

# American Nephrology Nurses Association

Daily Capitol Hill Update - Tuesday, February 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

- 5pm: President Biden signs orders on immigration
- 1:30pm: Press Sec. Jen Psaki holds briefing

### CONGRESS

- House meets at 2pm; set to consider budget measure with a vote later this week
- Senate convenes at 10:30am; set to vote on nominations of Alejandro Mayorkas and Pete Buttigieg today after a weather-related delay yesterday

## Congressional, Health Policy, and Political News

- **Bloomberg Government: Judge Delays Part of Trump-Era Drug Rebate Rule:** Part of a Trump administration rule that targets the drug rebate system is now delayed until 2023, after a pharmacy liaison group said in court it would significantly disrupt negotiations with drugmakers. A provision of the Health and Human Services Department rule, which would change payments to pharmacy benefit managers so that they can't fluctuate based on the price of a drug, was set to take effect January 2022.
- **Bloomberg Government: Biden Stimulus May Be Democrat-Only Despite Cordial GOP Meeting:** President Joe Biden and congressional Democrats signaled they're intent on a large pandemic relief bill, potentially without Republican support, even after a White House meeting with GOP senators on Monday that both sides described as productive.
  - While the 10 senators who participated described the meeting as "excellent" with "a very productive exchange of views," in a joint statement, White House Press Secretary Jen Psaki said Biden had emphasized that Congress had to act urgently and "boldly" and had pointed out many areas of disagreement with the Republicans.
  - House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) and Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-N.Y.) meanwhile introduced a budget resolution on Monday, the first step required to use a procedure called "budget reconciliation" that would allow much of Biden's \$1.9 trillion stimulus to pass the Senate with only 51 votes.
  - Biden and the 10 Republicans agreed to have their aides continue to negotiate a bipartisan relief plan. The legislation is the president's top priority, and conceding to a GOP proposal that is one-third the size would be taken by his supporters on the left as a defeat.
  - While Biden "is hopeful" that what he calls the American Rescue Plan "can pass with bipartisan support, a reconciliation package is a path to achieve that end," Psaki said.

- **The Washington Post: New Diabetes Cases Linked To Covid-19:** Although covid-19 often attacks the lungs, it is increasingly associated with a range of problems including blood clots, neurological disorders, and kidney and heart damage. Researchers say new-onset diabetes may soon be added to those complications – both Type 1, in which people cannot make the insulin needed to regulate their blood sugar, and Type 2, in which they make too little insulin or become resistant to their insulin, causing their blood sugar levels to rise. But scientists do not know whether covid-19 might hasten already developing problems or actually cause them – or both.
- **Bloomberg Government: House Panel Plans Vaccine Oversight Hearing:** The House Energy and Commerce Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee will hold a hearing featuring state health officials discussing the challenges of Covid-19 vaccine distribution and administration, and what Congress can do to help the effort, according to a press release.
- **Bloomberg Government: PPE Gaps Spur Post-Virus Production Goal:** The Biden administration is working on getting a full picture of what the demand for personal protective equipment could be after the Covid-19 crisis subsides, and where there are still gaps in domestic manufacturing, Brig. Gen. David Sanford, director of the U.S. government's supply chain task force, told Bloomberg Law in an interview. The government is having an "honest discussion" of where domestic medical gear production gaps exist, Sanford said.
- **The Hill: White House Awards \$230M For Over-The-Counter, Rapid COVID-19 Tests:** The Biden administration is funding the mass production of a rapid, over-the-counter COVID-19 test, White House officials announced Monday. Andy Slavitt, White House COVID-19 adviser, said the administration will provide nearly \$232 million to an Australian company called Ellume, which received authorization for the test in December.