

American Nephrology Nurses Association

Daily Capitol Hill Update - Friday, July 24, 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

- 11am: President Trump presents Medal of Freedom to Jim Ryun
- 3pm: Trump delivers remarks, signs executive orders on lowering drug prices
- 4:30pm: Trump departs White House for his golf resort in Bedminster, N.J.

CONGRESS

- House meets at 9am; set to consider H.R. 7608, appropriations bill
- Senate returns Monday at 4pm

Congressional, Health Policy, and Political News

- **Bloomberg Government: Appropriations:** The House is scheduled to vote on its first package of fiscal 2021 appropriations bills (H.R. 7608), including the Agriculture-FDA, Interior-Environment, Military Construction-Veterans Affairs, and State-Foreign Operations bills.
 - Lawmakers voted yesterday 223-194 to add a package of amendments that would:
 - Bar the U.S. from withdrawing from NATO or from the World Health Organization;
 - Emphasize the need for a binational coronavirus testing strategy with Mexico;
 - Bar the State Department from promoting the sale or export of e-cigarettes; and
 - Block officials from using the Defense Production Act to keep meat and poultry processing facilities operational during the coronavirus emergency.
 - Members also agreed via voice vote to add another collection of amendments that would:
 - Increase nutrition aid to Puerto Rico by \$528.6 million;
 - Expand oversight of state-run veterans' homes that may be affected by the coronavirus pandemic; and
 - Encourage the Department of Veterans Affairs to study the effect of the coronavirus on veterans who have been exposed to burn pits and other airborne hazards.

- **Becker's Hospital Review: HHS renews public health emergency; 5 states see record daily increases – 4 COVID-19 updates:** The U.S. recorded nearly 70,000 new COVID-19 cases July 23, surpassing 4 million total cases nationwide, according to data from The New York Times. July 23 was also the third consecutive day more than 1,000 virus deaths were recorded.
- **Bloomberg Government: Senate Passes Bill Banning Banks From Garnishing Stimulus Checks:** The Senate passed legislation that would prevent banks and creditors from garnishing stimulus payments when they are directly deposited into recipients accounts. The bill would fix a problem lawmakers identified after the CARES Act that banks could use the payments from their customers to pay past debts.
- **The Hill: Trump Likely To Sign Executive Orders On Drug Pricing Friday:** President Trump is likely to sign executive orders on Friday aimed at lowering drug prices, elevating a key issue for voters in an election year. While the plans could shift at the last minute, some GOP lawmakers have been invited to a presidential event on drug pricing Friday at 3 p.m. at the White House in the South Court Auditorium to make the announcement, according to an invitation obtained by The Hill.