

American Nephrology Nurses Association

Daily Capitol Hill Update - Thursday, December 3, 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

- 11:30am: Trump presents Medal of Freedom to former Notre Dame football coach Lou Holtz
- 2pm: Trump takes part in signing ceremony for H.R. 5901, a bill that would help federal agencies adopt modern information technology, and an executive order promoting responsible use of artificial intelligence in government
- 11:50am: Vice President Mike Pence departs Washington for Memphis, Tenn.
 - 2:25pm: Pence leads roundtable discussion on vaccine distribution; Memphis

CONGRESS

- House meets at 10am; first vote at 5pm-6pm, last vote 6pm-7pm
 - Chamber to vote on H.R. 3884, a bill that would decriminalize marijuana
 - Will also vote on bills under suspension of the rules
- Senate to meet at 10am
 - At 11:30am will vote on confirmation of the nomination of Christopher Waller to serve on the Federal Reserve Board
- House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and Senate Democratic leader Chuck Schumer are supporting a \$908b bipartisan stimulus proposal as the foundation for a new round of talks with Republicans and the White House

Congressional, Health Policy, and Political News

- **Bloomberg Government: Meadows Meets With Hahn Again as Shots Near:** White House Chief of Staff Mark Meadows met with Food and Drug Administration Commissioner Stephen Hahn for a second time in two days yesterday, as President Donald Trump continues to pressure federal regulators to quickly issue emergency authorizations for coronavirus vaccines. Trump and other officials at the White House have been displeased with Hahn and what they perceive as changing criteria for U.S. approval of a vaccine, according to one of the people.
- **Politico: Raimondo Emerges As Frontrunner For HHS Secretary:** Rhode Island Gov. Gina Raimondo is now a top contender to be President-elect Joe Biden's pick to run the Department of Health and Human Services, according to two people close to the transition. Raimondo's rise comes as New Mexico Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham is no longer favored for the role, according to one of those sources and another familiar with the discussions.

- Bloomberg Government: Pelosi Backs Using Bipartisan Plan in Relief Talks:** Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) and Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-N.Y.) threw their support yesterday behind using a \$908 billion bipartisan coronavirus relief proposal as the foundation for a new round of negotiations with Republicans and the Trump administration. Their support for the plan drawn up by a group of House and Senate lawmakers marks the first public retreat from their backing of a much larger \$2.4 trillion pandemic aid package and could break six months of stalemate in time to get a bill passed by year-end.

 - House Majority Leader Steny Hoyer (D-Md.) said earlier yesterday he's optimistic that lawmakers can agree on the omnibus and "on the outlines of a Covid-19 bill" by this weekend and pass both next week.
- Bloomberg Government: CDC Revises Quarantine, Travel Advice:** The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention issued recommendations for shorter quarantine periods, saying those without symptoms can stop after 10 days or seven days with a negative Covid-19 result. The idea is that quarantines shorter than 14 days carry low infection risks and will bolster compliance, CDC officials said on a call with reporters. They also urged Americans to postpone holiday travel, citing the volume around Thanksgiving, and outlined new guidelines for reducing travel risks.
- Bloomberg Government: Conservatives Push for Private Arbitration in Billing Disputes:** A coalition of conservative groups sought to reignite a policy debate that's kept legislation to address surprise medical bills from clearing Congress, days before a crucial deadline for the issue. Action for Health, a collection of right-wing advocacy groups such as the Center for Freedom and Prosperity and the Institute for Liberty, called on Congress to include language permitting an "independent dispute resolution process" in surprise billing legislation. The Taxpayers Protection Alliance, meanwhile, a part of Action for Health, is also launching a six-figure ad campaign against the leading surprise billing proposal, the group announced yesterday.
- Bloomberg: CVS, Walgreens Bracing To Give Covid-19 Shots At Nursing Homes:** CVS Health Corp. and Walgreens Boots Alliance Inc. are preparing to administer Covid-19 vaccines in tens of thousands of nursing homes and assisted-living facilities across the country, with shots possibly rolling out in just weeks. Federal advisers on Tuesday urged that residents at long-term care centers be first in line for the Covid shots, along with at-risk health-care workers. In making the recommendation, the advisers said the move would be well-supported by a new partnership formed between the Department of Health and Human Services and pharmacy companies to vaccinate at the centers.