

American Nephrology Nurses Association

Daily Capitol Hill Update - Wednesday, July 1, 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; has lunch with Sec. of State Mike Pompeo at 1:15pm

CONGRESS

- Senate meets at 9:30am; resumes consideration of S. 4049, the NDAA
- House meets at 9am; resumes consideration of H.R. 2, the House Democratic infrastructure package
- Senate passed an extension to the Paycheck Protection Program last night; the House could consider that as early as today

Congressional, Health Policy, and Political News

- **Bloomberg Government: Senate Moves to Extend Small Business Loans:** The Senate last night passed an extension of the popular Paycheck Protection Program for small businesses, which was set to close down yesterday with \$130 billion in funding left over. The extension to Aug. 8 was offered by Sen. Ben Cardin (D-Md.) and cleared the chamber by unanimous consent. The House has yet to take up the bill.
 - The Small Business Administration, which ran the PPP with the Treasury Department, was set to stop accepting new applications at 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time last night. The \$669 billion program approved more than 4.8 million loans totaling \$520.6 billion as of yesterday, the SBA said. There was \$134.5 billion remaining as of Saturday that will be returned to Treasury unless Congress re-purposes it.
- **Bloomberg Government: Mental Health Fallout Spurs Aid Effort:** Federal mental health assistance may gain traction in the House as lawmakers consider expanding Medicare for some services and creating behavioral health grants for areas seeing a Covid-19 surge.
 - Mental health and substance abuse treatment advocates say they need funds to help clinics and health-care providers stay in business as the pandemic prevents many from seeking treatment.
 - The House Energy and Commerce Committee's Health Subcommittee reviewed 22 mental health bills yesterday and Democratic leaders signaled the legislation might come to the floor this year, possibly as part of the next coronavirus-relief measure. Chairman Frank Pallone (D-N.J.) said he expects the bills will get votes.
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- **Bloomberg Government: Sees Hundreds of Millions of Vaccines in Early 2021:** Azar said the government is aiming to have "hundreds of millions of doses of a safe, effective

vaccine, or multiple of them, by early next year,” with “tens of millions of doses by the fall of this year.” He also told Fox Business that it’s “very unlikely” patients will have to bear the cost of Gilead’s remdesivir treatment.

- **Politico: Senate Agrees To Extend Small Business Rescue In Surprise Move:** The Senate in a surprising move Tuesday evening passed legislation that would keep the government's massive small business rescue program alive just as it was set to close down within hours with \$130 billion left unspent. The bill approved by unanimous consent would give the Small Business Administration authority to continue approving Paycheck Protection Program loans, which can be turned into grants, until Aug. 8. To keep the loans flowing, the House would need to pass the legislation and send it to President Donald Trump for his signature.
- **The Wall Street Journal: Fauci Warns Coronavirus Cases Could Reach 100,000 A Day, As Surge Delays Reopenings:** New coronavirus cases “could go up to 100,000 a day” if people continue to flout advice on social distancing and face masks, Anthony Fauci, the nation’s top infectious-disease doctor told a Senate committee. “It could get very bad,” Dr. Fauci said. The U.S. is now recording about 40,000 new cases a day of the new coronavirus. The surge of new infections and rising hospitalization rates in states such as California and Texas have jeopardized reopening plans throughout the U.S., threatening a nascent economic recovery.