

# American Nephrology Nurses Association

Daily Capitol Hill Update – Friday, November 19, 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 this morning is scheduled to undergo a routine physical exam at Walter Reed Medical Center outside Washington ahead of his birthday tomorrow.
- Biden will pardon the National Thanksgiving Turkey at the White House at 3:15 p.m.
- Biden will then depart at 6:20 p.m. for Wilmington, Del.

### CONGRESS:

- The Senate meets at 10 a.m. with plans to move toward consideration of the annual defense policy bill. The effort to consider the measure last night was delayed by objections from Senate Republicans.
- The House meets at 8 a.m. with plans to complete consideration of the reconciliation bill.

## Congressional, Health Policy, and Political News

- **Bloomberg Government: Democrats' Economic Bill Heads to Vote:** House Democrats pushed expected passage of President Biden's \$1.64 trillion economic agenda to today as Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy (R-Calif.) delayed a vote with a lengthy floor speech that lasted into the early morning hours.
  - McCarthy used his privilege as minority leader to camp out on the House floor just after 8:30 p.m. yesterday in a speech criticizing the tax and spending bill in particular – and Democrats in general -- that stretched past midnight.
  - Flanked by his GOP allies and heckled by Democrats, the California Republican called the bill the “single most reckless and irresponsible spending bill in our nation's history.”
  - As he continued speaking past midnight, House Democratic leaders announced there would be no votes until the House reconvenes at 8 a.m. today to continue working on the bill.
  - Debate in the House opened yesterday as the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office released its estimate that Biden's signature economic package doesn't contain enough tax increases to pay for itself. The determination countered the Biden administration's analysis, but moderate Democrats who had been holding out to see the CBO score said they were ready to back the bill, clearing the path to passage.

- **Politico: FDA Said To Be Ready To Endorse Pfizer And Moderna Boosters At Once:** The Food and Drug Administration on Friday is expected to authorize Moderna's Covid-19 booster shot for all adults — a move that would come in tandem with the clearance of Pfizer-BioNtech's booster for widespread use, two people with knowledge of the matter told POLITICO. The decision comes just days after Moderna officially asked the FDA to green-light its booster for Americans 18 and older, and reflects the administration's growing unease over the recent rise in Covid-19 cases across the nation.
- **Bloomberg Government: Democrats' plan to negotiate drug prices would save the federal government \$78.8 billion over a decade, the CBO said:** The two major pillars of Democrats' drug pricing effort — empowering the government to seek lower drug prices and requiring drugmakers to pay back profits from raising the cost of drugs above inflation — would reduce U.S. government spending by about \$128.2 billion over 10 years, the Congressional Budget Office has found.
- **Modern Healthcare: 70% Of Hospital Workers Vaccinated, New CDC Data Show:** Seven out of 10 U.S. hospital workers were vaccinated against COVID-19 as of Sept. 15, according to a Centers for Disease Control and Prevention study issued Wednesday. Staff working in children's hospitals, in metropolitan counties and in counties with higher vaccination rates were more likely to be vaccinated than their peers, agency officials wrote in an article published in the American Journal of Infection Control.
- **The Hill: Biden Administration Reverses Trump-Era Waivers Of Nondiscrimination Protections:** The Biden administration is reversing Trump-era rules that allowed federally-funded child welfare agencies to bypass non-discrimination rules if they conflicted with providers' religious beliefs. The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) on Thursday said it was rescinding waivers granted to three states that allowed faith-based foster care groups that contracted with state agencies to turn away same-sex and non-Christian couples while still receiving federal money.
- **Bloomberg: New Covid Delta Sub-Variant Spreads Fast In U.K., Causes Fewer Symptoms:** A more infectious new version of Covid-19's delta variant is spreading fast in the U.K., accounting for about 12% of the samples gathered in the most recent government survey. That represents a 2.8% daily growth rate for sub-variant AY.4.2 over the course of the REACT survey, from Oct. 19 to Nov. 5, the researchers said. Still, the new sub-variant seemed less likely to cause symptomatic Covid.