeks. "We believe political message reach should be earned, not bought," Dorsey wrote on Twitter. Twitter's decision comes as Facebook has publicly defended its policy of not fact-checking posts from politicians, including ads.
- **Clinton, Romney Managers Provide Help for Hacks:** Robby Mook and Matt Rhoades are from different sides of the political aisle. Mook, a Democrat, was campaign manager for Hillary Clinton's presidential campaign. Rhoades, a Republican, ran Mitt Romney's presidential run in 2012. But both of the campaigns they ran were targeted by foreign adversaries. Mook and Rhoades created a nonprofit, which opens for business today, with the goal of providing free or low-cost cybersecurity services to congressional and presidential candidates. Called Defending Digital Campaigns, it plans to serve as a clearinghouse that connects campaigns with cybersecurity companies.
- **Supreme Court Could Limit Clean Water Act:** A Supreme Court dispute involving a coral reef off Hawaii could impose major limits on the U.S. Clean Water Act, giving mines and coal-fired power plants what environmental advocates say would be a new license to pollute. The justices are set to hear arguments Nov. 6 in the case, which centers on treated wastewater that makes its way into the waters off a picturesque Maui beach.
- **Steel-Tariff Waiver Process Transparency:** The process used to grant waivers to metal-imports tariffs lacks transparency, contributing to the "appearance of improper influence," according to the Office of the Inspector General at the U.S. Commerce Department. Commerce Department officials and "interested parties" have discussed information about pending exclusion requests that wasn't included in the official record, and then took action consistent with that information, Carol N. Rice, the assistant

Inspector General for audit and evaluation, wrote in a memorandum to Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross on Monday.