

American Nephrology Nurses Association

Daily Capitol Hill Update - Tuesday, April 6, 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

- 10:30am: Biden receives daily brief
- 1:45pm: Biden visits vaccination site at Virginia Theological Seminary in Alexandria, Va.
- 3:45pm: Biden delivers remarks from White House on vaccinations
- 2:10PM: Vice President Kamala Harris tours vaccination site in Chicago, Ill.
- Noon: White House Press Secretary Jen Psaki holds press briefing

CONGRESS

- Senate, House adjourned until the week of April 12

Congressional, Health Policy, and Political News

- **Bloomberg Government: Dispute Over Medicaid Work Rules Still on Hold:** The dispute over whether states can force Medicaid beneficiaries to work, go to school, or volunteer in order to stay in the program is still in limbo. The Supreme Court said in an order yesterday that the cases over work rules for beneficiaries in Arkansas and New Hampshire “are held in abeyance pending further order of the Court.”
 - The justices had already canceled arguments that were scheduled for March 29 after the Biden administration told the court it was rolling back the Trump administration’s prior approval of the work rules.
- **Bloomberg Government: Biden Tax Plan Seen Hitting Technology, Pharmaceutical Companies:** The tax plan Biden laid out last week will likely hit technology and pharmaceutical companies particularly hard, although the challenge for legislators will be to minimize loopholes that could diminish the impact, tax experts said. Much of the most valuable assets at pharmaceutical and tech companies is intellectual property, like patents and algorithms – intangibles that make it easier for them to structure global operations in a way to minimize tax costs. Sectors like retail or agriculture have lots of physical assets that can’t easily be moved to lower-tax countries.
 - Both Republicans and Democrats have sought to bolster the U.S. tax take from companies’ overseas operations, and President Donald Trump’s 2017 overhaul had measures to do that. Biden’s plan takes a tougher approach, with a 21% minimum tax on foreign profits and a 15% minimum levy on profits reported on financial statements. It limits companies from using credits for research and development costs and deductions for paying employees in stock. The provisions – part of the administration’s plan to finance a \$2.25 trillion infrastructure package – mean that tech and pharmaceutical companies could lose many of the tax-planning tools that allowed them to pay low rates for years.

- **Modern Healthcare: Providers Begin To Mandate COVID-19 Vaccine For Workers:** The Houston Methodist hospital system is hoping to "lead by example" by mandating the COVID-19 vaccine for all of its workers. "At Houston Methodist, we've made a commitment to offer our patients unparalleled safety, quality, service and innovation. When we choose to be vaccinated against COVID-19 we are prioritizing safety by helping stop the spread of this deadly virus and keeping our patients, visitors and colleagues safe," Houston Methodist President and CEO Dr. Marc Boom said in an email to managers.
- **Bloomberg Government: Biden Taps Smith as Virus Coordinator:** The Biden Administration tapped Gayle Smith, the president and CEO of The ONE Campaign and former administrator of USAID, to be coordinator for Global COVID Response & Health Security at the State Department, Nick Wadhams reports. After an introduction by Secretary of State Antony Blinken, Smith said the goal is to slow the speed of the virus. Blinken said the U.S. is "exploring options to share" more of the vaccine internationally, adding that it will do so without demanding political favors.