

# American Nephrology Nurses Association

Daily Capitol Hill Update - Thursday, May 28, 2020

The following information comes from directly from news sources including Bloomberg Government, Kaiser Health News, and other news sources.

## Schedules: White House and Congress

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### WHITE HOUSE

- 2:30pm: President Trump receives hurricane briefing
- 2pm: Press Sec. Kayleigh McEnany holds press briefing

### CONGRESS

- House meets at 9am; set to consider 5 bills incl. one that would extend the current eight-week period during which businesses must use funds to have PPP loans forgiven to 24 weeks or Dec. 31, whichever comes sooner.
  - House also could consider H.R. 6172, the FISA reauthorization
- 10:15am: House Education and Labor subcommittee holds hearing on the federal government's action to protect workers from Covid-19

## Congressional, Health Policy, and Political News

- **Bloomberg Government: Small Business Loans:** The House is scheduled today to consider two bills related to coronavirus aid. A measure from Rep. Dean Phillips (D-Minn.) and 35 bipartisan cosponsors would give businesses more time and flexibility to make qualifying expenditures for loan forgiveness under the Paycheck Protection Program, and allow businesses with forgiven loans to defer payroll taxes.
  - The House is slated to consider a modified version of the bill that would require businesses seeking loan forgiveness to spend at least 60% of covered funds on payroll expenses. Some restaurants said the current 75% rule doesn't give them enough flexibility to cover nonpayroll costs such as rent and utility payments, especially while employees are laid off. The introduced bill would have scrapped the requirement altogether.
  - A second measure from Phillips would require the SBA to issue a report on entities that received more than \$2 million in small business aid under the CARES Act and the measure that replenished the PPP.
  - The Senate put off action on a bipartisan proposal to extend the PPP and make other changes to the initiative before leaving last week for a weeklong recess.
- **The New York Times: Executive Order Is Expected To Curtail Protections For Social Media Companies:** The Trump administration is preparing an executive order intended to curtail the legal protections that shield social media companies from liability for what gets posted on their platforms, two senior administration officials said early Thursday. Such an order,

which officials said was still being drafted and was subject to change, would make it easier for federal regulators to argue that companies like Facebook, Google, YouTube and Twitter are suppressing free speech when they move to suspend users or delete posts, among other examples.

- **Bloomberg Government: CDC Unveils Guidelines for Office Buildings:** Employers could bring workers back to office buildings more safely with steps including improving ventilation, spacing workers apart and reducing shared objects like communal coffee pots, according to guidelines from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The recommendations issued yesterday show how office life may change.
- **Politico: White House Bids For 'Surprise' Billing Fix Ahead Of Next Rescue Package:** The White House is renewing a push to end “surprise” medical bills – possibly as part of the next coronavirus rescue package – in a bid to deliver on protecting insured patients from sometimes staggering costs of emergency or out-of-network care. Trump administration officials are floating a plan that would outlaw health care providers from putting patients on the hook for thousands of dollars in expenses – but without mandating how doctors and hospitals would recover their costs from insurers, according to administration officials, Capitol Hill aides and industry lobbyists familiar with discussions.
- **Bloomberg Government: NIH Eyes Privacy-Protected Contact Tracing Tool:** The National Institutes of Health is seeking recommendations from companies on how to build a phone app or other digital tool to collect data and provide coronavirus information to the public while maintaining adequate privacy protections. The office issued a request for information to explore whether industry partners could develop a contact tracing tool that would also monitor the health of people who’ve been diagnosed with Covid-19, link people to trials for therapeutics or preventative medicines, assess if individuals are ready to return to work, and calculate risks of infection.
  - The agency also wants the data collected from the tool to be easily shareable for research purposes. It asked respondents to address how information would be transmitted using best data standards and practices to make it accessible, while also complying with relevant privacy laws. “The collection of large digital health datasets has potential privacy implications,” the NIH said.
- **The Associated Press: Will Mail-In Voting Turn Election Day Into Election Week?:** A shift to mail voting is increasing the chances that Americans will not know the winner of November’s presidential race on election night, a scenario that is fueling worries about whether President Donald Trump will use the delay to sow doubts about the results. State election officials in some key battleground states have recently warned that it may take days to count what they expect will be a surge of ballots sent by mail out of concern for safety amid the pandemic. In an election as close as 2016’s, a delayed tally in key states could keep news organizations from calling a winner.