

American Nephrology Nurses Association

Daily Capitol Hill Update – Tuesday, November 2, 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 continues his trip to Glasgow, Scotland, for the COP26 climate summit.
- Biden will participate at 7:15 a.m. Washington time in a meeting on the Build Back Better World initiative.
- He'll deliver remarks at 9 a.m. on the global methane pledge, followed by remarks at 10:30 a.m. at an event on clean technology development.
- Biden will hold a press conference at 3:30 p.m. before departing Scotland at around 6 p.m. to return to Washington.

CONGRESS:

- The House is in at noon to consider seven largely bipartisan measures under expedited procedure.
- The Senate starts at 10 a.m. and continues work on five of Biden's agency nominations.

Congressional, Health Policy, and Political News

- **Las Vegas Review-Journal: Horsford, Lee Demanding Affordable Prescription Drug Prices:** Nevada Reps. Susie Lee and Steven Horsford are among 15 Democrats urging House leaders to include cuts to prescription drug prices in a \$1.7 trillion spending bill. The bill championed by President Joe Biden – known as Build Back Better – could come up for a vote as early as this week. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi said Monday that the House continues to “move forward” on the sweeping legislation, but did not address specific programs or disagreements that could delay passage of the bill. One proposal being considered would limit drug price increases to the rate of inflation and cap out-of-pocket costs to seniors under Medicare.
- **Bloomberg Government: Health-Care Worker Vaccine Mandate Finalized:** An interim final rule requiring Covid-19 vaccination for health-care workers at facilities paid by Medicare and Medicaid cleared White House review and can now publish at any time. The health-care sector has led the charge for vaccine mandates in work settings, with many hospitals and health systems requiring the job for their staff before state and federal mandates. The rule will take effect as soon as it is published in the Federal Register.

- **Bloomberg Government: Election Day to Determine Three House Seats:** Voters in two Ohio congressional districts and one Florida district head to the polls today to fill vacancies in the House.
 - In the 11th District, a Black-majority Democratic bastion in and around Cleveland and Akron, Cuyahoga County Councilwoman Shontel Brown is overwhelmingly favored to replace Marcia Fudge, who's now Biden's housing secretary. In a first, Brown would become the third consecutive Black woman to represent the district, following Stephanie Tubbs Jones (D) and Fudge.
 - In the 15th District, a Republican-leaning area of south-central Ohio, Republican Mike Carey is favored against Democratic state Rep. Allison Russo. Carey, a coal industry lobbyist, ran as an ally of former president Trump.
 - And in Florida's 20th District, a Black-majority swath of Broward and Palm Beach Counties, the winner of an 11-candidate Democratic primary will be a shoo-in to win the Jan. 11 special election and succeed the late Alcee Hastings (D). Democratic candidates include health-care executive Sheila Cherfilus-McCormick, Broward County commissioners Barbara Sharief and Dale Holness, state Sen. Perry Thurston, and state Reps. Omari Hardy and Bobby DuBose.

- **Bloomberg Government: Pelosi Presses for Vote on Biden Bill:** House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) aims to push forward with plans to vote this week on the two bills that comprise President Joe Biden's economic agenda despite moderates echoing Sen. Joe Manchin's (D-W.Va.) complaint about not knowing the full cost and economic impact.
 - None of the centrist Democrats have yet threatened to block a vote on a \$1.75 trillion tax and spending plan that forms the biggest parts of Biden's agenda. Yet it was another indication that Pelosi, Biden and other Democratic leaders haven't fully sealed the deal to get the measure passed.
 - Pelosi is focused on the House voting on the tax and spending proposal and a separate \$550 billion public works measure before she attends the United Nations climate summit in Glasgow, Budget Committee Chairman John Yarmuth (D-Ky.) said yesterday. Pelosi's office has not announced when she is traveling to the summit, which lasts until Nov. 12. "We're on course to pass our bill," Pelosi said last night of the larger package, which includes climate and social spending paid for by tax increases.

- **The Wall Street Journal: Manchin Criticizes Democrats' Revised Social Spending And Climate Bill:** Sen. Joe Manchin (D., W.Va.) criticized Democrats' \$1.85 trillion healthcare, education and climate-change bill and withheld his support for a legislative framework that the White House had cast as a consensus acceptable to all members of the Senate Democratic caucus. "I'm open to supporting a final bill that helps move our country forward," he said at an afternoon press conference. "But I'm equally open to voting against a bill that hurts our country.

- **Politico: US Health Care System And State Of Democracy Perceived Negatively Abroad: Survey:** American health care systems, including their handling of the COVID-19 pandemic, and the state of the country's democracy, are seen negatively abroad, according to the latest Pew Research Center report released Monday. The survey, carried out in 17 advanced economies with 18,850 respondents, shows that the U.S. health care system is perceived as below average or as the worst among developed nations, and that very few respondents believe American democracy, in its current state, serves as a good model for other nations.