

American Nephrology Nurses Association

Daily Capitol Hill Update - Thursday, July 30, 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

- 2:35pm: President Trump departs White House for American Red Cross HQ in Washington
 - 2:45pm: Trump tours Red Cross HQ
 - 3pm: Trump participates in roundtable on donating plasma
 - NOTE: Trump Aide Hints at Convalescent Plasma, Reagent Updates
- Vice President Mike Pence travels to Pennsylvania to deliver remarks at “Cops for Trump” event in Greensburg
- Pence tours Guy Chemical Co. at 2:45pm; delivers remarks at 3:05pm

CONGRESS

- House meets at 9am; begins consideration of H.R. 7617, appropriations bill
- House members are required to wear masks while in the chamber from today
 - Pelosi Mandates Masks in House After Gohmert Contracts Covid
- Senate meets at 10am; resumes consideration of Derek Kan to be deputy OMB director; vote on confirmation 1:30pm
- Negotiations between Treasury Sec. Steven Mnuchin, Trump’s Chief of Staff Mark Meadows, Speaker Nancy Pelosi continue today
 - Congress, White House ‘Nowhere Close’ on Virus-Relief Deal

Congressional, Health Policy, and Political News

- **Bloomberg Government: Trump to Host Roundtable on Plasma at Red Cross:** Trump will visit the American Red Cross National Headquarters in Washington at 2:40 p.m. today for a roundtable on donating plasma, the White House said in its daily guidance.
- **HHS Awards \$9 Billion as of June:** HHS awarded nearly \$9 billion in contracts as of June, most of them being awarded without competition, according to the Government Accountability Office in a report released yesterday. Government-wide contract obligations in response to the Covid-19 pandemic totaled \$17.8 billion as of June 11, the GAO report said. Medical and surgical equipment and hospital clothing accounted for about \$7 billion of that spending, it said.
- **Bloomberg Government: House Advances Child-Care Bills:** The nation’s child-care

providers would receive \$60 billion in emergency funding and an additional \$50 billion over five years in aid under two bills the full House passed yesterday. Democratic leaders want the bills to be incorporated into a future virus stimulus package.

- The Child Care Is Essential Act (H.R. 7027) would give providers the \$50 billion in funding industry leaders have said is necessary to weather the public health emergency. The Child Care for Economic Recovery Act (H.R. 7327) would provide \$10 billion in emergency funding for infrastructure grants to help providers make health and safety modifications to their facilities, plus another \$10 billion each year to further child-care entitlements to states through fiscal 2024.
- **CIDRAP: Invasive Ventilation, Older Age, Dialysis Tied To COVID-19 Death In Germany:** An observational study of 10,021 COVID-19 patients admitted to 920 German hospitals has found that patients requiring mechanical ventilation were at highest risk for death—especially those 80 years and older and those needing dialysis. The study, published yesterday in *The Lancet Respiratory Medicine*, examined claims data from hospitalized coronavirus virus patients from Feb 26 to Apr 19. Of the 10,021 patients, 2,229 (22%) died.
- **Bloomberg Government: Medicare Drug Coverage Premiums to Rise Slightly:** Medicare beneficiaries will pay a little more for their prescription drug coverage in 2021, but monthly premiums, overall, have fallen by 12% since 2017, the Trump administration announced yesterday.
- **The Wall Street Journal: Health-Care Startup Ro Raises \$200 Million In New Funding:** Ro, an online health-care startup, said Monday that it raised \$200 million in a new funding round, bringing its total raised to \$376 million. The new round values Ro at \$1.5 billion, according to people familiar with the matter. The New York-based company said it will use the new funding to invest in technology, such as remote patient monitoring, and double its 70-person engineering team. Ro runs a digital-health site for men and another one for women. A network of health-care professionals diagnoses patient conditions and prescribes medicines, which Ro distributes. The company says its ability to care for patients from an initial evaluation to treatment delivery sets it apart.
- **Bloomberg Government: Second Appropriations Package:** House lawmakers will consider the chamber's second six-bill fiscal 2021 appropriations package (H.R. 7617) on the floor today, which includes Defense, Commerce-Justice-Science, Energy and Water, Financial Services, Labor-HHS-Education, and Transportation-HUD funding.