

American Nephrology Nurses Association

Daily Capitol Hill Update - Wednesday, July 22, 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

- 12:30pm: President Trump participates in ceremonial swearing-in of director of OMB
- 12:45pm: Trump has lunch with VP Mike Pence
- 2pm: Trump receives intelligence briefing
- 3:15pm: Trump delivers remarks on combating violent crime

CONGRESS

- Negotiations continue on next round of stimulus with Treasury Sec. Steven Mnuchin, White House Chief of Staff Mark Meadows on Capitol Hill
- Senate meets at 10am; set to resume consideration of S. 4049, the NDAA for FY21
- House meets at 9am; first votes expected 3pm
- House set to consider H.R. 7573, which would remove Confederate statues from the Capitol

Congressional, Health Policy, and Political News

- **Kaiser Health News: Another Problem On The Health Horizon: Medicare Is Running Out Of Money:** Everyone involved even tangentially in health care today is completely consumed by the coronavirus pandemic, as they should be. But the pandemic is accelerating a problem that used to be front and center in health circles: the impending insolvency of Medicare. With record numbers of Americans out of work, fewer payroll taxes are rolling in to fund Medicare spending, the numbers of beneficiaries are rising, and Congress dipped into Medicare's reserves to help fund the COVID-19 relief efforts this spring.
- **The Hill: White House Considers Drug Pricing Executive Order, Prompting GOP Pushback:** The White House is considering one or more executive orders aimed at lowering drug prices that could come as soon as this week, prompting pushback from some GOP lawmakers and the powerful pharmaceutical industry. One idea under discussion, sources say, is to link some U.S. drug prices to the lower prices paid overseas, an idea that is opposed by many Republicans, who see it as a price control that violates free-market principles.
- **Bloomberg Government: Pediatricians say \$200 Billion Needed for K-12 Education:** The American Academy of Pediatrics and 30 other national health organizations told Congressional leaders in a letter yesterday that Congress should provide \$200 billion in the next coronavirus relief package for K-12 schools "regardless of their timeline for reopening," Andrew Kreighbaum reports. The White House had cited a report from the pediatricians group in a recent push for schools to physically reopen. But the academy

publicly split with President Donald Trump over threats to withhold federal aid from K-12 schools that do not reopen for face-to-face classes.

- **The Washington Post: CDC Now Recommends Coronavirus-Positive People Isolate For 10 Days, Not 14 Days:** The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's self-isolation rules have been a facet of pandemic life since March. Those who test positive for the coronavirus but who do not have symptoms have counted down the minutes until they could be free to venture out, while the sick have worried about how long they could be a danger to their loved ones. Now the CDC, acknowledging expanded understanding about the infectiousness of the novel coronavirus, has changed some of its recommendations.
- **Bloomberg Government: DOJ Says Special ACA Enrollment Not Needed:** Courts can't force the Trump administration to reopen Affordable Care Act enrollments even in the face of a pandemic, the Justice Department argued yesterday. The department is defending HHS against a suit from Chicago in the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia last month fighting the agency's refusal to open a special enrollment period for the health insurance exchange.
- **Bloomberg Government: DOL Tries to Clear Up Confusion on Jobless Aid:** The Labor Department issued new guidance on the complex unemployment insurance program for independent contractors, marking the agency's latest effort to increase oversight of how states are making eligibility determinations to this crucial form of virus relief. The guidance DOL's Employment and Training Administration published late yesterday updated its instructions to state workforce agencies by addressing a series of questions states have asked about Pandemic Unemployment Assistance. Congress created the program in March to extend benefits to gig-economy workers, freelancers, and others who wouldn't traditionally qualify for unemployment insurance.