

# American Nephrology Nurses Association

Daily Capitol Hill Update - Tuesday, August 4, 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

- 10:30am: President Trump participates in signing ceremony for H.R. 1957, Great Outdoors Act
- Noon: Press Sec. Kayleigh McEnany holds briefing
- 12:45pm: Trump has lunch with Sec. of State Michael Pompeo
- 2pm: Trump receives intelligence briefing

### CONGRESS

- Treasury Sec. Steven Mnuchin and Trump's chief of staff Mark Meadows are set to meet again with House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and Senate Democratic leader Chuck Schumer for stimulus negotiations
- Senate meets at 10am; set to consider nomination of Mark Menezes to be deputy Energy sec.
  - House returns next week

## Congressional, Health Policy, and Political News

- **AP: Progress Slow On Virus Relief Bill As Negotiations Continue:** Negotiators on a huge coronavirus relief bill reported slight progress after talks resumed in the Capitol, with issues like food for the poor and aid to schools struggling to reopen safely assuming a higher profile in the talks. Multiple obstacles remain, including an impasse on extending a \$600-per-week pandemic jobless benefit, funding for the Postal Service, and aid to renters facing eviction. Democratic negotiators spoke of progress Monday at almost the very moment that top Senate Republican Mitch McConnell was slamming them for taking a hard line in the talks.
- **Bloomberg Government: Senate May Delay Recess for Stimulus:** Senate Appropriations Chairman Richard Shelby (R-Ala.) said yesterday senators may remain in Washington through next week if an agreement for a new virus stimulus package isn't reached by tomorrow. "I'd like to do something for Friday," Shelby said, noting that the latest jobs report will be released that day.
- **Bloomberg Government: Antibody Drug Starts Testing in Nursing Homes:** Eli Lilly will begin testing in nursing homes its Covid-19 antibody drug, a treatment with the potential to protect vulnerable groups that vaccines may not cover. The trial kicked off yesterday at several nursing homes across the U.S. and marks the third phase of testing for the monoclonal antibody that Lilly developed with Canadian start-up AbCellera Biologics. The study will

enroll up to 2,400 participants in nursing homes either diagnosed with Covid-19 or at risk of exposure.

- **AP: Trump Wants Broader Role For Telehealth Services In Medicare:** The Trump administration is taking steps to give telehealth a broader role under Medicare, with an executive order that serves as a call for Congress to make doctor visits via personal technology a permanent fixture of the program. The order President Donald Trump signed on Monday applies to one segment of Medicare recipients — people living in rural communities. But administration officials said it's intended as a signal to Congress that Trump is ready to back significant legislation that would permanently open up telehealth as an option for all people with Medicare.