

# American Nephrology Nurses Association

Daily Capitol Hill Update Monday, November 9, 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
- 3pm: Vice President Mike Pence leads White House coronavirus task force meeting

### CONGRESS

- The House holds a pro forma session at 10am
  - Full chamber returns to work next week
- The Senate meets at 3pm; considers nomination of James Knepp to be a judge for the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Ohio

## Congressional, Health Policy, and Political News

- **Bloomberg Government: Senate to Release Spending Bills:** Senate appropriators will release all 12 of their fiscal 2021 spending bills tomorrow morning, a Senate Republican aide said, a move that sets the table for bicameral omnibus negotiations in the lame-duck session. Lawmakers have to fund the government by Dec. 11 to avoid a shutdown, and congressional leaders have said they want a full omnibus spending deal, not another stopgap measure.
  - It's an ambitious goal, partly because senators didn't release any of their spending bills earlier this year, let alone hold markups or floor votes. The House has passed the bulk of its measures. Tomorrow's bill release will serve as the opening offer from Senate Republicans in bicameral negotiations.
- **AP: Global Coronavirus Case Total Tops 50 Million:** The coronavirus has hit another sobering milestone: more than 50 million positive cases worldwide since the pandemic began. Johns Hopkins University's coronavirus tracker reported more than 50.2 million COVID-19 cases globally as of Sunday. There have been more than 1.2 million deaths from the disease worldwide since the pandemic started.
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- **Bloomberg Government: Biden Mulls Top Health Appointees:** Apart from Biden's coronavirus task force, he has proposed creating a special position to oversee the response to the pandemic. Separately, the leading contenders to head Health and Human Services are two women who Biden also considered for vice president: Rep. Karen Bass (D-Calif.), head of the Congressional Black Caucus, and New Mexico Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham (D).
- **AP: Medicare's 'Part B' Outpatient Premium To Rise By \$3.90:** Medicare's 'Part B' monthly premium for outpatient care will go up by \$3.90 next year to \$148.50, officials announced late Friday afternoon. For most retirees, the health care cost increase will claim a significant slice of their Social Security cost-of-living adjustment, or COLA. It works out to nearly 20% of the average retired worker's COLA of \$20 a month next year.
- **Bloomberg Government: Obamacare Stakes Rise at High Court as Election Doooms Easy Fix:** Democrats' failure to secure a Senate majority in last week's election has heightened the importance of Tuesday's Supreme Court showdown over the Affordable Care Act, increasing the chances the court will get the final word on a law that provides health insurance to 20 million people.
  - The Trump administration is joining Republican-led states in challenging the law, known as Obamacare, which the GOP has been trying to wipe out since it was enacted in 2010. They're banking on the court's strengthened conservative majority with new Justice Amy Coney Barrett.
  - With health care accounting for a sixth of the U.S. economy, the stakes were massive even before the election made Democrat Joe Biden the president-elect while leaving Republicans favored to retain control of the Senate. Now the prospect of a divided government could leave Democrats without the ability to override a ruling invalidating the law.