

## American Nephrology Nurses Association

### Daily Capitol Hill Update – Thursday, September 12, 2019

(The following information comes from Bloomberg Government Website)

#### Schedules: White House and Congress

##### WHITE HOUSE

- 12:30pm: President Trump has lunch with Sec. of State Michael Pompeo
- 5:35pm: Trump departs White House for Baltimore, Md.
- 6:30pm: Trump takes part in joint fundraising committee reception at Baltimore Marriott Waterfront
- 7:10pm: President delivers remarks at 2019 House Republican Conference Member Retreat Dinner
- 8:55pm: President arrives at White House
- 7pm: Vice President Mike Pence makes remarks at Concerned Women for America's 40th Anniversary Celebration event in Washington

##### CONGRESS

- House meets at 9am: first vote ~10:30am, last vote ~11am
  - Takes up bill that would block oil and gas drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, H.R. 1146
  - NOTE: House passed legislation Wednesday that would prohibit offshore oil and gas leasing on the Pacific and Atlantic coasts
- Senate meets at 10am:
  - Will vote on confirmation of Jennifer Nordquist to be executive director of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development and confirmation of Thomas Feddo to be assistant secretary of investment security for the Treasury Department

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

- **FDA Eyes Bolstering Data Use in Drug Approvals:** An FDA plan to turbocharge its use of patient data to review drugs and medical devices will be the first in a series of actions that make better use of artificial intelligence, blockchain, and other new technologies for approval decisions. The FDA plan to modernize how it uses tech to make regulatory decisions will be released in the coming weeks.
- **FDA Urged to Bar Cesium Chloride Supplements:** Dietary supplements containing cesium chloride pose health risks and should be pulled from the market, according to Public Citizen's complaint against the FDA in the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia. Cesium chloride, or cesium salt, is promoted as an alternative treatment to prevent or cure cancer. But substantial scientific evidence shows the substance poses

significant health risks, including causing life-threatening adverse cardiovascular events, the nonprofit public interest law firm said.

- **Democrats Brace for an Endurance Test at Debate:** The third Democratic primary debate today will have a different chemistry than the two before it: Fewer elements, but a potentially more volatile mix. The event in Houston will be the first time the top 10 candidates will appear on the same debate stage.
  - By virtue of his big national polling lead, Joe Biden will take center stage, flanked by Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.) to his left and Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.) to his right. It will be the first time Biden and Warren have appeared together at a debate. And the context has changed in the six weeks since the Democratic debate in Detroit: Two major mass shootings, a televised town hall on climate change and more hints of a recession on the horizon. The event at Texas Southern University will be broadcast on ABC stations – and in Spanish on the Univision network – from 8 p.m. to 11 p.m.
- **Biden Slides Among Democrats:** Joe Biden's hold on the top of the Democratic polls has grown a little more tenuous in the latest CNN poll. The former vice president was at 24% support among Democrats and Democratic-leaning independents in the poll conducted Sept. 5-9, down from 32% in the same poll in May. His presidential rivals, Sens. Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.) and Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.), are neck and neck behind him, at 18% and 17%, respectively. Warren has sharply improved her margin from the May poll, when she was at 7%.
- **Rep. Collins Loses Legal Challenge:** Rep. Christopher Collins (R-N.Y.), who was charged with insider trading, cannot review materials he says would show that investigators violated a constitutional provision limiting official inquiries into legislative matters, a judge ruled.
- **Texas Polling Closures:** Texas leads the nation in polling place closures since the 2013 Supreme Court decision that released the state from federal oversight of voting changes, according to a study by a civil rights group. Texas has shuttered 750 polling places since 2012, with a majority of those closures, 590, occurring between the 2014 and 2018 midterm elections, according to a Sept 10 report issued by the Leadership Conference Education Fund.
- **USMCA Offer Aims to Resolve Democratic Doubts:** U.S. Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer sent House Democrats a new offer on the stalled United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement in an effort to resolve their concerns about the trade deal and finally put it to a vote. House Ways and Means Chairman Richard Neal (D-Mass.) said yesterday there has been significant progress on two of four issues that Democrats sought to change. "I don't think anybody is quite ready yet to show their final hand but the discussions continue to go forward," he said. "The one that still appears stubborn is labor enforcement."

- **Congress Targets Death Rates of Pregnant Women, New Moms:** Legislation to curb the U.S.'s high rate of women who die from pregnancy or childbirth-related complications could be hampered by a disagreement over whether to require Medicaid to extend its coverage for new mothers to a full year after giving birth. Republicans and Democrats alike see a need to take action – so much so that their proposals to fix the problem largely overlap. But they're split over whether to require states to extend postpartum Medicaid coverage to a full year or let each state determine individually how to handle the problem.
- **Trump Formally Nominates Scalia for DOL:** The White House formally nominated Eugene Scalia to be the next Secretary of Labor. Trump said in a July 18 tweet that he intended to tap Scalia to be the next labor chief. The formal nomination, sent to the Senate yesterday, allows lawmakers to tee up the confirmation process, with an initial hearing possible in the Senate Health, Education, Labor & Pensions Committee before the end of the month.
- **Safety Board Pick Faces Questions on Science:** Senators questioned Trump's nominee to join the agency tasked with probing industrial chemical accidents, asking about her belief in climate change and how she would support an agency the president has tried to defund in past budget requests. "Donald Trump has tried to eliminate the Chemical Safety Board – will you support the mission of the organization?" ranking member Sen. Tom Carper (D-Del.) asked Katherine Lemos during the two-hour confirmation hearing before the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works yesterday.
- **Trump Delays China Tariff Increase:** Trump said he was postponing the imposition of 5% extra tariffs on Chinese goods by two weeks, a move that delays the next escalation of the trade war and brightens the backdrop for upcoming negotiations. "At the request of the Vice Premier of China, Liu He, and due to the fact that the People's Republic of China will be celebrating their 70th Anniversary on October 1st, we have agreed, as a gesture of good will, to move the increased Tariffs on 250 Billion Dollars worth of goods (25% to 30%), from October 1st to October 15th," Trump wrote yesterday on Twitter.
- **Trump Rules Out Capital Gains Tax Cut:** Trump has decided against making an end-run around Congress to cut the tax on capital gains by indexing gains to inflation, the White House said last night. The decision was announced after a meeting earlier in the day between Trump and his economic advisers, where they discussed whether to move ahead with the tax break. "President Trump was thoroughly briefed on the complex economic, legal and regulatory issues, and concluded that at this time he does not feel enough of the benefits will go to the middle class," White House spokesman Judd Deere said in a statement.