

American Nephrology Nurses Association

Daily Capitol Hill Update – Friday, March 5, 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

- 12:15pm: Biden, Harris have lunch
- 2:15pm: Biden, Harris receive economic briefing with Treasury Sec. Janet Yellen
- 3:15pm: Biden participates in roundtable on stimulus legislation
- 5:30pm: Biden, Harris receive Covid-19 briefing
- 11am: White House Covid-19 response team holds press briefing
- 12:30pm: White House Press Sec. Jen Psaki holds press briefing

CONGRESS

- U.S. House next meets March 8
- U.S. Senate convenes at 9am
 - Senate debates stimulus legislation; Majority Leader Chuck Schumer says the chamber will finish work this week “no matter how long it takes”

Congressional, Health Policy, and Political News

- **Stat: Eli Lilly’s Diabetes Drug Reduced Weight And Blood Sugar In Trial:** Eli Lilly said Thursday that a study showed its experimental diabetes drug, tirzepatide, reduced patients’ blood sugar and body weight more than a rival medicine, Novo Nordisk’s Ozempic. Investors had been nervously awaiting the result, which was reported in a press release.
- **Bloomberg Government: What’s in the Senate Bill:** Senate Democrats unveiled an updated measure ahead of consideration. A \$15 federal minimum-wage mandate has been stripped from the bill and the eligibility rules for the \$1,400 stimulus payments have been narrowed. The latest version of the bill adds a full subsidy for the health-insurance premiums of laid-off workers through September.
- **CNBC: Senate Takes Step Toward Passing \$1.9 Trillion Relief Bill:** The Senate took its first major step Thursday toward passing Democrats’ \$1.9 trillion coronavirus relief package as lawmakers try to beat a deadline to prevent unemployment aid from expiring. The chamber voted to start debate on the rescue package, setting the stage for its approval as soon as this weekend. Vice President Kamala Harris had to break a 50-50 tie after a party-line vote in the evenly divided Senate.
- **Bloomberg Government: Hospital Debt-Collection Scrutiny:** Aggressive, and often confusing, debt collection practices by hospitals are catching the attention of policymakers, who say there are no easy solutions to protecting patients and their families from years of legal battles over medical bills. The Senate Covid-19 relief package includes an expansion

of the Affordable Care Act's insurance subsidies, a move Democrats say will help Americans avoid going into medical debt. But that change would last only two years and wouldn't help anyone currently in debt. Some consumer advocates and researchers say they aren't waiting for federal lawmakers to act.

- **Bloomberg Government: Democrats With Science Background Urged to Run:** An organization advocating for more lawmakers with science backgrounds is boosting fundraising and training to pull candidates to address the pandemic and counter what it says was the anti-science proclivity of Trump's presidency. The group 314 Action aims to raise \$50 million for the 2022 election, an increase from \$25 million in the 2020 election cycle. It also wants to raise \$10 million for its preferred candidates, up from \$5 million in 2020.
- **Bloomberg Government: Medicaid Work Rule Fight Impedes Welfare Efforts:** Medicaid's ability to address housing, nutrition, transportation and other social needs that impact people's health will be in play in the Supreme Court as it weighs the program's flexibility in another area: work requirements. The court is scheduled to hear oral argument March 29 in a lawsuit reviewing the Trump-era HHS approval of work requirements in Arkansas' and New Hampshire's Medicaid programs.