

American Nephrology Nurses Association

Daily Capitol Hill Update – Wednesday, July 28, 2021

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

- 1:25pm - The President to visit Mack-Lehigh Valley Operations (LVO) Manufacturing Facility
- 2:00pm – President delivers remarks on the importance of American manufacturing, buying products made in America, and supporting good-paying jobs for American workers

CONGRESS:

- The House plans to complete consideration of a seven-bill minibus appropriations package.
- The Senate will vote on two of Biden’s nominees to serve on the National Labor Relations Board.

Congressional, Health Policy, and Political News

- **Bloomberg Government: House Works to Wrap Minibus Consideration:** House members will continue voting on amendments in an effort to complete consideration today of Democrats’ seven-bill spending package (H.R. 4502). House members yesterday adopted by voice vote a group of amendments including:
 - An amendment led by Rep. Chris Smith (R-N.J.) that would increase Centers for Disease Control and Prevention funds for emerging zoonotic and infectious diseases for Lyme disease research by \$3 million.
 - A proposal led by Smith that would add \$10 million to the CDC’s Autism Developmental Disability Monitoring Network.
 - A provisions led by Rep. Jim Baird (R-Ind.) that would add \$5 million to a Food and Drug Administration program to review and approve animal food ingredients; and
 - An amendment led by Rep. Kurt Schrader (D-Ore.) that would add language to highlight the need for the FDA to move ahead with a rule on cannabidiol, or CBD.
- **Bloomberg Government: Group Urges HHS to Allow Canadian Drug Imports:** A bipartisan group of senators including Chuck Grassley (R-Iowa) and Amy Klobuchar (D-Minn.) called on HHS to support policies that will permit Americans to import some prescription drugs from Canada. “Expanding access to safe and affordable drugs in Canada can make a difference by providing direct relief” to millions of Americans, they said in their letter to HHS Secretary Xavier Becerra.

- **Bloomberg Government: Biden Proposes Shift to American-Made Products:** The Biden administration is proposing sweeping changes to its government purchasing rule to increase the content of American-made goods, senior administration officials said. The new rule is designed in a way that gives contractors time to shift their supply chains but is stringent enough to have an immediate impact on the way taxpayer dollars are used, one official said. Biden began the process in an executive order he signed in January, shortly after taking office, and the White House has received input from businesses and unions, the officials added.

 - Biden today is set to visit the Mack-Lehigh Valley Operations Manufacturing Facility in Lower Macungie Township in Pennsylvania. He's scheduled to give remarks in the afternoon on the importance of U.S. manufacturing and buying products made in the country. The plant assembles Mack Trucks.

- **Modern Healthcare: Highmark Health Launches Digital Transformation Consultancy:** Integrated health system Highmark Health launched a consulting business on Tuesday aimed at helping healthcare companies and others digitize their operations. Named Lumevity, the new subsidiary will focus on helping customers identify automation opportunities, operate under the Agile methodology and help executives and front-line employees alike navigate operational changes. The Pittsburgh-based healthcare company will look inward to inform its customers' strategy – Highmark credits its technology and HR moves for contributing nearly \$500 million in profit and freeing 8 million hours of time for its 35,000 payer, provider and IT employees over the past three years.

- **Bloomberg Government: HHS Program Would Prepare for 'Disease X' Under Bill:** The U.S. could have vaccines and other medical countermeasures in place for future, unknown outbreaks under legislation expected to be introduced next week. Sen. Tammy Baldwin (D-Wis.) said yesterday that she plans to unveil the Disease X Act to stand up a program in the Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority that seeks to ensure the U.S. responds faster to the next pandemic.