

American Nephrology Nurses Association

Daily Capitol Hill Update - Thursday, July 23, 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

- President Trump has no public events scheduled

CONGRESS

- House meets at 9am; first votes expected after noon
- House to consider appropriations bill
- Senate meets at 9:30am; resumes consideration of S. 4049, the NDAA for FY21
- Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell may introduce the Republican stimulus plan as soon as today with a series of bills that would serve as an opening to negotiations with Democrats

Congressional, Health Policy, and Political News

- **Bloomberg Government: House Health Panel to Take Up Five Bills:** Energy and Commerce Chairman Frank Pallone (D-N.J.) and Rep. Anna Eshoo (D-Calif.), who chairs the Health subcommittee, announced that the panel will hold a remote hearing next Wednesday to discuss five bills, Alex Ruoff reports:
 - H.R. 2075 to reauthorize school-based health centers;
 - H.R. 4078 to help improve the low-income housing credit;
 - H.R. 4439 to make permanent the authority of the secretary of Health and Human Services to issue priority review vouchers that would encourage treatments for rare pediatric diseases;
 - H.R. 4764 to reauthorize the "Stem Cell Therapeutic and Research Act of 2005; and
 - H.R. 5373 to reauthorize the United States Anti-Doping Agency.
- **Bloomberg Government: Second Package:** The deadline for members to submit amendments for the House's second spending package, which includes the Labor-HHS-Education funding bill (H.R. 7614) is 4:30 p.m. today. As of last night, a few measures had already been posted on the Rules Committee website, including a provision by Rep. Lauren Underwood (D-Ill.) that would prevent the Justice Department from using funds to argue in court against the Affordable Care Act.
- **Bloomberg Government: Appropriations:** The first package of fiscal 2021 appropriations bills (H.R. 7608) will be considered on the House floor today and includes the Agriculture-FDA, Interior-Environment, Military Construction-Veterans Affairs, and State-Foreign Operations bills.

- **The Hill: Trump Administration To Give Additional \$5B To Nursing Homes:** The Trump administration will provide nursing homes with \$5 billion as they continue to deal with mounting COVID-19 infections, administration officials said Wednesday. President Trump first made the announcement at the White House, and the official policy will be announced in a forthcoming rule, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) Administrator Seema Verma said.
- **Bloomberg Government: Nursing Home Staff Tests Required in Covid Surging States:** Nursing homes in states with a 5% or greater positivity for Covid-19 will be required to test all nursing home staff each week, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services announced yesterday. The testing requirement builds on an earlier HHS announcement that rapid point-of-care diagnostic testing devices will be distributed to nursing homes along with \$5 billion in the new funding from the Congress-approved provider relief fund.