American Nephrology Nurses Association

Daily Capitol Hill Update – Wednesday, February 24, 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

- 10am: VP Kamala Harris swears in Linda Thomas-Greenfield as U.N. Ambassador
- 11:00am: White House Covid-19 response team holds briefing
- 2pm: Biden, Harris meet with bipartisan group of House, Senate lawmakers on U.S. supply chains
- 4:15pm: Biden signs executive order on the economy
- 6pm: Harris swears in Tom Vilsack as U.S. agriculture secretary
- 12:30pm: Press Sec. Jen Psaki holds press briefing

CONGRESS:

- U.S. House convenes at 10am, noon for legislative business
  - 10am: House Oversight panel holds hearing with Postmaster General Louis DeJoy
- U.S. Senate convenes at Noon
  - Resumes consideration of Biden’s nominee for energy secretary, former Michigan governor Jennifer Granholm

Congressional, Health Policy, and Political News

- **Bloomberg Government: Lawmakers Unveil Bill to Create Public Option**: Sens. Jeanne Shaheen (D-N.H.), Michael Bennet (D-Colo.) and Tim Kaine (D-Va.) reintroduced legislation yesterday they said would create a public option by expanding on Obamacare and Medicare. The measure would work “within the Medicare framework to establish a Medicare Exchange public option plan in every county in America for individuals and small businesses, providing an additional, affordable option in all communities,”

- **Bloomberg Government: Stimulus Update**: The House will vote Friday on Biden’s American Rescue Plan, Majority Leader Steny Hoyer (D-Md.) said last night. The House Rules Committee is set to consider the chamber’s $1.9 trillion coronavirus relief bill Friday. Sen. Susan Collins (R-Maine) said yesterday she doesn’t see a single GOP vote for the legislation. She suggested that though Biden himself was interested in bipartisan talks, they were halted by aides. Separately, Biden, at a virtual roundtable with Black essential workers, acknowledged that the vote in Congress will be close.

- **AP: Drug Executives: Big Jump In Vaccine Supply Is Coming Soon**: COVID-19 vaccine makers told Congress on Tuesday to expect a big jump in the delivery of doses over the coming month, and the companies insist they will be able to provide enough for most Americans to get inoculated by summer. By the end of March, Pfizer and Moderna expect to have provided the U.S. government with a total of 220 million vaccine doses, up sharply from the roughly 75 million shipped so far. “We do believe we’re on track,” Moderna
President Stephen Hoge said, outlining ways the company has ramped up production. “We think we’re at a very good spot.”

- **The New York Times: How Meaningful Is Prediabetes For Older Adults?:** A few years ago, routine lab tests showed that Susan Glickman Weinberg, then a 65-year-old clinical social worker in Los Angeles, had a hemoglobin A1C reading of 5.8 percent, barely above normal. “This is considered prediabetes,” her internist told her. A1C measures how much sugar has been circulating in the bloodstream over time. If her results reached 6 percent — still below the number that defines diabetes, which is 6.5 — her doctor said he would recommend the widely prescribed drug metformin.