

American Nephrology Nurses Association

Daily Capitol Hill Update – Thursday, July 16, 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
- 4pm: Trump speaks on “Rolling Back Regulations” at White House

CONGRESS

- House, Senate return next week
- 10:45am: House Speaker Nancy Pelosi holds weekly press conference
- Noon: Republican Leader Kevin McCarthy holds press call

Congressional, Health Policy, and Political News

- **Bloomberg Government: Mortgages & CARES Act:** The House Financial Services Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee plans an oversight hearing on mortgage servicers’ implementation of the CARES Act.
- **Bloomberg Government: Small Business Rehiring:** The House Small Business Innovation and Workforce Development Subcommittee holds a virtual hearing on small business rehiring.
- **Bloomberg Government: VA Legislation:** The House Veterans’ Affairs Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs scheduled a hearing to discuss eight bills related to VA cemeteries, veteran remains, insurance, and legal representation.
- **Bloomberg Government: OSHA Virus Safety Standards Sought:** A group of 10 House Republicans led by Rep. David McKinley (R-W.Va.) wants Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy (R-Calif.) to press for language in the next pandemic aid legislation to direct the Occupational Safety and Health Administration to issue an emergency temporary standard covering virus transmission in the workplace. OSHA leaders have resisted calls from congressional Democrats and labor unions to take such a step.
- **Stat: States Slash Addiction Treatment Budgets, Even As Overdoses Spike:** Drug overdoses have skyrocketed and demand for addiction treatment medicine has soared as the coronavirus pandemic continues. But many cash-strapped states are nevertheless slashing budgets for opioid crisis programs.
- **Bloomberg Government: Hospitals to Send Covid Data to HHS, Not CDC:** Hospitals will redirect their Covid 19-related data to the Health and Human Services Department, rather

than submitting it to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, a move the agencies said was aimed to improve information gathering and resource allocation. "It became clear we needed a central way to make data available," said HHS Chief Information Officer Jose Arrieta. The goal is to better "allocate resources in real time," he said.

- The change was announced in new guidance posted on HHS's website last week but not widely noticed until The New York Times reported on it the day before it took effect. The change raised questions from skeptics about whether it's meant to obscure bad news about how the U.S. is tackling the pandemic or to undercut the CDC, which has faced frequent criticism from President Donald Trump.