

# American Nephrology Nurses Association

Daily Capitol Hill Update – Friday, July 19, 2021

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

- Biden plans to deliver remarks at the White House at 11:30 a.m. on the economic recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic.
- Biden will host Jordan's King Abdullah II for a bilateral meeting starting at 1:45 p.m.

### CONGRESS:

- The House plans to begin consideration of 14 bills under expedited procedure that indicates broad, bipartisan support.
- Senators will vote on Biden's nominee to fill a vacancy on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit.

## Congressional, Health Policy, and Political News

- **KHN: Biden's July Executive Order Includes Drug Pricing Provisions. But Will They Do Enough?:** President Joe Biden's executive order of July 9 included various steps toward making good on campaign promises to take on pharmaceutical companies by allowing the importation of prescription drugs and curbing the high cost of medicines. These issues were key to candidate Biden's 2020 health care platform, which stated he would "stand up to abuse of power" by drugmakers. Biden promised on his campaign website that he would allow consumers to buy prescription drugs from other countries, as long as the Department of Health and Human Services deemed it safe. In speeches, candidate Biden also pledged to bring down drug costs by 60%.
- **Bloomberg Government: Swalwell Bill Puts HHS Chief on Security Council:** Rep. Eric Swalwell (D-Calif.) Friday unveiled two bills his office argues would help prepare the federal government to treat pandemics like Covid-19 "as national security threats." One bill would give the secretary of Health and Human Services a seat on the president's National Security Council, and another would seek to strengthen the federal government's ability to combat health misinformation.
- **Stat: How Delta Is Pushing The U.S. Into A New Phase Of The Covid-19 Pandemic:** For the first year of the Covid-19 pandemic, hospitalizations and deaths followed infection patterns by a few weeks, as sure as night follows day. Vaccines promised to sever those metrics. While they might not prevent all Covid-19 infections, vaccines would, experts predicted, dramatically reduce hospitalizations and deaths. And they have. But with the highly

transmissible Delta variant now circulating – mostly among the unvaccinated – the United States is seeing spikes in infections that have turned into increases in hospitalizations in some communities.

- **Modern Healthcare: HHS Slates Funding To Address Healthcare Workforce Burnout:** HHS on Friday said it would make approximately \$103 million in American Rescue Plan funding available to tackle healthcare worker burnout and promote mental health in the industry. The funds, released by the Health Resources and Services Administration, will go toward several programs to help healthcare organizations in rural and medically underserved communities build resiliency among newer healthcare workers and mentor providers on how to respond to stressful situations. HRSA will distribute the money over a three-year period.
- **Bloomberg Government: Appeals Court Ends Immigrant Health Coverage Battle:** A lawsuit over then-President Donald Trump's proclamation barring immigration by people who lack approved health insurance or the resources to pay for medical care is over, as the Ninth Circuit Friday denied as moot a petition for full court review. Judges of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit also vacated their earlier ruling overturning a preliminary injunction that blocked the order's enforcement.
- **Modern Healthcare: First Half 2021 Marks Record High Healthcare Data Breaches:** Healthcare providers, insurers and their business associates have already reported 360 data breaches to the federal government in the first half of 2021 – outpacing the same period for all previous years. Those 360 breaches exposed data on nearly 23 million patients, according to data from HHS' Office for Civil Rights, which began maintaining a database of healthcare data breaches in 2010. Last year, organizations reported 270 breaches of 8 million patients' data in the first six months of the year; in 2019, around 230 breaches that exposed data on 11.2 million patients.