

American Nephrology Nurses Association

Daily Capitol Hill Update - Tuesday, August 18, 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 signs proclamation marking 100 years since ratification of 19th amendment
- 9:15am: Trump departs for Iowa; participates in disaster recovery briefing at 12:15pm
- Trump then travels to Yuma, Arizona for border wall update; delivers remarks on immigration, border security at 4:15pm
- Arrives back at White House at 11pm

CONGRESS

- Senate on August recess
- House will return early from recess to deal with legislation relating to Postal Service

Congressional, Health Policy, and Political News

- **Reuters: Study Links COVID-19 To Rise In Childhood Type 1 Diabetes:** Cases of type 1 diabetes among children in a small UK study almost doubled during the peak of Britain's COVID-19 epidemic, suggesting a possible link between the two diseases that needs more investigation, scientists said on Tuesday. While the study is based on only a handful of cases, it is the first to link COVID-19 and new-onset type 1 diabetes in children, and doctors should be on the look-out, the Imperial College London researchers said.
- **Politico: Senate Republicans To Introduce Smaller Covid Package That Includes Billions For Postal Service:** Senate Republicans are planning to introduce a "skinny" coronavirus relief bill, amid an impasse in negotiations between the White House and top Democratic leaders. The latest GOP coronavirus relief bill is expected to include \$300 in boosted weekly federal unemployment benefits until December 27, another round of money for the Paycheck Protection Program and an additional \$10 billion for the U.S. Postal Service and liability protections. The proposal is also expected to include money for education and testing.
- **Bloomberg Government: Elections:** Alaska, Florida, and Wyoming hold primary elections today.
 - Rep. Ross Spano (R) is trying to fend off a primary challenger amid an investigation into the financing of his 2018 campaign. In two other districts in Florida, winners of crowded Republican primaries will be favored to succeed retiring incumbents and join the 117th Congress.

- There's also voting in Alaska, where House Dean Don Young (R) wants to continue a congressional tenure that's nearing half a century, and Wyoming, where voters will begin the process of picking a successor for the retiring Sen. Mike Enzi (R).
- **Politico: Trump Rejects Pentagon's Proposed Cuts To Military Health Care:** President Donald Trump on Monday said he had rejected a proposal working its way through the Pentagon to cut military health services by \$2.2 billion as part of an overall spending review. "A proposal by Pentagon officials to slash Military Healthcare by \$2.2 billion dollars has been firmly and totally rejected by me," Trump tweeted on Monday night. "We will do nothing to hurt our great Military professionals & heroes as long as I am your President. Thank you!"
- **Bloomberg Government: Medicare Boosts Hospitals' Payments for Virus:** Hospitals will get a little help to recover some of their pandemic revenue losses when Medicare boosts reimbursements by 20% next month for beneficiaries with Covid-19. The payment bump takes effect on Sept. 1 and will apply to all Medicare patients with Covid-19 who needed to be hospitalized, according to new guidance issued yesterday by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services.
- **Stat: Opioid Prescriptions Written For Medicare Part D Beneficiaries Drop:** In 2019, about one in four Medicare Part D beneficiaries received at least one prescription opioid. Specifically, 26% of beneficiaries, or 12.6 million of the 48.3 million people enrolled in the program, received opioids. This was a drop from the previous year, when 29% of beneficiaries received the addictive painkillers through Part D and, significantly, the fourth-consecutive year of decline.