

American Nephrology Nurses Association

Daily Capitol Hill Update - Tuesday, June 16, 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

WHITE HOUSE

- Noon: President Trump delivers remarks, signs executive order on policing

CONGRESS

- Senate meets at 10am; resumes consideration of H.R. 1957, the lands act
 - Senate recesses from 12:30pm-2:15pm for weekly policy lunches
- 2:30pm: Senate Judiciary Committee holds hearing on police use of force and community relations
- House not in session; at 11am House Majority Leader Steny Hoyer holds news conference on D.C. statehood

Congressional, Health Policy, and Political News

- **The Wall Street Journal: New Coronavirus Cases Climb In More Than A Dozen States:** New coronavirus cases have accelerated in more than a dozen U.S. states as summer weather and reopenings have prompted throngs of people to gather across the country and officials to weigh next steps. The U.S. coronavirus death toll passed 116,000 while reported cases topped 2.1 million Monday, according to data compiled by Johns Hopkins University. Confirmed cases world-wide exceeded 7.9 million, and more than 434,000 people have died. Experts say the exact tally might be higher, as testing capabilities and reporting standards differ across U.S. states and countries.
- **Bloomberg Government: Telehealth Extension Pushed by Both Parties:** Sens. Roger Wicker (R-Miss.) and Brian Schatz (D-Hawaii) urged Senate leaders yesterday to permanently expand telehealth services after the Covid-19 pandemic ends. The lawmakers want provisions from Schatz's "CONNECT for Health" bill to be made permanent, including letting Medicare recipients use telehealth services, as well as expanding telehealth to more care providers.
- **Bloomberg Government: Rewarding Patient Care Seen as Vital to Medicare:** Medicare "will remain on an unsustainable trajectory" unless it starts paying for patient outcomes instead of the volume of medical services provided, a government advisory panel said. A report posted yesterday by the Medicare Payment Advisory Commission offers a blueprint for moving the program from its fee-for-service payment design to a value-based care model that encourages providers to detect diseases early and provide care in the most appropriate setting.

- **Bloomberg Government: SBA Resumes Applications for Small Firm Disaster Loan Program:** The Small Business Administration said it resumed accepting applications yesterday from small businesses for a disaster-aid program, known as the Economic Injury Disaster Loan program, plagued by criticism about capped funding and delays.
- **ABC News: Nursing Homes Got Masks That 'Probably Should Have Never Gone Out': Official:** Federal officials are trying to correct errors that resulted in shipments of outdated or impractical equipment to America's hard-hit nursing homes in the midst of the coronavirus pandemic, according to an audio recording obtained by ABC News of a call between a top government official and advocates for those in nursing care. Col. Brian Kuhn, the defense logistics official overseeing the shipments, acknowledged that some nursing homes received respirator masks that were "way expired" and "should have never gone out," according to the recording of a call with members of LeadingAge, an association of nonprofit providers of aging services that includes many nursing homes. The group also posted the audio of the call online.