

American Nephrology Nurses Association

Daily Capitol Hill Update - Monday, August 17, 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

- 10:15am: Trump departs White House en route for Mankato, Minn.
- 3pm: President delivers remarks on jobs and the economy; Mankato
- 4:20pm: Trump departs Mankato en route to Oshkosh, Wis.
- 5:30pm: President makes remarks on the economy; Oshkosh
- 9:15pm: Trump arrives at the White House

CONGRESS

- House will return this week after Speaker Nancy Pelosi cut short its August recess in order for the chamber to work on urgent legislation aimed at shoring up the U.S. Postal Service ahead of November's elections
 - Democrats plan a caucus call at 11:30am to discuss the "attack on the Postal Service"
- Senate on recess
- Negotiations remain at standstill over a new coronavirus relief package amid the absence of a compromise over the \$1 trillion in state aid that Democrats demand and the White House opposes

Congressional, Health Policy, and Political News

- **Bloomberg Government: Stimulus Stalemate Leaves Economy Limping:** Meanwhile, chances for a deal in Congress on a new, comprehensive stimulus package before September diminish with each passing day, leaving the U.S. economy limping and many businesses and millions of consumers coming up short. Democrats and Republicans are focused on their conventions. Pelosi headed to California after rebuffing an overture from Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin to restart talks on a virus relief package without concessions.
 - Some Democrats have been pushing Pelosi to vote on boosting funding for the USPS, and White House Chief of Staff Mark Meadows is continuing to press for a small-scale rescue package that would include stimulus checks for individuals and aid for small businesses. He said the GOP would back \$10 billion in funding for the Postal Service that Democrats have been seeking. "We will pass it tomorrow," Meadows said Sunday on CNN's "State of the Union" program. "The president will sign it. And this will all go away."
 - However, Pelosi announced no other plans for votes, and she has repeatedly rejected any piecemeal deal on stimulus. A spokesman for Senate Majority Leader

Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.) referred to his previous statement that senators will get 24 hours' notice if they need to return to Washington.

- **CNN: CDC's Chief Of Staff, Deputy Chief Of Staff Depart Agency:** Kyle McGowan, the chief of staff, and Amanda Campbell, the deputy chief of staff, resigned effective Friday, leaving to start a consulting firm, the official said. Both left voluntarily, the official added. "The CDC is filled with dedicated public health professionals that come to work every day with one purpose: to save lives. Particularly during the response to COVID-19, they have continued to work tirelessly, often unrecognized, to protect the health and safety of Americans. Amanda and I are honored to have had the opportunity to serve alongside each and every one of them. I'm grateful that they are on the front lines fighting to make our nation and world a healthier and safer place to live," McGowan said in a statement. "Amanda and I spent more than two years serving at the CDC and chose to leave to start our own business."
- **AP: US Reps Eye Mental Health Telemedicine For Rural Veterans:** A Maine congressman is working across the aisle with a Republican from Indiana on a proposal that would create mental health telemedicine services for veterans in rural parts of the country. Rep. Jared Golden, a Democrat, is working on the proposal with Rep. Jim Banks. Their bill would direct the Department of Veterans Affairs to create programs at three VA facilities that use computerized cognitive behavioral therapy to treat veterans who suffer from conditions such as depression and post-traumatic stress disorder.
- **Bloomberg Government: Saliva Test Partly Funded by NBA Gets FDA Authorization:** A Covid-19 test that processes saliva samples and doesn't require special swabs or collection devices received emergency-use authorization by the Food and Drug Administration on Saturday. Research for the test was done by Yale University's School of Public Health and was partly funded by the National Basketball Association and the union representing NBA players.
- **Bloomberg Government: Fed Close to Making Inflation Strategy Official:** The Federal Reserve will soon reveal a subtle yet profound shift in how it conducts monetary policy for the world's largest economy, officially embracing a more relaxed view on inflation. In addition to helping rescue the U.S. economy amid the coronavirus pandemic, Fed Chair Jerome Powell and colleagues also spent 2020 finishing up the central bank's first-ever review of how it pursues the goals of maximum employment and price stability set for it by Congress. It's a process that began in early 2019 and included a nationwide listening tour. Now they're close to presenting the results — perhaps as soon as September.