

# American Nephrology Nurses Association

Daily Capitol Hill Update - Thursday, September 17, 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

- 11:30am: President Trump participates in a credentialing ceremony for newly appointed ambassadors
- 2:20pm: Trump departs White House for National Archives Museum; delivers remarks at the White House Conference on American History at 2:30pm, returns to White House at 3:10pm
- 6:20pm: Trump departs White House for Wisconsin
- 9pm: Trump speaks at campaign rally in Mosinee, Wisconsin; arrives back at White House at 12:30am

### CONGRESS

- Senate meets at 9:45am; resumes consideration of judicial nominees
- House meets at 9am with first votes expected 11:15am
  - Set to consider a resolution “condemning all forms of anti-Asian sentiment as related to Covid-19”
- Also to consider H.R. 2694, a measure on pregnant worker discrimination

## Congressional, Health Policy, and Political News

- **The Hill: GAO Report Finds Brokers Offered False Info On Coverage For Pre-Existing Conditions:** Some health insurance brokers provided misleading or false information to potential customers about whether their plans covered preexisting conditions, according to an undercover audit completed by the nonpartisan Government Accountability Office. The audit, requested by Senate Democrats, sought to determine whether companies selling health plans exempt from Affordable Care Act coverage requirements were being honest about the limitations of the plans, which tend to be cheaper but aren't comprehensive and typically don't cover preexisting conditions like cancer or diabetes.
- **Bloomberg Government: White House Open to Boost Stimulus Offer:** The White House signaled that it is willing to bolster its offer in talks with Democrats and that Republicans in the Senate should go along in order to seal a stimulus deal in the next week to 10 days. Chief of Staff Mark Meadows said the president is open to the compromise \$1.52 trillion stimulus proposal from a bipartisan group of House lawmakers that was an effort to break a months-long deadlock over bolstering the U.S. economy during the pandemic.
- **Bloomberg Government: Fed Plans Changes to Main Street Program:** Federal Reserve Chairman Jerome Powell said the Fed will be making some changes to its Main Street Lending Program, which is aimed at helping small- to mid-sized companies and nonprofits that have struggled during the pandemic. Currently banks that make the loans

in the program, and subsequently sell 95% of each loan to the Fed, are applying the same underwriting standards that they would to their regular loans, Powell said. The Fed is working to make sure banks understand the terms of the program clearly and that it's meant for borrowers that don't have access to borrowing under normal terms right now.

- Fed officials held interest rates near zero and signaled they would stay there for at least three years, vowing to delay tightening until the U.S. gets back to maximum employment and 2% inflation. The U.S. central bank "expects to maintain an accommodative stance" until those outcomes are achieved, it said in a statement yesterday following a two-day meeting that beefed up its description of future policy.
- **Bloomberg Government: Probe of Jobless-Aid System Hints at Long-Term Fix:** The U.S. Labor Department watchdog is developing a comprehensive report on how some of the country's most-populous states have processed unemployment insurance claims during the pandemic, a study poised to inform legislative discussions about whether to reinstate enhanced benefits. The review, part of the DOL Office of Inspector General's effort to evaluate pandemic response, is wide-ranging and extends beyond a traditional focus on rooting out fraud and improper payments, according to a copy of a notification letter and interviews with eight state employment officials and outside experts.
- **Bloomberg Government: Tax Credits Would Aid Companies:** As Congress debates extending the Paycheck Protection Program for small businesses, a new Brookings Institution report proposes just scrapping the rescue loan program and replacing it with more targeted tax credit measures. Under its proposal, small firms that have seen a revenue drop of 30% in a given quarter would be eligible for two tax credits that could provide them with as much as \$17,000 per employee, per quarter. The funds could go toward both payroll and non-payroll expenses, according to the report from the Hamilton Project, an economic policy initiative at the Brookings think tank.
- **The Wall Street Journal: CDC Chief Predicts Covid-19 Vaccine May Not Be Generally Available Until Next Summer:** A top Trump administration health official predicted that a Covid-19 vaccine may not be available to the general public until next summer as the daily number of new coronavirus cases in the U.S. climbed to roughly 40,000. The director of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Robert Redfield, said he believes a vaccine will be available to the general public in the late second quarter or third quarter of 2021. At a Senate Appropriations subcommittee hearing on Wednesday, Dr. Redfield said the vaccine would be in "very limited supply" at the end of the year and priority would be given to individuals at the greatest risk and first responders.