

# American Nephrology Nurses Association

Daily Capitol Hill Update - Thursday, June 18, 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

- 3pm: President Trump hosts roundtable meeting with governors on reopening
- VP Mike Pence travels to Mount Clemens, Michigan; has lunch at local restaurant, tours Chardam Gear Co. in Sterling Heights; delivers remarks to steelworkers at Casadei Steel Inc. at 2:40pm

### CONGRESS

- Senate meets at 10am; resumes consideration of judicial nominees
- 10:45am: House Speaker Nancy Pelosi holds weekly press conference; at 1pm House Democratic leaders unveil infrastructure proposal
- Rep. Pete Stauber, a Minnesota Republican and former police officer, plans to introduce a bill mirroring Senator Tim Scott's legislation in the House today

## Congressional, Health Policy, and Political News

- **Bloomberg Government: Equal Pay for Telehealth Called Vital After Pandemic:** Virtual doctor visits should pay the same rate as in-office checkups even after the pandemic ends, telehealth advocates told the Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee. The panel hosted a hearing yesterday to consider what recent telehealth changes to keep once the public health emergency ends.
  - Executives from 20 telehealth, health information technology, and health-care organizations have formed a task force to help advise Congress on telehealth policy. The group has members from telemedicine companies like AmWell and Teladoc as well as the AARP and the federal government. The Taskforce on Telehealth will hold its first meeting on Monday and issue a set of recommendations by September, an announcement by the group said.
- **Bloomberg: Senators Push Drug Price Disclosures Bill:** Sens. Dick Durbin (D-Ill.) and Chuck Grassley (R-Iowa) lamented a federal appeals court verdict that struck down an HHS rule to require drug advertisements on TV to include the list price of the prescription medicine. "Big Pharma fought for months in court to prevent patients from knowing the price of their drug," they said in a statement yesterday. "We will continue to advance our bipartisan legislation to get American patients the information they deserve to hear about drug prices."
  - Sens. Grassley, Durbin, Angus King (I-Maine), and Lamar Alexander (R-Tenn.) last year unveiled a bipartisan bill that would codify the HHS regulation. That measure

was reworked as an amendment to a Senate appropriations package, but was ultimately left off.

- Outside groups are also pushing for legislation to require price disclosures. “Congress must step-in to provide greater transparency into Big Pharma’s pricing practices,” Lauren Aronson, executive director for the Campaign for Sustainable Rx Pricing, said in a statement.
- **Reuters: Trump Says U.S. Will Not Lock Down Again Amid Rising Coronavirus Cases:** President Donald Trump said on Wednesday the United States would not close businesses again as several states reported rising numbers of new coronavirus infections. “We won’t be closing the country again. We won’t have to do that,” Trump said in an interview with Fox News Channel. Trump’s comments come after White House economic adviser Larry Kudlow and Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin both said the United States could not shut down the economy again. (6/17)