

American Nephrology Nurses Association

Daily Capitol Hill Update - Monday, July 27, 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: Trump takes part in greeting with the Walking Marine, Terry Sharpe, who walked from North Carolina all the way to the White House to raise awareness of veteran suicide rates
- 1:15pm: President departs White House en route to Morrisville, N.C.
- 3pm: Takes tours Bioprocess Innovation Center at Fujifilm Diosynth Biotechnologies in Morrisville, N.C.
- 3:30pm: Trump participates in a coronavirus briefing at the center
- 4:20pm: President leaves center en route for Washington D.C.
- 6pm: Trump arrives at the White House
 - Vice President Mike Pence travels to Miami, Fla. to recognize the start of phase 3 trials for a coronavirus vaccine
 - Will participate in roundtable with university leaders at the University of Miami; then holds press briefing

CONGRESS

- House meets at 9am; last vote expected 11:30am-noon
 - Will vote on two bills under suspension of the rules, including measure that would establish a Commission on the Social Status of Black Men and Boys within the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights
- This week, House plans action on seven-bill fiscal 2021 appropriations package that includes Defense, Commerce-Justice-Science, Energy and Water, Financial Services, Homeland Security, Labor-HHS-Education, and Transportation-HUD funding
- Senate meets at 4pm
 - To vote on confirmation of William Scott Hardy to be a judge on the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Pennsylvania
- Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell to unveil \$1 trillion GOP stimulus package
- John Lewis, the late congressman and civil rights leader, lies in state at the U.S. Capitol

Congressional, Health Policy, and Political News

- **The Wall Street Journal: GOP To Propose Aid Bill, With Extra Jobless Benefits Set To Expire:** After days of disagreements between the White House and GOP lawmakers, Republicans are set to release their proposal for the next coronavirus relief bill on Monday, with millions of Americans on the verge of losing expanded unemployment benefits. Lawmakers now have little time before the \$600 weekly supplement to jobless

benefits ends. In negotiations with Democrats, three months before the election, an agreement on unemployment insurance might prove to be the most difficult to reach.

- **Bloomberg Government: This Week's Hearings:**
 - Virus Containment: The House Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Crisis scheduled a hearing Friday on the need for a national plan to contain the Covid-19 pandemic.
 - Medical Supply Chain: The Senate Finance Committee meets for a hearing tomorrow on protecting the U.S. medical supply chain during Covid-19.
 - Public Health Programs: The House Energy and Commerce Health Subcommittee on Wednesday will discuss several bills to reauthorize public health programs.
 - Foreign Affairs Markup: The House Foreign Affairs Committee is scheduled to mark up eight bills on Wednesday including H.R. 6334, to authorize U.S. participation in the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations.
 - VA Telehealth: The Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee holds a hearing Wednesday on VA telehealth during Covid-19 and challenges in rural parts of the country.
 - Water Standards: The House Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Environment and Climate Change holds a hearing tomorrow on updating national drinking water standards.
- **Stat: Trump Unveils Four Executive Orders Aimed At Lowering Drug Prices:** The Trump administration unveiled four executive orders on Friday aimed at bringing down pharmaceutical prices, a last-ditch effort by the White House to cut drug costs before the November election. It remains unclear whether the Trump administration is capable of finalizing many of the actions by Election Day – and whether it intends to do so.
- **Bloomberg Government: HHS Appropriations:** House lawmakers plan action later this week on a seven-bill fiscal 2021 appropriations package (H.R. 7617). It will include Labor-HHS-Education funding. The House Rules Committee is scheduled to meet tomorrow to narrow the list of amendments to the bill that will receive votes.
 - The House on Friday passed a four-bill fiscal 2021 spending package by a 224-189 vote, advancing its first annual funding measure of the year. The legislation (H.R. 7608) includes State and Foreign Operations, Agriculture-FDA, Interior-Environment, and Military Construction-VA funding.
- **The New York Times: FEMA Sends Faulty Protective Gear To Nursing Homes Battling Virus:** Expired surgical masks. Isolation gowns that resemble oversize trash bags. Extra-small gloves that are all but useless for the typical health worker's hands. Nursing home employees across the country have been dismayed by what they've found when they've opened boxes of protective medical gear sent by the federal government, part of a \$134 million effort to provide facilities a 14-day supply of equipment considered critical for shielding their vulnerable residents from the coronavirus.
- **Bloomberg Government: Supply Chain Is Unprepared for a Vaccine:** The industries that shepherd goods around the world on ships, planes and trucks acknowledge they aren't ready to handle the challenges of shipping an eventual Covid-19 vaccine from drugmakers to billions of people. Already stretched thin by the pandemic, freight companies face problems ranging from shrinking capacity on container ships and cargo aircraft to a lack of

visibility on when a vaccine will arrive. Shippers have struggled for years to reduce cumbersome paperwork and upgrade old technology that, unless addressed soon, will slow the relay race to transport fragile vials of medicine in unprecedented quantities.