

# American Nephrology Nurses Association

Daily Capitol Hill Update - Friday, November 20, 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

- 6:50am: President Trump participates in virtual APEC leaders summit
- 2:30pm: Trump delivers remarks on lowering prescription drug prices
- VP Mike Pence in Georgia to campaign for Senate Republican candidates
- White House will hold a press briefing at 10am

### CONGRESS

- Senate set to return Nov. 30
- House meets at 9am, set to vote on H.R. 8294, the National Apprenticeship Act of 2020
- Treasury Sec. Steven Mnuchin says he will discuss stimulus with Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell this morning

## Congressional, Health Policy, and Political News

- **Bloomberg Government: Drug Rule Targeting Pharma Liaisons Clears Review:** Release of a monumental drug policy that would scrap legal protections for certain payments between drugmakers and middlemen is imminent after it left executive review. The White House Office of Management and Budget completed action on the rule yesterday, according to its website, which is a quick turnaround after it received the revived regulation from the Health and Human Services Department Nov. 13.
  - Separately, rules to lift restrictions on physician financial arrangements and coordinated patient care cleared final White House review and could be published soon. The Office of Management and Budget completed action on the rules on Wednesday, according to its website. The long-awaited changes to two major laws that fight fraud and corruption in the health-care sector are aimed at streamlining the process for doctors to treat patients holistically rather than on a traditional fee-for-service basis.
- **Bloomberg Government: Biden's Budget Complicated by Transition Delay:** Biden faces an uphill battle to prepare his first budget proposal, with his transition team blocked from coordinating with White House staff and lawmakers negotiating legislation that could upend expectations of the fiscal outlook. Incoming presidents are often unable to submit a full budget proposal by the statutory deadline on the first Monday of February, but Biden faces more challenges than previous newcomers. His transition team can't coordinate on budget priorities with White House Office of Management and Budget staff or officials from other agencies until the GSA ascertains an apparent winner. Biden will also have to navigate an uncertain fiscal outlook with lawmakers currently negotiating separate stimulus and omnibus spending packages.

- The delay in calling a winner may not affect the fiscal 2022 budget proposal “if we’re only talking about a week or two,” Steve Redburn, a lecturer at George Washington University and former OMB official, said in an interview. “But it could become a complicating factor if it drags on and on.” Career staff at agencies may have as much interest in talking to Biden’s team as Biden has in talking to them. When GSA ascertains a winner, agency staff can prepare information for the transition team about “the lay of the land in terms of policy and management, and any crises,” said Redburn, who helped write and edit an e-book on OMB’s role at the start of a presidential term.
- **Bloomberg Government: Manufacturing Focus Offers Hope for Tax Perk:** Biden’s interest in boosting domestic manufacturing is a good sign for companies that want to see a temporary tax policy known as full expensing extended or made permanent. Businesses have long been allowed to deduct investment costs, but the 2017 tax law temporarily allows the immediate write-off of costs associated with the purchase of capital goods, including manufacturing equipment. The provision is set to start phasing out after 2022 and expire at the end of 2026.
- **Bloomberg Government: Leadership Staff Met on Omnibus, Discussed Virus Aid:** Meanwhile, staff from the offices of Speaker Pelosi, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.), Senate Minority Leader Schumer and House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy (R-Calif.) met yesterday to discuss an omnibus spending package. The talks on the spending plan are on a separate track from stalled negotiations on a Covid-19 relief bill, but during the meeting, the staff members discussed assistance measures tied to coronavirus relief, a senior Democratic aide said without giving details. A House Republican aide said that expiring programs related to the pandemic such as extended unemployment insurance and the Paycheck Protection Program were on the agenda, along with other expiring government programs.
- **USA Today: Pfizer Could File For Emergency Use Authorization Friday:** Pfizer and its partner BioNTech plan to file for emergency use authorization with the Food and Drug Administration, possibly as early as Friday, two days after announcing its COVID-19 vaccine is 95% effective. Pfizer CEO and chairman Albert Bourla told NPR's All Things Considered that the company hopes to file for authorization Friday and start distributing the vaccine within hours of its approval. Half of the vaccines produced will go to the U.S. and the other half for the rest of the world, he said.