

## American Nephrology Nurses Association

### Daily Capitol Hill Update - Tuesday, September 10, 2019

(The following information comes from Bloomberg Government Website)

#### Schedules: White House and Congress

##### WHITE HOUSE

- 12:30pm: President Trump has lunch with Vice President Mike Pence
- 1:50pm: Trump departs White House for National Historically Black Colleges and Universities Week event in Washington
- 2:15pm: Trump makes remarks at National HBCU Week event
- 3:10pm: Arrives back at White House
- 4pm: Trump meets with Congressional Republican leaders
- 5:30pm: Trump takes part in swearing-in ceremony for Kelly Craft as U.S. ambassador to UN

##### CONGRESS

- House meets at 10am; first vote ~2:30pm, last vote ~3pm
  - Takes up rule for considering three bills that would block oil and gas drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, H.R. 1146, the Atlantic and Pacific Coasts, H.R. 1941, and the Eastern Gulf of Mexico, H.R. 205
  - 10:30am: CBC hosts ceremony commemorating 400th anniversary of the first recorded arrival of enslaved African people
  - 1pm: House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, other lawmakers hold forum on gun violence legislation; 1100 Longworth
- Senate meets at 10am
  - Resumes consideration of nomination of Kelly Craft to be U.S. representative to the UN General Assembly; at 11:50am will proceed to vote on confirmation of Craft

#### Congressional, Health Policy, and Political News

- **Pelosi Draft Plan Targets Prices of 250 Drugs:** House Democratic leaders want to empower Medicare to directly negotiate prices on 250 drugs, according to a document circulating among lobbyists and congressional offices. The document, first obtained by Bloomberg Government, outlines the plan that Pelosi has been working on for months. Negotiation with the HHS would be required for those drugs that are the most expensive to Medicare and lack competition from at least two other generic drugs, biologics, or biosimilars, and would include insulin.

- **Senate Labor-HHS Bill Details Emerge:** The Senate Appropriations Labor-HHS-Education Subcommittee today will mark up its fiscal 2020 appropriations bill today, and some details of the measure are making their way out.
  - Medical research funding would increase by \$3 billion under the bill, Jeannie Baumann reports. The proposed increase would bring the National Institutes of Health's budget up to \$42.1 billion, marking a 40% increase since Sen. Roy Blunt (R-Mo.) took over as subcommittee chairman five years ago
  
- **Born-Alive Bill:** House Republicans hold a discussion today on efforts to pressure Democrats to consider Rep. Ann Wagner's (R-Mo.) Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act (H.R. 962). House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy (R-Calif.) will attend, according to a statement from the Susan B. Anthony List, who's national campaign chairwoman Jill Stanek is also attending.
  
- **House Immigration Bill May Move to Floor:** An immigration bill that was yanked off the House floor in late July over internal debate among Democrats could come to the floor later this month stripped of many amendments added in committee. Rep. Veronica Escobar (D-Texas), who sponsored the legislation, said she hopes the bill will come back to the House floor this month for a vote without the language reversing several policies from the Trump administration.
  - "The challenge for our bill at the end of July was that it was no longer an oversight bill, and it was beginning to focus more on immigration and trying to undo some of the really terrible immigration policies implemented by the administration," she said. Escobar said other legislation would address the administration's policies. "We're not giving up on that, we're just going to do it separately," she said.
  
- **House Passes Bill to Cut Diesel Pollution:** A bill intended to lower pollution from diesel engines has advanced out of the House. Lawmakers passed the bill 295-114 yesterday. Introduced March 14 by Rep. Doris Matsui (D-Calif.), the bill would reauthorize the Environmental Protection Agency's program offering grants and rebates to states and localities to move away from diesel engines or to upgrade older diesel-engine vehicles, such as heavy-duty trucks, school buses, and equipment at ports and airports.
  
- **Cummings Tells Ross to Hand Over Documents:** House Oversight Chairman Elijah Cummings (D-Md.) told Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross to produce by Sept. 19 all unredacted documents related to the panel's investigation of Ross' potential conflicts of interest. If the documents are not received, the committee will "consider alternative steps to secure compliance," Cummings wrote in a letter to Ross.
  
- **Trump Assails North Carolina Democrat:** Trump last night urged voters in a North Carolina congressional district to elect Republican Dan Bishop to the House in a special

election today, declaring that the candidate's Democratic challenger, Dan McCready, a former Marine, is part of the "America-hating left."

- Trump spoke at the rally in Fayetteville yesterday, after Vice President Mike Pence crisscrossed the largely rural district earlier in the day to turn out votes for Bishop. The presence of both men in the state reflects Republican worries about the election; while Trump won the district easily in 2016, McCready came within about 900 votes of winning the House seat in 2018. The 2018 election was overturned due to alleged vote fraud by the campaign of McCready's then-opponent, Mark Harris, forcing a new election this year.
  
- **Sanders Under Pressure to Upstage Warren:** Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.) could use a breakout moment in his quest for the Democratic presidential nomination -- one that could come at the expense of his progressive rival Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.). Sanders campaigned in early primary states this summer and added to his pile of far-reaching policy prescriptions, including a \$16.3 trillion climate-change plan and an overhaul of the criminal justice system. But opinion surveys have him consistently and unrelentingly tied for second place with Warren -- and not close to touching front-runner Joe Biden. Sanders will be under increasing pressure at Thursday's Democratic presidential debate in Houston to end a nonaggression pact with Warren and emerge as the definitive second.
  
- **Richest Could Lose Under Warren Wealth Tax:** Billionaires such as Jeff Bezos, Bill Gates and Warren Buffett could have collectively lost hundreds of billions of dollars in net worth over decades if presidential candidate Elizabeth Warren's wealth tax plan had been in effect -- and they had done nothing to avoid it. That's according to calculations in a new paper by two French economists, who helped her devise the proposed tax on the wealthiest Americans.
  - The top 15 richest Americans would have seen their net worth decline by more than half to \$433.9 billion had Warren's plan been in place since 1982, according to the paper by University of California, Berkeley professors Emmanuel Saez and Gabriel Zucman.
  
- **Gorsuch Says U.S. in 'Civility Crisis':** The U.S. is facing a "civility crisis," Supreme Court Justice Neil Gorsuch says in his first book since being appointed by Trump to fill a vacancy that was the focus of an intensely partisan fight. The book, "A Republic, If You Can Keep It," lays out Gorsuch's vision of the court's proper role, arguing that judges should interpret the Constitution according to its original meaning. Conservatives have used that approach to argue for overturning Obamacare, slashing abortion rights and bolstering gun rights.
  - Gorsuch also touches on the atmospherics surrounding his 2017 nomination. The book describes how, the day before the announcement, Gorsuch and his wife caught their flight to Washington with the help of a neighbor who drove them down a bumpy farm track so they wouldn't be seen by reporters staking out the family house in Colorado.

- **Trump Warns of 'Bad People' From Bahamas:** Trump said the U.S. should be cautious about accepting people from the Bahamas displaced by Hurricane Dorian, saying they could include "some very bad people" including gang members and drug dealers. "We have to be very careful. Everybody needs totally proper documentation," Trump told reporters yesterday when asked whether the U.S. is requiring visas for people affected by the storm. He added: "I don't want to allow people that weren't supposed to be in the Bahamas to come into the United States, including some very bad people and some very bad gang members and some very, very bad drug dealers. So we are going to be very, very strong on that."
- **'Red Flag' Measure Heads To California Governor:** California is preparing to give nervous bosses and worried coworkers the power to ask state courts to confiscate the firearms of people they suspect could turn violent. Under legislation headed to Gov. Gavin Newsom (D), employers, colleagues, and school districts would gain the legal standing to request gun violence restraining orders against potentially dangerous individuals.