

American Nephrology Nurses Association

Daily Capitol Hill Update - Thursday, August 6, 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

- 11:35am: President Trump departs White House for Cleveland, Ohio
- 1:15pm: Trump delivers remarks on economy in Cleveland, Ohio
- 2:40pm: Trump arrives at Whirlpool Corp. in Clyde, Ohio; takes tour of manufacturing plant, speaks at 3:15pm
- 6pm: Trump attends roundtable with supporters in Bratenahl, Ohio, delivers remarks at 6:30pm
- Trump then departs for Bedminster, N.J., where he's set to arrive at 9:30pm

CONGRESS

- Senate meets at 9:30am; resumes consideration of judicial nominees
- Congressional negotiators set an end-of-week deadline for a deal on pandemic relief

Congressional, Health Policy, and Political News

- **Bloomberg Government: Telehealth to Get Ways and Means Discussion:** The House Ways and Means Committee's Rural and Underserved Communities Health Task Force will host a bipartisan member roundtable on "the Role of Telehealth during COVID-19 and Beyond," according to a committee statement. Telehealth services have become "increasingly important" amid the pandemic and the task force will discuss how people in "rural and urban underserved communities use these technologies," the statement says of the discussion later today.
- **Reuters: Two U.S. Senators Seek Ban On Collecting Customer Biometric Data Without Consent:** Two U.S. senators are proposing legislation to prohibit private companies from collecting biometric data without consumers and employees' consent. Democratic Senator Jeff Merkley of Oregon said this week he is introducing the reform measure along with independent Senator Bernie Sanders of Vermont. The effort comes after growing concerns about biometric data collection among private companies, including the use of facial-recognition technology.
- **Bloomberg Government: U.S. Sues to Block Hospital Merger:** The Department of Justice sued to block Geisinger Health System's acquisition of a 30% stake in Evangelical Community Hospital over concerns the deal is likely to lead to higher costs and lower-quality services for patients.

- **Stat: Teladoc Health Reaches Agreement To Buy Livongo In A \$18.5 Billion Deal:** Telemedicine provider Teladoc Health has reached an agreement to buy the diabetes coaching company Livongo in an \$18.5 billion deal that will create the first true health tech giant – in an era in which demand for virtual care is surging. The merger agreement, announced on Wednesday morning, is expected to create a combined company on track to bring in \$1.3 billion in revenue this year, up 85% over last year.
- **Beckers Hospital Review: CMS shares proposed star ratings changes:** CMS has outlined proposed changes to the Overall Hospital Quality Star Rating methodology, which would take place next year. The agency shared the changes in its Outpatient Prospective Payment System proposed rule released Aug. 4.