

American Nephrology Nurses Association

Daily Capitol Hill Update - Friday, July 17, 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

- 11:30am: President Trump participates in a credentialing ceremony for newly appointed ambassadors to Washington, D.C.
- 9:30am: Vice President Mike Pence departs Washington en route to Oshkosh, Wisc.
- 12:30pm: Pence delivers remarks on dangers of socialism at Ripon College
- 2:45pm: Pence departs Oshkosh en route to La Crosse, Wisc.
- 4:20pm: Pence tours Morning Star Dairy Farm
- 4:45pm: Pence participates in roundtable on USMCA at Morning Star Dairy Farm
- 6:40pm: Pence departs Wisc. en route to Washington
- 8:35pm: Pence returns to Washington

CONGRESS

- House, Senate return next week
 - The White House is signaling to Congress that Trump could reject a new coronavirus aid bill if it doesn't include a payroll tax cut
- 12:15pm: Senate Democratic Leader Chuck Schumer joins AFSCME President Lee Saunders to call on the Senate to immediately pass at least \$1 trillion in aid to states, cities and towns upon return from a two-week July recess

Congressional, Health Policy, and Political News

- **Stat: Push To Remove Racist Bias From Kidney Testing Gains New Ground:** For years, physicians and medical students, many of them Black, have warned that the most widely used kidney test – the results of which are based on race – is racist and dangerously inaccurate. Their appeals are gaining new traction, with a wave of petitions and papers calling renewed attention to the issue.
- **Bloomberg Government: Senate GOP Aid Plan to Continue Some CARES Act Provisions:** Senate Republicans plan to unveil their plan next week, and will continue providing unemployment insurance subsidies, tax incentives for employers to avoid layoffs and encourage rehiring, and a new round of checks and direct payments sent by the IRS.
 - Additional funds for testing and healthcare are also likely to be included, though Republicans may keep the initial line items low to keep the overall price tag under \$1 trillion.
 - The proposal will resemble much of the historically large aid package passed in

March (Public Law 116-136). But it isn't likely to include a new round of direct aid to state and local governments, or the full \$600 per week unemployment subsidy provided by that law, according to multiple sources familiar with internal deliberations of Senate Republicans.

- **NPR: CDC School Guidance Won't Be Released This Week, NPR Has Learned:** The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention will not release a set of documents this week aimed at giving schools advice on how to reopen to students after coronavirus shutdowns, NPR has learned. Instead, the full set will be published before the end of the month, a CDC spokesperson says. "These science and evidence-based resources and tools will provide additional information for administrators, teachers and staff, parents, caregivers and guardians, as together we work towards the public health-oriented goal of safely opening schools this fall," the spokesperson said.
- **Bloomberg Government: Drug Hoarding Stirs Calls for Accessible Data:** Protecting existing patients in the next rush to buy up a promising Covid-19 treatment may require a national database of drug supplies and more reporting standards to stop hoarding. The fractured federal response to the coronavirus has pitted facilities against each other for medications and supplies, supply chain specialists, doctors, and policy analysts say.
- **Bloomberg Government: Most Americans Support More Hospital Relief:** Americans support the idea of giving hospitals another big injection of public funds, according to public polling released yesterday by hospital groups. The Coalition to Protect America's Health Care, whose members include the two largest hospital lobbying organizations in the U.S., found 75% of those polled would support giving hospitals an additional \$100 billion in emergency funds, Alex Ruoff reports.