

American Nephrology Nurses Association

Daily Capitol Hill Update – Tuesday, July 28, 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
 - NOTE: A previously planned meeting with drug CEOs was canceled, Politico reported

CONGRESS

- Senate meets at 10am; resumes consideration of judicial nominees
- Talks continue with White House chief of staff Mark Meadows, Treasury Sec. Steven Mnuchin, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi about next round of stimulus after Senate GOP released proposals Monday evening
 - NOTE: Mnuchin, Meadows Draw GOP Lawmakers' Ire in Virus-Relief Talks; McConnell Enters High-Stakes Stimulus Talks With Divided GOP
- House not in session as members of public continue to pay respects to late Rep. John Lewis, who is lying in state at Capitol
 - NOTE: John Lewis Honored With Bipartisan Tribute at U.S. Capitol (2)
- 10am: House Cmte on Natural Resources holds hearing about U.S. Park Police's actions during June protest at Lafayette Square
 - NOTE: Officer Challenges Trump Administration on Lafayette Park Clash

Congressional, Health Policy, and Political News

- **Insulin, Epinephrine Price Breaks Unlikely:** Insulin and epinephrine costs for most Americans won't fall under a White House plan to reroute drug discounts directly to patients, health lawyers said. The community health centers targeted in the new order already sell discounted drugs to patients, and the White House may not have the legal power to force deeper discounts at enough pharmacies to make a difference, lawyers said.
 - Trump's July 24 executive order directs federally funded health centers to sell patients insulin and injectable epinephrine at the same discounted price they got it from a drug company. Trump argues that his goal is to give more people affordable access to two critical, often expensive drugs. But rather than taking steps to address rising prices for lifesaving drugs, the executive order recycles techniques the Trump administration has already seen die in court or flounder at federal agencies.
- **The Hill: GOP Rolls Out \$1 Trillion Coronavirus Relief Package:** Senate Republicans

unveiled a roughly \$1 trillion coronavirus relief package Monday, paving the way for negotiations with Democrats. The legislation caps off days of behind-the-scenes negotiations and public infighting as a group of GOP negotiators and administration officials tried to line up on key provisions. Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.) said the package represents a "realistic" proposal for what would be "appropriate" to add to the country's debt.

- **Moderna Launches First Large-Scale U.S. Vaccine Trial:** The first large study of a Covid-19 vaccine in the U.S. began with the dosing of one patient yesterday in Savannah, Ga., the opening shot for wide trials by Moderna and the National Institutes of Health that will examine the vaccine's safety and efficacy in 30,000 people. The Moderna candidate, backed by \$955 million in government money, will be tested at 89 U.S. sites. It uses mRNA, a synthetic form of genetic material from the virus designed to nudge the body's immune system into attack mode.