

American Nephrology Nurses Association

Daily Capitol Hill Update - Thursday, September 10, 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

- 3:30pm: Trump to meet with Sec. of State Mike Pompeo
- 5pm: President departs White House en route for Freeland, Mich.
- 7pm: Delivers remarks in Freeland
- 8:20pm: Leaves for Washington D.C.
- 10:05pm: Trump arrives at the White House
- Vice President Mike Pence visits Lexington, Va

CONGRESS

- House not in session
- Senate convenes at 10am
 - 11:30am: votes on confirmations for three district judge posts
 - Will vote on narrow coronavirus relief bill favored by Republicans

Congressional, Health Policy, and Political News

- **Bloomberg Government: Significant Delay for Mail-Order Drugs Seen:** Mail-order prescription drug deliveries have encountered “significant delays” after changes put in place at the U.S. Postal Service by Postmaster General Louis DeJoy, two senators said. The delays stretched delivery times to 3 to 4 days, from 2 to 3 days, pharmacies and benefit managers reported, according to a Sept. 9 letter and report from Sens. Bob Casey (D-Pa.) and Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.).
- **Bloomberg Government: Campus Research Boost Sought:** University officials told the House Science and Technology Committee yesterday that the pandemic threatens to derail ongoing research and lead to a loss of new talent in laboratories if Congress doesn’t authorize new funding for campuses. “It’s imperative you complete a fourth stimulus that includes direct university funding,” said David Stone, vice president for research at Oakland University.
 - Colleges and graduate students have asked lawmakers to pass a bill (H.R. 7308) that would provide \$26 billion in relief funding for science agencies that fund campus-based research, as well as another measure (H.R. 8044) that would create a fellowship program for researchers whose career opportunities have been affected by the pandemic.
- **The Washington Post: White House Looks At More Executive Actions As Coronavirus-Relief Talks Appear Finished:** With the Senate poised to vote Thursday on a slender GOP coronavirus relief bill that’s certain to fail, chances for a bipartisan deal on new economic stimulus look more remote than ever. This impasse has prompted top White House

officials to consider a new round of executive actions that they hope could direct funding to certain groups amid fears that the nascent economic recovery could fail to gain momentum. White House officials have discussed efforts to unilaterally provide support for the flagging airline industry while also bolstering unemployment benefits, according to two people aware of the deliberations who spoke on the condition of anonymity to share internal policy discussions.

- **Bloomberg Government: Medicare Private Plans Got \$2.6 Billion in Questionable Payments:** A government watchdog agency is urging the Trump administration to tighten its oversight of billions of dollars in potentially improper payments to private Medicare Advantage health plans that cover 24 million beneficiaries. A new report by the Health and Human Services Office of Inspector General says the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services provided \$2.6 billion in “risk-adjusted” payments to 438 Medicare Advantage plans in 2017 based on patient diagnoses that were unrelated to any other clinical services.