

# American Nephrology Nurses Association

## Daily Capitol Hill Update – Tuesday, July 21, 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

- 12:15pm: President Trump signs a memorandum
- 5pm: Trump holds a news conference
  - NOTE: Trump Says He'll Resume Coronavirus Briefings as Cases Surge
- 11am: Press Sec. Kayleigh McEnany holds press briefing

#### CONGRESS

- Senate convenes at 10am; set to resume consideration of S. 4049, the NDAA for FY21
- House meets at 9am; set to resume consideration of H.R. 6395, the FY21 NDAA
- 10:15am: Speaker Nancy Pelosi holds ceremonial swearing-in for Congressman-elect Chris Jacobs
- 11am: Mnuchin, White House Chief of Staff Mark Meadows set to meet with some Republican Senate Appropriations Cmte members; Mnuchin and Meadows also plan to attend Senate policy lunches to advance talks on next stimulus bill
- 2:30pm: House Republican leaders hold press conference
- 3:15pm: Pelosi and Mnuchin are scheduled to meet Tuesday afternoon, along with Senate Democratic Leader Chuck Schumer and White House Chief of Staff Mark Meadows; related: Pelosi-Mnuchin Talks Open Sprint for a Last-Chance Stimulus Deal

### Congressional, Health Policy, and Political News

- **Bloomberg Government: Seven-Bill Spending Minibus Set for Next Week:** The House Appropriations Committee introduced a summary of its second package of spending bills (H.R. 7617), which will be considered on the chamber floor next week. The minibus includes funding for programs under the Health and Human Services Department.
- **Politico: Coronavirus Hospital Data Goes Live On New HHS System:** HHS is set Monday to restore public access today to coronavirus data that hospitals report to the government, senior department officials said, in a bid to end a flap over missing dashboards that tracked critical information on hospitalizations. The data will go live Monday on its new data system, HHS Protect, and officials say they have implemented safeguards to prevent tampering, such as keeping a record of all changes that were made
- **Bloomberg Government: Funding for Vaccines, Opening Schools:** Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin said the next round of coronavirus aid will center on measures to get children returned to schools and workers back into jobs, as well as develop vaccines to blunt the pandemic. Mnuchin and President Donald Trump met yesterday with Senate

Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.) and House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy (R-Calif.) at the White House.

- **Politico: ‘Surprise’ Billing Fix Likely Out Of Next Covid-19 Package As Fight Over Tests Plays Out:** Congress looks unable to protect patients from "surprise" medical bills before the election, despite a push from key health committee chairs and the Trump administration to include a fix in a new coronavirus relief package. Senate Republicans are expected to unveil a skinny package of rescue measures this week that will largely skirt contentious health issues but include protections for hospitals from lawsuits over coronavirus exposure and possibly money for Covid-19 testing that private insurers won't cover.
- **The Hill: Trump To Resume COVID-19 Briefings:** President Trump on Monday said he will resume giving regular coronavirus briefings this week, reviving a practice that is controversial among some aides as infections surge across the United States. Trump told reporters in the Oval Office he would deliver a briefing at 5 p.m. on Tuesday. It would mark his first time participating in a coronavirus briefing since late April. (Samuels, 7/20)
- **Bloomberg Government: Lamar Plans \$15B for Public Health Emergencies:** Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Chairman Lamar Alexander (R-Tenn.) said he's introducing a bill providing \$15 billion over the next 10 years to prepare for public health emergencies like Covid-19.
  - Alexander, also a senior member of the Appropriations Committee, said the "Preparing for the Next Pandemic Act" is aimed at making sure the U.S. has sufficient manufacturing capacity to address health threats without reliance on foreign governments. It would be paid for in part with advance appropriations.
  - Alexander said on the Senate floor yesterday the bill would provide \$1.5 billion annually. The first element calls for \$500 million annually for onshore manufacturing for tests, treatments, and vaccines. The second part calls for \$1 billion in annual funding for states to create and maintain their own stockpiles of items ranging from masks to ventilators.
  - Alexander said he's also proposing to create more authority to allow the federal government to work closely with private companies to maintain supplies and increase manufacturing capacity.
- **Politico: Promising Results Reported For 2 Coronavirus Vaccines:** Two front-runners in the race to develop a Covid-19 vaccine reported encouraging results from clinical trials on Monday, including one candidate that's received more than \$1 billion from the U.S. government. Two experimental coronavirus vaccines – one developed by the University of Oxford and AstraZeneca and another by a Chinese company – both created strong immune responses in early trials, researchers reported in The Lancet medical journal.