

# American Nephrology Nurses Association

Daily Capitol Hill Update - Thursday, September 16, 2021

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

- Biden will speak from the White House at 1:45 p.m. about the economy.

### CONGRESS:

- House: Recess
- Senate: Recess

## Congressional, Health Policy, and Political News

- **Stat: Moderate Democrats Sink Pelosi's Drug Pricing Bill In Key Committee Vote:** House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's aggressive drug pricing package failed a key committee vote on Wednesday, prompting questions about whether the measure can survive a full House vote. Reps. Scott Peters (Calif.), Kurt Schrader (Ore.), and Kathleen Rice (N.Y.), all Democrats, followed through on their threats to vote against the provision in the House Energy and Commerce Committee's markup. Republicans unanimously opposed the measure, too, leading to a tie vote that means the provision failed to advance to a full House vote.
- **The Hill: House Panel Advances Key Portion Of Democrats' \$3.5T Bill:** The House Ways and Means Committee on Wednesday approved a major portion of Democrats' \$3.5 trillion social spending package, including provisions that would raise taxes on high-income individuals and corporations in order to offset the cost of new spending. The committee advanced the legislation in a near party-line vote of 24-19. Rep. Stephanie Murphy (D-Fla.) joined Republicans in voting against the measure. It now heads to the House Budget Committee, which will combine the various pieces of the spending package approved by House panels.
- **Bloomberg Government: CDC Advisers to Meet Next Week on Booster Shots:** Advisers to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention will hold a two-day meeting next week to discuss booster shots for Covid-19 vaccines. The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices posted notice of the meeting, which will be held Sept. 22-23, on its website yesterday. The panel of outside experts advises the CDC on how best to administer new vaccines. The administration had first planned to begin distributing boosters on Sept. 20.
- **Modern Healthcare: Almost 90% Of Pandemic-Era Medicaid Enrollees At Risk Of Losing Coverage:** Almost 90% of people expected to have gained Medicaid coverage during the

COVID-19 pandemic could get dropped from the program once the public health emergency ends, a new report finds. Federal law has prohibited states from kicking beneficiaries off of their Medicaid programs during the public health emergency. That, coupled with COVID-related job losses, has caused membership to remain higher than usual. However, 15 million new members risk losing coverage once the federal government ends its emergency declaration, researchers at the Urban Institute said in a report released Wednesday.

- **Bloomberg Government: FTC Warns Health App Makers on HIPAA Compliance:** The Federal Trade Commission issued a policy statement clarifying mobile health app makers' obligations to notify consumers if their data is exposed or shared without their permission. FTC chair Lina Khan said the health privacy policy issued yesterday is meant to fill a "gap" in regulations for health apps, which generally aren't covered under the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act, which addresses safeguards of health data. Andrea Vittorio has more.
  - The Federal Trade Commission also plans to investigate abuses of intellectual property rights that have caused anti-competitive conditions in areas such as pharmaceuticals, technology, and gasoline refining. FTC members approved in a 3-2 vote eight new resolutions, including one targeting intellectual property. The resolution allows FTC regulators to "efficiently and expeditiously" investigate potentially abusive conduct in intellectual property over the next decade.
- **Bloomberg Government: Record High Number Enrolled in ACA Coverage:** A record 12.2 million Americans are now enrolled in state and federal marketplace health coverage after the recent special enrollment period added more than 2.8 million people, the Biden White House said. Another 82 million were enrolled in Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program as of April, federal data showed. "There has never been a more critical time to ensure quality health coverage for all Americans," HHS Secretary Xavier Becerra said,