

# American Nephrology Nurses Association

Daily Capitol Hill Update - Thursday, November 18, 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:

- The president will sign three measures (S. 1511; S. 1502; S. 921) into law at the White House at 9:45 a.m.
- Biden will participate in a bilateral meeting with Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau at 1:15 p.m., followed by a bilateral meeting with Mexican President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador at 3 p.m. The three North American leaders will hold a group summit at 4:45 p.m.

### CONGRESS:

- The House meets at 10 a.m., with Democrats' working to move forward with a vote on Biden's tax and spending measure.
- The Senate at 10 a.m. will convene to resume consideration of the annual defense policy bill.

## Congressional, Health Policy, and Political News

- **Modern Healthcare: CMS Officially Delays Drugmakers' Best Price Requirement:** The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services on Wednesday gave drugmakers six more months to comply with the Trump-era regulation requiring them to calculate the "best price" for drugs under Medicaid's drug rebate program using discounts they offer patients. The new final rule will officially delay best prices reporting from Jan. 1, 2022, to July 1, 2022.
- **Modern Healthcare: Feds Require Health Plans To Report Drug Coverage Costs Under New Rule:** Health insurers, employers and other group health plan sponsors must report prescription drug and health coverage costs for consumers under a federal regulation published Wednesday. The interim finale rule is the fourth regulation to date implementing the No Surprises Act. The Health and Human Services Department, Labor Department, Treasury Department and Office of Personnel Management promulgated the regulation.
- **Biden's Economic Agenda:** The House is scheduled today to begin consideration the \$1.75 trillion tax and spending package encompassing much of Biden's economic agenda, but the chamber will only vote once moderate Democrats sign on with their support. The moderates have said that in order to vote on the bill, they need to see scoring from the Congressional Budget Office that is similar to estimates from the White House on the spending and revenue provisions in the package.
  - CBO Director Phillip Swagel has said the office's experts plan to finish scoring the bill by late Friday, but there's a chance they could finish today. That could mean a quick

turnaround from when the estimates are released to when the bill is on the floor. The daily schedule from House Majority Leader Steny Hoyer (D-Md.) lists the bill for consideration today, but makes no assertions of vote timing.

- Rep. Kurt Schrader (D-Ore.), one of the moderates, told reporters yesterday he would support the reconciliation bill if the bill's offsets come close to covering its expenditures, and that he would be fine with a quick vote after the CBO estimate comes out.
  - Thousands of nursing homes would be forced to close and thousands of others would have to stop taking new admissions if provisions of the spending plan become law, industry officials said.
  - Corporate tax changes proposed in the spending plan threaten to undercut Biden's ambitious climate goals and undermine clean-power development, according to energy companies that oppose it.
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- **The New York Times: The F.D.A. Could Authorize Moderna Boosters For All Adults As Early As This Week:** Moderna has asked federal regulators to authorize booster shots of its coronavirus vaccine for all adults, a request that the Food and Drug Administration could grant as early as this week along with a similar request from Pfizer, according to people familiar with the planning. If the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention also signs off every adult who was fully vaccinated with the Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna shot at least six months ago would not only be eligible for a booster, but could choose which vaccine. The agency's committee of independent experts is set to meet Friday to discuss booster shots.
  - **The Wall Street Journal: Nurse Salaries Rise As Demand For Their Services Soars During Covid-19 Pandemic:** Nurses are winning raises worth thousands of dollars a year from hospitals, the latest employer reckoning with a tight labor market. HCA Healthcare Inc., HCA's 0.89% one of the nation's largest hospital chains, increased nurse pay this year to handle heavy Covid-19 pandemic case loads and keep pace with rivals that are also trying to fill vacancies and hold on to existing staff, the company's human resources chief said. Raises varied by market; an HCA spokesman declined to say by what amounts.