

# American Nephrology Nurses Association

Daily Capitol Hill Update – Tuesday, July 14, 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; meets with Sec. of State Mike Pompeo at 3pm

### CONGRESS

- House, Senate return next week

## Congressional, Health Policy, and Political News

- **Bloomberg Government: Senate GOP Preps Stimulus Plan:** Senate Republicans will finish their own plan for a new round of coronavirus stimulus as early as next week and only then will open negotiations with Democrats as the last stimulus begins running dry and a resurgence of coronavirus cases threatens the U.S. Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.) said he is working with the administration on draft legislation.
- **The New York Times: A Record 5.4 Million Americans Have Lost Health Insurance, Study Finds:** The coronavirus pandemic stripped an estimated 5.4 million Americans of their health insurance between February and May, a stretch in which more adults became uninsured because of job losses than have ever lost coverage in a single year, according to a new analysis.
- **Politico: Supreme Court Appears Likely To Sidestep Obamacare Hearing Before Election:** The Supreme Court has all but ruled out hearing a GOP-backed challenge to Obamacare before Election Day, likely avoiding a high-stakes showdown over a lawsuit that will factor prominently into this fall's campaigns.
- **Bloomberg Government: House to Mark Up Health Measures:** The House Energy and Commerce Committee tomorrow will consider 30 bills, including several health-related measures. The legislation will “expand access to care, strengthen mental health parity, provide mental health support to first responders and enhance the viability and transparency of the Strategic National Stockpile,” Chairman Frank Pallone (D-N.J.) said in a statement.

- **Bloomberg Government: Manufacturers Eye R&D Tax Break is in Relief Bill:** U.S. manufacturers are pushing lawmakers to reverse a provision in the 2017 tax law that will force companies to write down research and development expenditures starting in 2022. Businesses and experts are concerned that if the policy isn't reversed soon, U.S. competitiveness in manufacturing will be further diminished, as tax incentives to keep factories stateside weaken. The fears are heightened now, as the coronavirus pandemic continues to pummel the U.S. economy.
  - As Congress prepares to begin negotiating another industry-focused aid package, lobbying groups and companies see now as their chance to get the tax law change reversed.
- **Bloomberg Government: Jobless Are About to Lose \$600-a-Week Lifeline:** In about two weeks millions of Americans could lose a crucial economic lifeline of this pandemic: \$600 a week in extra federal unemployment benefits. The scheduled end will ripple through households and the entire economy. The program accounts for a big chunk of the Treasury Department's record jobless payments last month, which exceeded \$100 billion. Without the additional cash, some of the hardest-hit households may be forced to choose which bills to pay and which to let slide.
  - But policy makers in Washington are at a standstill in their talks for more stimulus, and in particular whether to include an extension of the extra unemployment benefits. The weekly supplemental federal assistance was added to traditional unemployment benefits, which are administered by states and can vary widely in size.