American Nephrology Nurses Association

Daily Capitol Hill Update – Tuesday, August 10, 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

- Biden is scheduled at 11:15 a.m. to meet virtually with business, university, and health care leaders to discuss vaccinating more Americans against Covid-19.
- The president at 1:15 p.m. will speak from the White House about his economic agenda.
- 3 p.m. Biden meets virtually with governors, mayors, and state, local, and tribal officials to discuss the bipartisan infrastructure package the Senate passed yesterday.

CONGRESS:

- The Senate adjourned just before 6 a.m. this morning, with lawmakers departing for August recess. No floor action is scheduled and the chamber will next convene for business on Sept. 13. The House returns on Aug. 23.
- The Senate Judiciary Committee is scheduled to meet for a hearing today on pending nominations including Armando O. Bonilla and Carolyn N. Lerner to be judges of the U.S. Court of Federal Claims and two federal district court judicial nominees.

Congressional, Health Policy, and Political News

- **Bloomberg Government: Medicare Age Change Eyed for Budget Bill:** Progressive Democrats in the Senate say lowering the age at which Americans can join Medicare remains a top priority, even as their colleagues signal the issue is likely to fall off the party’s agenda this year. Sens. Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.) and Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.) both told BGOV they are pushing to include a provision lowering the age to join Medicare to 60 or lower. Warren has sought to lower the age to 55.

- **AP: Nursing Home Overhaul Bill Would Boost Staffing, Oversight:** Responding to the ravages of COVID-19 in nursing homes, senior Democratic senators Tuesday introduced legislation to increase nurse staffing, improve infection control and bolster inspections. The bill, from a group led by Sens. Ron Wyden of Oregon and Bob Casey of Pennsylvania, is part of a broader overhaul of long-term care just getting started. Separately, President Joe Biden is seeking $400 billion to expand home and community based care as an alternative to nursing homes in the giant domestic agenda bill Democrats are pushing in Congress. His COVID relief law already provided a down payment.
• Modern Healthcare: 2.5M Sign Up During Exchange Special Enrollment Period: Over 2.5 million people have enrolled for coverage through HealthCare.gov and state marketplaces since the start of a special enrollment period that began in February, according to federal data. CMS reports that more than 1.8 million people purchased insurance through Healthcare.gov, while 723,000 used a state-based marketplace platform. The special enrollment period ends on Aug. 15. The Biden Administration extended the period to give consumers three more months to sign up through Healthcare.gov.