

## American Nephrology Nurses Association

### Daily Capitol Hill Update - Wednesday, November 13, 2019

(The following information comes from Bloomberg Government Website)

#### Schedules: White House and Congress

##### WHITE HOUSE

- President Trump hosts Turkey's President Recep Tayyip Erdogan at the White House
  - Noon: Trump, first lady Melania Trump welcome Erdogan, his wife to White House
  - 12:10pm: Trump, Erdogan and their wives meet in 2:2 meeting
  - 12:30pm: Trump, Erdogan participate in restricted bilateral meeting
  - 1pm: Trump, Erdogan participate in expanded working luncheon
  - 2pm: Trump participates in legislative engagement with selected senators
  - 3:10pm: Trump, Erdogan to hold joint press conference
- Vice President Mike Pence in Huntington Beach, Calif.; delivers remarks at fundraising luncheon at 4:30pm
  - Pence then travels to Monterey, Calif.; makes remarks at fundraising dinner at 8:30pm

##### CONGRESS

- 10am: William Taylor, current top U.S. diplomat in Ukraine, and State Department's George Kent testify in House committees' first public hearings in impeachment inquiry; 1100 Longworth
- Senate meets at 10am; set to resume consideration of Chad Wolf to be under sec. for strategy and policy at Homeland Security dept.
  - Senate to hold confirmation vote on Wolf after 11am; Trump plans to elevate Wolf to serve as acting secretary of the department following the resignation of Kevin McAleenan in October
- House meets at 10am; set to consider 9 bills relating to small business, veterans

#### Congressional, Health Policy, and Political News

- **Medicaid Cracks Down on Schemes to Bilk Program:** The federal government is proposing a new rule to strengthen the fiscal integrity and oversight of the Medicaid program in several areas cited by watchdog agencies as being vulnerable to financial irregularity. The proposed Medicaid Fiscal Accountability Rule would seek greater transparency and accountability in Medicaid fee-for-service provider payments; disproportionate share hospital payments; Medicaid program financing; supplemental payments; and health care-related taxes and provider-related donations.

- **Timing of Public Impeachment Hearings:** Intelligence Committee Chairman Adam Schiff (D-Calif.) announced that eight more witnesses will appear before his committee next week.
  - Lieutenant Colonel Alexander Vindman, the director for European Affairs on the National Security Council; and Jennifer Williams, an aide to Vice President Mike Pence, are scheduled to testify on Nov. 19, Schiff said in a statement released last night. Kurt Volker, who was Trump's special envoy for Ukraine; and Tim Morrison, who has served on the NSC, are also set to appear on Nov. 19.
  - Gordon Sondland, the U.S. ambassador to the European Union, will testify on Nov. 20, according to Schiff's statement, as will Laura Cooper, a deputy assistant secretary of the Defense Department, and David Hale, the State Department undersecretary for political affairs.
  - And on Nov. 21, the committee is to question Fiona Hill, a former NSC senior director.
  
- **Punting Shutdown Deadline:** Congress plans to extend government funding through Dec. 20, averting a shutdown risk next week but setting up a potential spending fight amid likely impeachment votes by year's end, according to aides and lawmakers yesterday. Senate Appropriations Chairman Richard Shelby (R-Ala.) and House Appropriations Chairwoman Nita Lowey (D-N.Y.) settled on the timing for a short-term measure in a meeting yesterday. "It appears that it will be Dec. 20," Lowey said after the meeting. The House will vote on the stopgap next week before funds run out Nov. 21, House Majority Leader Steny Hoyer (D-Md.) said.
  
- **Wolf Moves to Senate Vote:** The Senate voted yesterday to limit debate on the nomination of Chad Wolf to be undersecretary of strategy, policy and plans at the Homeland Security Department, setting up a vote today to confirm him to the job and eventually to lead the department. Trump plans to elevate Wolf to serve as acting secretary of the department following the resignation of Kevin McAleenan in October, the White House said Nov. 1. Laws governing federal vacancies have complicated filling the position and limited Trump's ability to pick immigration hardliners like U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services head Ken Cuccinelli to serve as acting secretary.
  
- **Powell Is Key for Traders With Impeachment Concerns:** Wall Street bond traders will be firmly focused on events in Washington this morning in a hunt for clues about the direction of the economy and risk sentiment. But while they may keep one eye on the first public hearings in the House's presidential impeachment inquiry, what matters most right now for the \$16.5 trillion Treasuries market will be unfolding elsewhere on Capitol Hill: Federal Reserve Chairman Jerome Powell's appearance before Congress's Joint Economic Committee.
  - After policy makers cut rates last month at the third straight meeting, investors are looking for confirmation that Powell sees the economy on solid enough ground to pause in December. Trump weighed in again yesterday in a speech at the Economic Club of New York, slamming the central bank's shunning of negative interest rates as bad for the U.S.

- **China Condemns Bill Supporting Hong Kong Protesters:** China pushed back on U.S. plans to pursue legislation supporting pro-democracy protesters in Hong Kong, a day after Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.) promised work on the measure. China will take resolute measures to safeguard its interests if the bill passes, foreign ministry spokesman Geng Shuang said at a regular briefing in Beijing today. He also said the U.S. should immediately stop interference in Hong Kong issues.
- **Trump Welcomes Erdogan to White House:** Trump will welcome Turkish president Recep Tayyip Erdogan to the White House today, the leaders' first meeting since a diplomatic clash over Turkey's military offensive in northern Syria. Trump will be trying to move past the episode in Syria that he helped trigger by pulling U.S. troops out of the region, where they were maintaining peace between Turkey and the American-allied Kurdish forces that helped defeat Islamic State. At the same time, Trump is expected to increase pressure on Erdogan over his decision to purchase a Russian anti-aircraft missile system despite American admonitions.

  - The meeting comes as Trump faces the first of several public hearings in the House over whether he has abused his power by conducting foreign policy for his personal benefit, meriting impeachment. Turkey has featured in reports related to Trump's controversial conduct. Before directing an effort to force Ukraine to investigate Trump's political rivals, Rudy Giuliani -- the president's personal lawyer -- lobbied the White House to deport a Turkish dissident Erdogan blames for a failed 2016 coup.
  - Erdogan has relied on his rapport with Trump to ward off another round of punishing American sanctions since he put Turkey's NATO obligations to one side and took delivery of a missile-defense system made by the bloc's top foe, Russia. But time is now running out as Turkey plans to deploy the S-400 batteries as early as December, and make them fully operational by April 2020, while both Trump administration officials and Congress remain publicly determined to punish Ankara over the missile purchase.
- **Clinton Says 'Many' Urging a Run:** Hillary Clinton said yesterday she is being urged by "many, many, many people" to enter the 2020 presidential race and wouldn't rule out a third White House bid, though she has no plans for a run. "I, as I say, never, never, never say never," Clinton, the 2016 Democratic nominee, told BBC Radio 5 Live. "I will certainly tell you, I'm under enormous pressure from many, many, many people to think about it." "But," she added, "as of this moment, sitting here in this studio talking to you, that is absolutely not in my plans."
- **Environmental Groups Challenge Border Wall:** The Sierra Club faced off with government lawyers in court this week to fight the U.S.-Mexico border wall backed by Trump, the latest in a lineup of lawsuits over the issue. Lawyers for the environmental group, as well as for the Southern Border Communities Coalition and some states, appeared at the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth

Circuit yesterday to argue against Trump's emergency order authorizing creative funding for border protections. The president issued the order in February to move money from Defense Department accounts and other sources to fund construction, after Congress declined to authorize \$5.7 billion for the project.