

American Nephrology Nurses Association

Daily Capitol Hill Update – Friday, June 26, 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

- 11:45am: President Trump receives intelligence briefing
- 2:40pm: Trump delivers remarks at American Workforce Policy Advisory Board meeting
- 3:15pm: Trump departs White House en route to Bedminster, N.J. where he'll stay for weekend
- 11am: Vice President Mike Pence leads coronavirus task force meeting at HHS; group to hold press briefing at 12:30pm
- 2pm: Pence meets with airline execs at White House

CONGRESS

- Senate returns Monday to resume debate on S. 4049, the National Defense Authorization Act for FY2021_

Congressional, Health Policy, and Political News

- **The New York Times: Trump Administration Asks Supreme Court To Strike Down Affordable Care Act:** The Trump administration asked the Supreme Court late Thursday to overturn the Affordable Care Act – a move that, if successful, would bring a permanent end to the health insurance program popularly known as Obamacare and wipe out coverage for as many as 23 million Americans. In an 82-page brief submitted an hour before a midnight deadline, the administration joined Republican officials in Texas and 17 other states in arguing that in 2017, Congress, then controlled by Republicans, had rendered the law unconstitutional when it zeroed out the tax penalty for not buying insurance – the so-called individual mandate.
- **Bloomberg Government: Nursing Home Staffing Rules Eased During Virus Go Back in Effect:** The Trump administration is once again requiring nursing homes to submit payroll-based staffing data to federal regulators to provide a more accurate assessment of workforce levels during the Covid-19 pandemic.
- **Bloomberg Government: Defense Bill Set for House, Senate Action:** Ahead of next week's markup, House Armed Services Chairman Adam Smith (D-Wash.) released a summary yesterday of his version of the National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2021. The Senate is moving toward consideration of its \$740.5 billion version of the defense policy bill after members voted 90-7 yesterday on a procedural motion to advance the bill. The Senate will meet Monday to resume debate and hold another procedural vote.
- **Bloomberg Government: House OKs Sale of Fast-Track Patent Access for Humanitarian Tech:** Organizations would be able to sell their access to fast-tracked patent reviews for

inventions aimed at solving humanitarian issues, under legislation the House passed yesterday by voice vote. The bill would change a U.S. Patent and Trademark Office program that awards certificates to fast-track certain patent proceedings for inventions in sanitation, household energy, nutrition, medicine and improvement of living standards. Under the measure, entities could sell or transfer their certificates to other individuals. Those certificates would be subject to the program limitations.

- **Bloomberg Government: Dunford Is Leading Contender for Chairman of Oversight Panel:** Retired Marine General Joseph Dunford, former chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, is the leading candidate to head the bipartisan Congressional Oversight Commission that's policing about \$500 billion in coronavirus rescue loans made to industries, according to three people familiar with the matter.
 - The selection of the chairman is the shared responsibility of Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) and Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.), and the choice of Dunford hasn't been finalized. One person said Dunford was going through background and ethics checks. Spokesmen for Pelosi and McConnell would not comment. Dunford was chairman of the Joint Chiefs from 2015 until 2019, and before that served as Marine Corps commandant.
 - The Trump administration plans to publicly release details about coronavirus relief loans for small businesses by the end of next week after reversing its position on withholding the data. Company names and other details about Paycheck Protection Program loans of \$150,000 and more, plus certain details about smaller loans without information identifying the firms, will be posted on the Small Business Administration's website, according to a Treasury Department official speaking on condition of anonymity.