

American Nephrology Nurses Association

Daily Capitol Hill Update – Wednesday, August 19, 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, receives intelligence briefing at 1pm
- 1pm: Kayleigh McEnany holds press briefing

CONGRESS

- Senate out on August recess
- House will return this week to consider legislation to fund postal service

Congressional, Health Policy, and Political News

- **Bloomberg Government: Senate GOP ‘Skinny’ Virus Plan Funds Education, Unemployment:** Senate Republicans are circulating a slimmed-down Covid-19 stimulus package that would provide \$300 a week in unemployment benefits and funding for schools, while also changing the terms of funding provided earlier this year to the U.S. Postal Service. The proposal could be used to as a counteroffer to the \$25 billion Postal Service funding bill the House will consider on Saturday.
 - The text obtained, confirmed by Senate Republican aides, omits the assistance to state and local governments that Democrats have sought.
- **Becker’s Hospital Review: FDA halts approval of blood plasma as COVID-19 treatment:** Several federal public health officials – including National Institutes of Health Director Francis Collins, MD, PhD, and National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases Director Anthony Fauci, MD – encouraged FDA leaders to hold off on authorizing the use of blood plasma until there is more conclusive data proving its effectiveness in treating COVID-19.
- **ABC News: Biden Discusses Healthcare Plan At Dem Convention:** Minutes after he received enough delegates to clinch the Democratic nomination, former Vice President Joe Biden discussed one of the top policy proposals: a revamp of the nation’s healthcare. In a town hall-style video chat with Americans who have dealt with serious health ailments, Biden vowed to strengthen the Affordable Care Act, which he and President Barack Obama helped pass in 2010.
- **Politico: Pro Sports Teams Offer Up Empty Arenas For Voting In The Fall:** The Election Super Centers Project has four NBA teams participating so far – the Indiana Pacers (Indianapolis), Los Angeles Clippers, Milwaukee Bucks and Washington Wizards – as well as the NFL’s Pittsburgh Steelers, MLB’s Boston Red Sox and the NHL’s New Jersey Devils (Newark) and Washington Capitals (who share an arena and owner with the Wizards). The Golden State Warriors are also in discussions to join the program.