

American Nephrology Nurses Association

Daily Capitol Hill Update – Friday, April 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

- 11:00am: President Biden to deliver remarks on the March jobs report
- 11:00am: Briefing by the White House COVID-19 Response Team
- 12:00pm: Biden departs for Camp David
- 12:30pm: Press Briefing by Press Secretary Jen Psaki and Secretary of Labor Marty Walsh

CONGRESS

- House and Senate out of session

Congressional, Health Policy, and Political News

- **Bloomberg Government: DOD, OMB Battles Delay Budget Request:** When Biden releases his discretionary priorities, it'll be the result of a tug-of-war between the Pentagon and the Office of Management and Budget.
 - The White House was expected to release discretionary spending priorities this week, but part of the delay is due to some disagreement between the Defense Department and the White House over the defense-spending topline for fiscal year 2022, according to two people familiar with the issues who asked not to be named because the information isn't public.
 - The Pentagon has been crafting a fiscal 2022 budget plan that assumes the military will receive \$704 billion to \$708 billion, essentially a flat budget instead of the increase anticipated under former President Donald Trump. A "topline" of \$704 billion to \$708 billion under Biden would amount to a decrease of about 2% in real terms, adjusting for inflation from this year's enacted appropriation of about \$704 billion. The topline proposed by OMB is still unclear.
- **Modern Healthcare: ACA Exchanges Unveil New Subsidies For Consumers:** The federal Affordable Care Act exchanges on Thursday included new subsidies to help 15 million uninsured Americans purchase coverage. The Biden administration approved the subsidies in March, under the American Rescue Plan, estimating that expanded premium assistance would result in four out of five customers purchasing a plan on the marketplaces with premiums of \$10 or less per month. The Kaiser Family Foundation estimated the law increased the number of people eligible for a subsidy by 20%, to 21.8 million.
- **CIDRAP: Organ Issues Linked With 'Long COVID-19':** Long-term COVID-19 symptoms include fatigue, "brain fog," and, according to a study published yesterday in BMJ, organ problems like respiratory or heart disease. Compared with the general population, patients who were discharged from COVID-related hospitalization were six times more likely to develop respiratory disease and three times more likely to develop a major

cardiovascular disease. They also had a 29.4% rate of readmission and a 12.2% death rate). These results are in line with other recent studies, according to the researchers.

- **CIDRAP: Varying Risk Factors For Nursing Home COVID Infection, Death Revealed:** Risk factors for COVID-19 infection in US nursing homes were related to county and facility rather than resident characteristics, while risk of hospitalization and death was linked to both facility and resident factors in a nationwide study published yesterday in JAMA Network Open. Researchers from Johns Hopkins University and the University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston studied coronavirus infections, hospitalizations, and deaths among 482,323 residents at 15,038 nursing homes from Apr 1 to Sep 30, 2020. The virus infected 28.4% of residents, of whom 21.3% were hospitalized, and 19.2% died within 30 days.
- **Bloomberg Government: Biden Drug Addiction Plan Focuses on Treatment Access, Inequity:** The Biden administration unveiled its first-year plan to address the U.S. drug addiction crisis, focusing on treatment access and ending racial, gender, and economic inequities in drug policy and the criminal justice system. Relying more on treatment than on incarceration for individuals using drugs such as opioids and targeting unmet substance use needs in diverse communities are among the ways the Biden administration plans to reduce drug overdoses, according to a notice yesterday from the Office of National Drug Control Policy.
 - The announcement comes at what ONDCP called a “critical” moment, pointing to Centers for Disease Control and Prevention data that show 88,000 people died from an overdose in the 12 months ending in August 2020. Addiction experts contend that the pandemic has led to more addictions and deaths.