

American Nephrology Nurses Association

Daily Capitol Hill Update - Tuesday, August 11, 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

- President Trump has no public events scheduled; participates in call with sheriffs at 12:30pm
- Vice President Mike Pence to Ariz., set to meet law enforcement, kick-off "Latter-Day Saints for Trump" effort

CONGRESS

- Senate meets at 11am but senators subject to 24-hr notice before any roll call votes occur

Congressional, Health Policy, and Political News

- **Bloomberg Government: Trump Aid Orders Fail to Jolt Stimulus Talks:** Days after Trump implemented scaled-down pandemic aid without congressional approval, there's no indication the tactic will get Republicans and Democrats back to the negotiating table for a comprehensive coronavirus stimulus deal. Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin said that there are areas where a compromise over a massive aid bill is possible and a "fair deal" could be agreed upon. But in an interview on CNBC, he continued to dismiss Democrats' request for nearly \$1 trillion for aid to state and local governments as "absurd."
- **Politico: Trump: Executive Order On Pre-Existing Conditions Is 'a Signal':** President Donald Trump on Monday acknowledged a prospective executive order he's considering to make insurers cover pre-existing conditions amounted to political messaging – and that Obamacare already offered such protections. "It's a signal to people ... it's a second platform," Trump said at a White House briefing. "Pre-existing conditions will be taken care of 100 percent by Republicans and the Republican party. I actually think it's a very important statement."
- **The Hill: No Signs Of Breakthrough For Stalemated Coronavirus Talks:** The White House and congressional Democrats dug in deeper in their respective tranches on Monday amid the stalemate over a new coronavirus relief package. The Senate was technically back in session on Monday, but there were no signs of a quick detente on the political and policy differences between the two sides.
- **The Hill: State Aid Emerges As Major Hurdle To Reviving COVID-19 Talks:** Federal money for state and local governments is a key sticking point to reviving negotiations over the next coronavirus relief package. The White House and congressional Democrats are deeply divided over whether states should get more money – and if so, how much.

- **The Hill: WHO: Coronavirus Unaffected By Seasonal Changes:** The novel coronavirus does not appear to wax and wane with the passing of the seasons, experts at the World Health Organization said Monday. “In the absence of control measures, very often, viruses can show seasonal patterns. We’ve certainly seen that with influenza. This virus has demonstrated no seasonal pattern as such, so far,” said Mike Ryan, who heads the WHO’s emergencies program. “What it has clearly demonstrated is, you take the pressure off the virus, the virus bounces back.”
- **Humana sues Teva over recalled blood pressure drugs:** Humana filed a lawsuit against Teva Pharmaceuticals over its sale of since-recalled blood pressure medication that contained carcinogenic substances. In 2018, the FDA said it was recalling valsartan medications because of their contamination with cancer-causing substances. Teva voluntarily recalled its valsartan drugs in 2018 for products distributed as early as October 2015.