

# American Nephrology Nurses Association

## Daily Capitol Hill Update - Monday, August 10, 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

- 12:30pm: President Trump has lunch with VP Mike Pence
- 1pm: White House Press Secretary Kayleigh McEnany holds a news briefing
- 2pm: Trump receives intelligence briefing

#### CONGRESS

- 3pm: Senate convenes
- House out on recess
- Democrats and the Trump admin. have yet to reach a deal for a new coronavirus relief package. Meanwhile, Trump over the weekend signed four orders related to maintaining some assistance

### Congressional, Health Policy, and Political News

- **The Hill: White House Officials, Democrats Spar Over Legality, Substance Of Executive Orders:** Top Democratic lawmakers on Sunday hit White House officials over both the legality and the effectiveness of the executive orders signed by President Trump over the weekend, while White House officials said the measures would help Americans affected by the coronavirus pandemic and hold up in court. Both sides made their case on the Sunday morning political shows a day after Trump signed the four coronavirus relief orders before a crowd at his club in Bedminster, N.J. That came after negotiations between Democratic leaders in Congress and White House officials reached an impasse.
- **The Hill: Businesses And States Launch Own Relief Funds As Congressional Talks Stall:** As negotiations between Democrats and Republicans over a new round of coronavirus relief drag on with little hope of a quick resolution in sight, some businesses are stepping in to help out-of-work employees pay the bills. Dozens of businesses that have been sidelined by lockdown orders have created funds to support their employees in recent weeks, after gridlock on Capitol Hill left an added unemployment benefit expire at the end of July.
- **Bloomberg Government: Nursing Homes to Get Another \$5 Billion:** U.S. nursing homes will get another \$5 billion in federal pandemic aid funding, the Trump administration announced Friday. Part of the money will go only to facilities that meet certain performance-based metrics, unlike previous distributions from the Congress-approved pandemic relief fund. Facilities will be evaluated based on the local Covid-19 infection rate and the nursing home's ability to minimize cases and fatalities among residents.

- **Bloomberg Government: Trump Preps Pre-Existing Condition Mandate:** Trump said he'll be "pursuing" an executive order in the next two weeks requiring health insurance companies to provide coverage for pre-existing conditions for every customer. "We have to cover pre-existing conditions. This has never been done before, but it's time the people of our country are properly represented and properly taken care of," he told reporters in New Jersey on Friday.
  - The Affordable Care Act, which the White House is vying to strike down in court, protects patients with pre-existing conditions. The president has long promised, but never delivered, a comprehensive health plan that may replace Obamacare. Last month, Trump pledged a full health plan that was supposed to have arrived at the start of last week, but it did not.
- **Bloomberg Government: Eighth Circuit Kills Pharmacy Benefit Manager Law:** The Pharmaceutical Care Management Association notched another victory in its legal battle against state laws regulating pharmacy benefit managers when the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit agreed with the association Friday that North Dakota's statute can't co-exist alongside federal benefits law. The North Dakota statute passed in 2017 is forestalled by the Employee Retirement Income Security Act because the existence of an ERISA health plan is "essential to the law's operation," the court said.
- **Kaiser Health News: Business Is Booming For Dialysis Giant Fresenius. It Took A \$137M Bailout Anyway:** As the coronavirus pandemic paralyzed most nonemergency medical practices this spring, the dialysis business, vital to the survival of patients with kidney disease, rolled ahead and in some cases grew. Yet when the Trump administration sent billions in federal relief funds to medical organizations, at least \$259 million went to dialysis providers, a KHN analysis of federal records found. Of that, kidney care behemoth Fresenius Medical Care accepted more than half, at least \$137 million, despite acknowledging it had ample financial resources, the analysis showed.