

# American Nephrology Nurses Association

Daily Capitol Hill Update - Thursday, August 19, 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 and Vice President Kamala Harris are slated to meet with their national security team at 10 a.m. on updates to the situation in Afghanistan.

### CONGRESS:

- Out of Session

## Congressional, Health Policy, and Political News

- **Bloomberg Government: DeFazio Lays Out Timing of Reconciliation Package:** Rep. Peter DeFazio (D-Ore.), chair of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, said the deadline to wrap up his portion of the reconciliation package carrying major parts of Biden's agenda is Sept. 14, and "the House intends to act on the full package the next week." That would come after the House reconvenes to vote on the \$3.5 trillion budget resolution next week, which DeFazio called a "key test" that "we're going to pass."
  - "The Senate is hard at work on their version and I would hope that the differences are minimal," DeFazio said at a Washington Post Live event yesterday. DeFazio said that he is working to include more transit and high-speed rail money as well as address wastewater improvements and aviation fuel efficiency in the reconciliation package.
- **Modern Healthcare: Biden To Require Nursing Home Staff Get COVID-19 Vaccine:** The Biden administration on Wednesday unveiled plans requiring nursing home staff to get vaccinated against COVID-19, but that directive is already sparking worry in the industry. The federal government tied nursing home facilities' Medicare and Medicaid funding to staff vaccinations, which the White House said will "ensure consistent and equitable standards across the country." California, New York, New Mexico and Maryland have already mandated healthcare staff be vaccinated. But the requirement could worsen an already precarious workforce crisis and affect facilities' ability to care for residents.
- **EurekAlert: US kidney transplant survival rates continue to improve:** Long-term survival rates of kidney transplant patients in the U.S. have increased over the last three decades, but there are opportunities to further improve these outcomes, according to a review article published today in The New England Journal of Medicine. For many patients with end-stage kidney disease, transplants are a better option than a lifetime of dialysis. But some kidney grafts will fail eventually. Prolonging the survival time of kidney grafts not only improves patient lifespan, boosts quality of life and reduces health care costs, but it also means that

more kidneys are available for the approximately 90,000 people who are waiting for a transplant in the U.S.

- **Bloomberg Government: CDC Creates Center to Predict Disease Outbreaks:** The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention will launch a new outbreak analysis and forecasting center, tapping a team of outsiders from academia and the private sector to lead the new initiative. The Center for Forecasting and Outbreak Analytics is meant to help predict how a disease spreads and how to react to it quickly. It is also charged with improving the CDC's data tools, the agency said.
- **ABC News: Biden Administration To Begin Rolling Out Booster Shots The Week Of Sept. 20:** The Biden administration is prepared to begin rolling out booster shots for many Americans the week of Sept. 20, the nation's top health officials announced Wednesday, citing data that show the effectiveness of Pfizer and Moderna vaccines against COVID-19 diminishes over time. "Having reviewed the most current data, it is now our clinical judgment that the time to lay out a plan for COVID-19 boosters is now," U.S. Surgeon General Vivek Murthy said at a White House briefing.