

American Nephrology Nurses Association

Daily Capitol Hill Update - Tuesday, November 17, 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

- President Trump has no public events scheduled
- VP Mike Pence leads a White House coronavirus task force meeting at 3pm

CONGRESS

- House meets at 10am with first votes not expected until 6pm
 - House set to vote on motion to go to conference on NDAA, H.R. 6395
- Senate meets at 10am; holds weekly caucus luncheons
- After 2:15pm, Senate to hold procedural vote on nomination for Judy Shelton to be member of Fed
 - If procedural vote is successful, Senate will vote on confirmation on Tuesday, according to whip notice

Congressional, Health Policy, and Political News

- **Bloomberg Government: Health Measures Set for Passage:** The House today plans to consider 25 measures under expedited procedure. Health-related legislation include the following:
 - Health Research for Minorities: The National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities would be permitted to provide research endowments to current and former "centers of excellence" at minority academic institutions under H.R. 4499.
 - Generic Drug Labels: The FDA could require drugmakers to change outdated labels for generic drugs under H.R. 5668.
 - Orphan Drug Designations: Drugmakers wouldn't be able to obtain market exclusivity for certain drugs used to treat rare diseases if they are profitable under H.R. 4712.
 - Suspicious Drug Orders: Drug manufacturers and distributors that discover suspicious orders for controlled substances would have to meet additional requirements under a modified version of H.R. 3878.
 - Medicine Registration Transfers: Transferring registrations to manufacture or dispense controlled substances to other entities would be limited by H.R. 4812. The measure would require the DEA to terminate the registration of an entity when an individual dies, a business is terminated their business, or if a registration is surrendered.
- **The Hill: HHS Secretary: FDA Will Move 'As Quickly As Possible' On Moderna, Pfizer Vaccines:** Health and Human Services Secretary Alex Azar said Monday that the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) will move "as quickly as possible" to clear vaccine

candidates developed by Moderna and Pfizer for emergency use. Azar told "Squawk Box" on CNBC that the FDA would review their effectiveness and safety and remove "any unnecessary bureaucratic barriers" standing between the two vaccines hitting the market.

- **Bloomberg Government: Biden Sizing Up State Leaders for Health-Care Posts:** Biden's health team is shaping up as a competition largely between Obama administration alumni who stayed in Washington and those who joined state health agencies. Biden, who made fighting the coronavirus and expanding health care top campaign priorities, faces a steep climb for central parts of his agenda, including expanding the Affordable Care Act's insurance subsidies and creating government-run insurance. Democrats' majority has been narrowed in the House and control of the Senate remains undecided.
 - The transition is eyeing two state officials for key health policy jobs: New Mexico Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham (D) and North Carolina HHS Secretary Mandy Cohen, seven people with knowledge of the team's plans said. They're also considering former Surgeon General Vivek Murthy and Chiquita Brooks-LaSure, a former HHS official who helped lead the department's steps to carry out the ACA.
- **Bloomberg Government: Biden to Bring Three Top Campaign Officials to White House:** Biden is beginning to fill out his roster of top White House aides, with Rep. Cedric Richmond (D-La.), Jen O'Malley Dillon, and Steve Ricchetti planning to take top jobs, according to people familiar with the matter. Richmond will have a senior role that would include public engagement. O'Malley Dillon, Biden's campaign manager, will be a deputy chief of staff and Ricchetti, Biden's campaign chairman, will be given a senior role, the people said. All appointments are scheduled to be announced today. Biden had said he planned to name key White House aides before turning to cabinet jobs that require Senate confirmation.
- **Bloomberg Government: Drug Intermediaries Seek to Preserve Price Cuts:** Pharmacy intermediaries who negotiate drug insurance coverage are already threatening lawsuits if the Trump administration follows through on a revived plan to roll back drug rebates. The Office of Management and Budget is reviewing a final rule as of yesterday that would end legal shields for the rebates drugmakers pay to pharmacy middlemen and to insurance plans providing coverage through Medicaid or the Medicare drug program, according to its website.
- **Bloomberg Government: Biden Call for Stimulus Runs Into GOP Opposition:** Biden's call for Congress to pass a larger-scale stimulus package ran into swift headwinds, with downbeat comments from a senior Republican senator.
 - Biden, in his first remarks dedicated to the economy since winning the Nov. 3 election, called on lawmakers to immediately pass a bill like the more than \$2 trillion measure (H.R. 925) passed by the Democratic-led House before the election. "Right now Congress should come together and pass a Covid relief package like the Heroes Act," Biden said yesterday in Wilmington, Delaware.
 - Senate Appropriations Committee Chairman Richard Shelby (R-Ala.) made clear that's not coming soon. "We're not going to pass a gigantic measure right now -- and the question is will we pass it later? Doubtful," he said, hours after Biden spoke. "Start with the skinny bill," he said, referring to a roughly \$500 billion GOP proposal.