

# American Nephrology Nurses Association

## Daily Capitol Hill Update - Wednesday, July 15, 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

- 11am: President Trump receives law enforcement briefing on “Keeping American Communities Safe: The Takedown of Key MS-13 Criminal Leaders”
- 1pm: Trump departs White House for Atlanta, Georgia
- 3:10pm: Trump delivers remarks on infrastructure in Atlanta at the UPS Hapeville Airport Hub
  - NOTE: Trump expected to announce plans to scale back requirements that agencies consider environmental consequences when approving new oil wells, pipelines, highways and other projects
- Trump returns to White House at 6:15pm

#### CONGRESS

- House, Senate return next week
- 9am: House Appropriations Committee considers Homeland Security, Financial Services FY21 spending bills
- 2:30pm: House Speaker Nancy Pelosi holds press conference

### Congressional, Health Policy, and Political News

- **Bloomberg Government: Appropriations Markups:**
  - The House Appropriations Committee is scheduled to mark up the fiscal 2021 **Homeland Security and Financial Services and General Government** appropriations bills.
  - **Water Resources Markup:** The House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee plans to mark up the Water Resources Development Act (H.R. 7575).
  - **Energy and Commerce Markup:** The House Energy and Commerce Committee is scheduled to virtually mark up 30 bills including:
    - H.R. 3935, to provide for the continuing requirement of Medicaid coverage of non-emergency transportation to medically necessary services;
    - H.R. 5619, to authorize a pilot program to expand and intensify surveillance of self-harm in partnership with state and local public health departments, and establish a grant program to provide self-harm and suicide prevention services in hospital emergency departments;
    - H.R. 7574, to strengthen the Strategic National Stockpile;
    - H.R. 5918, to direct the Federal Communications Commission to issue reports after activation of the Disaster Information Reporting System and to make improvements to network outage reporting; and

- H.R. 7310, to require the assistant secretary of Commerce for communications and information to submit to Congress a plan for the modernization of the information technology systems of the National Telecommunications and Information Administration.
- **Bloomberg Government: Businesses Worry as Tax Day Arrives:** U.S. taxpayers were given an additional three months to file tax returns this year because of the coronavirus crisis, but even the extra time hasn't been enough for some businesses struggling to pay the government as the pandemic threatens to worsen. While the shift to the July 15 deadline was meant to help filers weather disruptions caused by virus-related shutdowns, companies are facing the added problem of navigating a confusing and constantly changing patchwork of disaster relief at a time when the work of the Internal Revenue Service has been slowed along with the rest of the nation's economy.
- **Modern Healthcare: HHS Approves Substance Abuse Care Coordination Rule:** HHS on Monday signed off on a final rule to improve care coordination for substance use disorder, despite concerns that it might make people less willing to seek treatment. The final rule will retain a basic framework to protect the records of patients with substance use disorder, but will remove barriers to coordinated care and enable providers to share more patient information, according to HHS' Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration.
- **AP: First COVID-19 Vaccine Tested In US Poised For Final Testing:** The first COVID-19 vaccine tested in the U.S. revved up people's immune systems just the way scientists had hoped, researchers reported Tuesday – as the shots are poised to begin key final testing. “No matter how you slice this, this is good news,” Dr. Anthony Fauci, the U.S. government's top infectious disease expert, told The Associated Press.
- **Bloomberg Government: McConnell Says Stimulus Will Include Liability Shield:** Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.) said yesterday the new recovery package that he plans to unveil soon will be “guaranteed” to emerge from the Senate with a plan he's written to protect everything from small businesses to schools from a new rash of lawsuits. McConnell said 1,100 lawsuits now have been filed seeking to “take advantage” of the crisis, which would prevent recovery except in extreme cases.
  - He also told hospital officials in Kentucky he expects there to be another infusion of funds to help health care providers but offered no details on its size,