American Nephrology Nurses Association

Daily Capitol Hill Update – Tuesday, June 30, 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; receives intelligence briefing at 3:30pm
- House Democrats to attend White House briefing at 8am on Russia bounties report

CONGRESS

- House meets at 9am; set to begin consideration of H.R.2, the $1.5 trillion infrastructure package from House Democrats
- 10am: House Speaker Nancy Pelosi leads Democratic press conference on climate crisis
- House Republican leaders hold press conference at 10:30am
- Senate convenes at 10am; to resume consideration of National Defense Authorization Act for FY2021

Congressional, Health Policy, and Political News

- **Bloomberg Government: Repatriation Program Aid Boost Passed:** The Senate and House quickly cleared legislation for Trump yesterday that would temporarily raises the cap for the Health and Human Services Department's repatriation program from $1 million to $10 million to ensure funding for those brought back to the U.S. as a result of the pandemic. "The current global health crisis has made it necessary to repatriate thousands of people, and we ought to make sure the resources are there to help individuals and families in the short-term so they can get back on their feet. Our bill does just that," said Senate Finance Chairman Chuck Grassley (R-Iowa), who authored the bill.

- **Bloomberg Government: Grassley to Renew Drug-Pricing Push**: The chairman of the influential Senate Finance Committee will push for a vote on his drug-pricing measure without the help of critical allies: Senate Democrats. Chuck Grassley (R-Iowa) will reintroduce a drug pricing package (S. 2543) that he put together with the ranking member of his committee, Ron Wyden (D-Ore.), and soon call on Senate leaders to allow debate on the measure, a Grassley spokesman said.

- **The New York Times: Remdesivir, The First Coronavirus Drug, Gets A Price Tag:** Remdesivir, the first drug shown to be effective against the coronavirus, will be distributed under an unusual agreement with the federal government that establishes nonnegotiable prices and prioritizes American patients, health officials announced on Monday. Remdesivir will be sold for $520 per vial, or $3,120 per treatment course, to hospitals for treatment of patients with private insurance, according to the Department of Health and Human Services and Gilead Sciences, the drug's manufacturer.

- **Bloomberg Government: Intercept Drops as FDA Refuses Speedy Approval of Liver Drug**: Intercept Pharmaceuticals Inc. shares plummeted Monday as U.S. regulators dashed hopes for an accelerated approval of what investors thought would be the first medicine to treat tens of millions of people with a deadly liver disease.
  - The New York-based company sank as much as 41%, the biggest drop ever for the stock, as the U.S. Food and Drug Administration further delayed its bid for a treatment for a fatty liver disorder known as nonalcoholic steatohepatitis, or NASH. The FDA suggested in its so-called complete response letter that the once-promising candidate's benefit isn't clear and doesn't outweigh the potential harm, leaving its future uncertain.

- **The Wall Street Journal: Regional Coronavirus Surges Force Changes In Plans Elsewhere In The U.S**.: A surge in new coronavirus cases and rising hospitalization rates in states such as California and Texas are jeopardizing reopening plans elsewhere, while other countries are struggling to stop clusters of infections from spreading. More than 41,000 new coronavirus cases were recorded nationwide Monday, according to data from Johns Hopkins University. That was an increase from Sunday, but lower than Friday's record of 45,255. World-wide, confirmed Covid-19 infections exceeded 10.3 million, with more than 505,000 deaths. The U.S. accounts for about a quarter of each figure.