

American Nephrology Nurses Association

Daily Capitol Hill Update – Wednesday, July 21, 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 visit Cincinnati, Ohio this afternoon to discuss his infrastructure proposals before participating in a CNN town hall this evening.

CONGRESS:

- The House is set to consider a measure to tackle pollution from a group of substances often called “forever chemicals.”
- Senators plan to cast their first votes on whether to consider the bipartisan infrastructure package.

Congressional, Health Policy, and Political News

- **KHN: Though Millions Are At Risk For Diabetes, Medicare Struggles To Expand Prevention Program:** Damon Diessner tried for years to slim down from his weight of more than 400 pounds, partly because his size embarrassed his wife but even more because his doctors told him he was at risk of developing Type 2 diabetes. His hemoglobin A1c level, a blood sugar marker, was 6.3%, just below the diabetes range of 6.5%. Then, two years ago, one of his doctors helped get him into a YMCA-run Diabetes Prevention Program not far from his home in Redmond, Washington. The group classes, at first held in person and then via Zoom during the covid-19 pandemic, were led by a lifestyle coach. He learned how to eat better, exercise more and maintain a healthier lifestyle overall. He now weighs 205 pounds, with an A1c level of 4.8%, which is in the normal range.
- **NPR: COVID Warnings From White House, Congress Rise With New Cases :** Rep. Steve Scalise, the No. 2 Republican in the House, got vaccinated against COVID-19 on Sunday after months of waiting, citing the rise of the delta variant and increasing cases and hospitalizations, primarily among people who are unvaccinated. His decision, reported on Nola.com, comes as lawmakers and the White House try to reach those hardest to convince to get vaccinated, and those with limited access. The messaging is delicate as there are also mild cases among people who are vaccinated – including in Washington, D.C. "These shots need to get into everybody's arm as rapidly as possible, or we're going to be back in a situation in the fall – that we don't yearn for – that we went through last year," Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell told reporters on Tuesday.
- **Bloomberg Government: Senators Seek Updates on Health-Care Antitrust:** Sens. Patrick Leahy (D-Vt.) and Steve Daines (R-Mont.) yesterday requested updates from the Federal

Trade Commission and Justice Department on their efforts to combat anti-competitive conduct in the health insurance sector, according to a statement. The letter comes after the enactment of the Competitive Health Insurance Reform Act in January of this year.

- Meanwhile, companies' reporting requirements for startup acquisitions are poised for an overhaul as the FTC considers reviving a decades old policy on deals rife with future competition implications. Restoring pre-1995 reporting requirements could particularly impact the pharmaceutical community, said Jeny Maier, an attorney in Axinn, Veltrop & Harkrider LLP's antitrust group.