

American Nephrology Nurses Association

Daily Capitol Hill Update - Wednesday, July 29, 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

- 9am: President Trump departs White House for Texas
- Trump arrives at Midland International Air and Space Port at 12:30pm
- 1:35pm: Trump attends fundraiser in Odessa, Texas; delivers remarks at 2:05pm
- 3:45pm: Trump arrives at Double Eagle Energy Oil Rig in Midland, Texas; delivers remarks at 4:20pm
 - Trump departs Texas at 5:40pm; due back at White House 9:05pm
- VP Mike Pence travels to N.C. to visit school, participate in roundtable at NCBiotech, which is conducting Phase III trials for covid vaccine

CONGRESS

- 1:30pm: House Democrats, incl. Speaker Nancy Pelosi, to hold press conference ahead of House consideration of childcare measure
- House meets at 10am for legislative business; set to consider bills incl. H.R. 7575, the Water Resources Development Act of 2020
- Senate meets at 10am; set to resume consideration of Derek Kan to be deputy OMB director
 - Senate to also vote on nomination of Marvin Kaplan to be member of NLRB

Congressional, Health Policy, and Political News

- **Bloomberg Government: Stimulus Update:** Negotiators made little progress yesterday, when Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin and White House Chief of Staff Mark Meadows met with Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) and Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-N.Y.) to discuss the next stimulus bill.
 - “I don’t know that I would characterize it as getting closer,” Meadows told reporters.
 - Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.) has insisted on measures shielding companies, schools and other organizations from lawsuits. President Donald Trump also said yesterday there are some measures in the bill he doesn’t like, without specifying which provisions.
- **Bloomberg Government: Rule for Second Appropriations Package:** The House today will consider the rule providing consideration of the second fiscal 2021 appropriations

package (H.R. 7617) which includes Defense, Commerce-Justice-Science, Energy and Water, Financial Services, Labor-HHS-Education, and Transportation-HUD funding. A manager's amendment to the appropriations measure would remove the Homeland Security measure, Jack Fitzpatrick reports.

- Yesterday at the House Rules Committee hearing on the measure, lawmakers made 340 amendments in order, including a provision by Rep. Jason Smith (R-Mo.) that would push the secretary of Health and Human Services and others to annually update a list of 300 to 400 medications for which availability is important in the event of a public health emergency.
- **NPR: Antibodies From Recovered COVID-19 Patients Being Tested As Way To Prevent Infection:** If you're bitten or scratched by an animal with rabies, your doctor can give you a shot to prevent the virus from taking hold in you and causing an infection. The same concept is now being put to the test for the coronavirus. Most people who get sick with COVID-19 produce antibodies in their blood that seem protect them from re-infection. A study is now underway to see whether an infusion of those antibodies can protect someone who has been exposed to the virus and is at high risk of infection.
- **Bloomberg Government: Child Care Provider Grants:** A \$50 billion stabilization fund would be created to support child care providers affected by the coronavirus pandemic under a modified version of H.R. 7027. The measure would provide the funding through the Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) program as an emergency appropriation. Funding would be used to provide grants to child care providers to sustain their operations during pandemic-related closures and as they reopen. The measure was referred to the House Appropriations and Budget committees, which haven't acted.
- **AP: Scientists Get Closer To Blood Test For Alzheimer's Disease:** An experimental blood test was highly accurate at distinguishing people with Alzheimer's disease from those without it in several studies, boosting hopes that there soon may be a simple way to help diagnose this most common form of dementia. Developing such a test has been a long-sought goal, and scientists warn that the new approach still needs more validation and is not yet ready for wide use. But Tuesday's results suggest they're on the right track.