

American Nephrology Nurses Association

Daily Capitol Hill Update - Friday, June 19, 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

- President Trump has no public events scheduled
- Washington federal court holds hearing on Trump admin.'s request to block publication of John Bolton's book

CONGRESS

- Senate returns Monday
- Noon: House Oversight Committee holds virtual hearing on structural racism in policing

Congressional, Health Policy, and Political News

- **Bloomberg Government: HHS Seeks Boost to Rural Medical Workforce:** Programs to boost the health-care workforce in rural and underserved areas will split more than \$107 million in new funding from HHS. More than 300 recipients in different programs across 45 states and U.S. territories will get the grants announced yesterday by HHS.
- **Bloomberg Government: Millions of Americans Forgoing Health Care:** A Census Bureau poll of how households are handling their medical needs during Covid-related closures and stay-at-home orders found that millions are going without care. Led by the New York metro area, in the last four weeks to June 9 an estimated 87.7 million people across the nation delayed getting care, while nearly 71 million needed it for something unrelated to Covid-19, but didn't get it.
- **Bloomberg Government: Congress Urged on Special ACA Enrollment:** A group that includes companies that hire gig workers who don't receive health insurance asked Congress to pass legislation compelling the Trump administration to open the Affordable Care Act marketplace so that uninsured people can get enrolled in coverage.
 - In addition to the 40 million people who have lost their jobs during shutdowns, "millions of Americans who don't have access to employer-provided healthcare benefits" like "independent contractors, part-time workers, and small business employees are also not eligible to enroll today," the group says in a letter sent to congressional leaders this week.
 - Letter signers included the chiefs of DoorDash, Postmates, Instacart, TaskRabbit and Fiverr, companies that employ many independent contractors who typically don't receive health insurance benefits. It was also signed by Andy Slavitt, acting administrator of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services under the former President Barack Obama; and Ezekiel Emanuel, a health-care adviser to Obama.

- **Bloomberg Government: Rush for Generics Approvals Roils Drug Industry:** Generic drugmakers are increasingly lining up to bring competing versions of brand-name products to the market at the earliest possible date. But that might be bad for consumers. It's no longer just one company seeking to be the first to bring a generic to the market, a status that gives drugmakers 180 days of market exclusivity. Instead, multiple companies are simultaneously seeking and sharing that status, which has stirred more litigation for brand-name drugmakers that must then defend their patents.