American Nephrology Nurses Association
Daily Capitol Hill Update – Wednesday, February 10, 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**

- 9:30am: President Biden, VP Harris receive presidential daily brief
- 2pm: Biden, Harris meet with Defense Sec. Lloyd Austin, other senior military leaders at Pentagon
- 2:50pm: Biden, Harris deliver remarks to DOD personnel
- 3:30pm: Biden, Harris, Austin tour the African Americans in Service Corridor at Pentagon
- 11am: White House Covid-19 response team holds briefing
- 12:30pm: Press Sec. Jen Psaki holds press briefing

**CONGRESS**

- Noon: Senate resumes impeachment trial of former President Donald Trump

**Congressional, Health Policy, and Political News**

- **Bloomberg Government: House Plans Medicaid, Drug Price Changes**: The House Energy and Commerce Committee’s stimulus proposal would make big changes to Medicaid. It offers states more money to expand their public health insurance programs for the poor and gives them the ability to claw back money from price increases of certain drugs. The plan, released last night, would end Medicaid drug rebate caps, which are currently set at 100% of a drug’s average manufacturer price, for certain medicines. Once that cap is reached, drug makers can raise their prices without increasing the net rebates that must be paid. A congressional advisory committee warned in 2019 that ending the rebate cap could prompt drug companies to leave the Medicaid program or reduce research.

- **Bloomberg Government: Biden Faces Economic Challenge on Manufacturing Jobs**: Biden began his presidency much as his predecessor did, promising to restore hope to a blue-collar middle class battered by decades of relentless job losses from automation and foreign competition. But the realities of trying to stoke U.S. manufacturing employment in the wake of an economic crisis are quickly endangering his plans. After a period of recovery last year, U.S. factory payrolls stagnated in recent months, then went into reverse in January. The country is on course to repeat a pattern seen in every recession since manufacturing jobs peaked in June 1979: a structural step-down in employment even amid a sustained expansion in output.
  - As Biden starts to lay out plans for the long-term economic rebuilding program designed as a follow-on to his $1.9 trillion Covid-19 relief bill, the business calculus of American manufacturing looms as a headwind.
- **Bloomberg Government: Financial Services Stimulus Markup:** Chair Maxine Waters (D-Calif.) will convene the House Financial Services Committee today to vote on its portion of coronavirus stimulus legislation. The panel was charged, under terms of the 2021 budget adopted last week by Congress, with writing up legislation totaling $75 billion in deficit increases. According the committee’s draft relief legislation, that will include $10 billion to use the Defense Production Act to produce masks and other Covid-19 equipment.

- **Stat: Biden Administration To Make Nursing Schools Pay For Government Mistake:** The federal government miscalculated funding for hospital-based nursing schools for nearly two decades, and now the Biden administration is forcing them to pay up during the worst health care workforce crisis in decades.

- **Bloomberg Government: Late Trump-Era Health Rules Subject to Review:** Several health regulations that went into effect late in the Trump administration are subject to review—and could change—under the Biden administration. They include controversial actions like an international drug price rule, which is already halted by litigation, as well as straightforward and time-sensitive rules about how doctors get paid under Medicare.