

American Nephrology Nurses Association

Daily Capitol Hill Update - Monday, August 16, 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 has no public events scheduled.

CONGRESS:

- Out of Session

Congressional, Health Policy, and Political News

- **Gastroenterology & Endoscopy News: New Dialysis Machine May Reverse Liver Failure:** Hope may be on the horizon for people who have acute-on-chronic liver failure, according to results from an early-phase international, multicenter study. Researchers have found that DIALIVE, a novel liver dialysis device, is safe and effective in this group of patients, significantly increasing the proportion of them who recover from organ failure and shortening the time required to do so.
- **MedRXIV: B and T cell responses after a third dose of SARS-CoV-2 vaccine in Kidney Transplant Recipients:** Accumulating evidence suggests that solid organ transplant recipients, as opposed to the general population, show strongly impaired responsiveness towards standard SARS-CoV-2 mRNA-based vaccination, demanding alternative strategies for protection of this vulnerable group.
- **Bloomberg Government: Democrats' Debt Dare Risks Shutdown:** Democrats are betting Republicans will blink and agree to raise the debt ceiling before it expires, a risky wager after a weeks-long standoff that threatens the health of the financial markets and continued U.S. government operations. Democrats last week passed up the chance to muscle a debt-ceiling hike through the Senate on a party-line vote, opting instead to go through the normal legislative process – perhaps attached to a stopgap government-funding bill – that will require the acquiescence of 10 Republican senators. It's a strategy that strikes some political watchers on the left as ill-advised or even insane.
- **Bloomberg Government: White House, States Get Say Over Broadband Funds in Bill:** A Senate push as part of its infrastructure bill to provide \$42.5 billion in new broadband subsidies envisions handing control over the funds to the Commerce Department and the states, rather than the independent Federal Communications Commission. In a departure from the past, the Commerce Department would distribute the funds through grants to

eligible states under the measure. Local authorities would then competitively award that money to broadband service and infrastructure providers.

- **The New York Times: Biden Administration Prompts Largest Permanent Increase In Food Stamps:** The Biden administration has revised the nutrition standards of the food stamp program and prompted the largest permanent increase to benefits in the program's history, a move that will give poor people more power to fill their grocery carts but add billions of dollars to the cost of a program that feeds one in eight Americans. Under rules to be announced on Monday and put in place in October, average benefits will rise more than 25 percent from prepandemic levels. All 42 million people in the program will receive additional aid. The move does not require congressional approval, and unlike the large pandemic-era expansions, which are starting to expire, the changes are intended to last.