

American Nephrology Nurses Association

Daily Capitol Hill Update - Thursday, July 8, 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

- 10:15 a.m. - Biden and Harris will meet with their national security team to receive an update on progress of the drawdown.
- 1:45 p.m. - Biden will speak on the efforts as well as ongoing security and humanitarian assistance to the country. The U.S. estimates it has completed more than 90% of withdrawal from Afghanistan as of July 5, and plans full exit by Sept. 11.

CONGRESS:

- Out of Session.

Congressional, Health Policy, and Political News

- **Milwaukee Journal Sentinel: Study Finds Plasma Effective For Patients With COVID, Blood Cancer:** Plasma from recovered COVID-19 patients, one of the first effective therapies to emerge against the pandemic, significantly reduces deaths among people unfortunate enough to suffer from both the new coronavirus and a blood cancer, according to a recent study. From early in the pandemic, patients whose immune systems had been weakened by a blood cancer such as lymphoma or multiple myeloma, were considered one of the groups at highest risk for severe illness from COVID-19.
- **AP: Michigan Auditor To Review Accuracy Of Nursing Home Deaths:** State auditors will review the accuracy of the number of coronavirus deaths linked to nursing homes and other long-term care facilities in Michigan. Auditor General Doug Ringler agreed last week to conduct a comprehensive study at the request of House Oversight Committee Chairman Steven Johnson of Wayland. Johnson is among Republican lawmakers who have questioned if there is an undercount and who have criticized Democratic Gov. Gretchen Whitmer for allowing hospitalized COVID-19 patients no longer needing acute care, but still in quarantine, to return to designated units in nursing homes as some hospitals faced surging cases.
- **Bloomberg Government: Pelosi, Maloney to Talk Drug Price Report:** House Oversight and Reform Chair Carolyn Maloney (D-N.Y.) will hold a press conference at 2 p.m. today with Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) to release a report from the panel analyzing financial data of 14 of the largest drug companies to evaluate investor and executive compensation in relation to investment in research and development of new treatments, and how that data can affect Medicare price negotiations, according to a statement.

- **Bloomberg Government: Biden to Ask FTC for Rules on Non-Competes:** Biden plans to issue an executive order that calls on the FTC to adopt new rules to curb non-compete agreements and licensing requirements that hinder labor market competition. The executive order, announced yesterday during a White House press briefing, is aimed at growing wages and making it easier for workers to change jobs across states. Non-compete agreements prohibit workers from accepting a job from competing businesses.
- **The Washington Post: Gates Foundation To Be Led By Bill Gates If He And Melinda French Gates Can't Work Together:** Melinda French Gates will resign from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation in two years if she and her husband, who are in the midst of divorce proceedings, can't work together. The Gateses also plan to give their foundation, one of the world's largest, another \$15 billion, bringing its total endowment to \$65 billion, foundation chief executive Mark Suzman wrote in a note to staff. The Gateses also plan to expand the number of trustees who oversee the foundation; it has been just the two of them after the third trustee, Warren Buffett, resigned last month.
- **Stat: Report: Death Rates Are Declining For Many Common Cancers In U.S.:** Death rates are declining for more than half of the most common forms of cancer in the U.S., according to a sweeping annual analysis released Thursday. The new report — released by the American Cancer Society, the National Cancer Institute, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and other collaborators — found that between 2014 and 2018, death rates dropped for 11 out of 19 of the most common cancers among men and 14 of the 20 most prevalent cancers among women.
- **Bloomberg Government: Congress Urged to Delay Child Sodium Mandate:** Lawmakers negotiating the Child Nutrition Reauthorization must consider delaying current sodium goal mandates until July 2024 and eliminating next year's final target sodium limits, the School Nutrition Association said in a report yesterday. Extra congressional funds would help keep school meal programs economically sustainable, the nonprofit recommends.
 - School nutrition directors were not only concerned about future sodium regulations, but also continued pandemic disruptions to supply chains, staff shortages and low meal participation, the report shows. "Congress and USDA must focus on supporting meal participation, rather than mandating severe sodium reductions that will result in fewer students eating healthy meals and further financial losses for school meal programs," President Reggie Ross said in a statement.