

# American Nephrology Nurses Association

Daily Capitol Hill Update - Friday, September 17, 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 is scheduled at 8:30 a.m. to reconvene the Major Economies Forum on Energy and Climate.
- At 11:45 a.m. the White House Covid-19 Response Team will give a press briefing.

### CONGRESS:

- House: Recess
- Senate: Recess

## Congressional, Health Policy, and Political News

- **Bloomberg Government: Home Care Plan Could Fail Without \$250 Billion:** Labor, aging, and disability advocates are fighting to get lawmakers to put at least \$250 billion toward their plan to expand home and community-based care for the elderly and disabled and improve conditions for the workers that tend to them. But the plan, which the administration wants funded at \$400 billion over eight years, could fail if Congress approves a low amount that spurs states to not to take the money and leave Medicaid programs as is.
- **Bloomberg Government: Biden Discusses Economic Plan, Debt Ceiling with Pelosi, Schumer:** Biden discussed plans for advancing his economic policy agenda and addressing the debt ceiling with Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) and Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-N.Y.), according to a White House readout of yesterday's call, Se Young Lee reports.
  - Biden, Pelosi and Schumer agreed repealing tax cuts implemented during the Trump administration is "only fair" to support working families. The call also discussed plans on passing a continuing resolution to fund government operations. Maintaining the U.S. government's credit and keeping government running are bipartisan responsibilities and "Any suggestion by Republicans that they will shirk their responsibility is indefensible," the statement says.
- **Bloomberg Government: Patent Tribunal Under Fire in Drug Price Fight:** Lawmakers are calling out a U.S. Patent and Trademark Office tribunal favored by generic drugmakers over policy they say blocks pharmaceutical competition, urging the agency to take action amid an ongoing spat to lower prices on prescription drugs. The Patent Trial and Appeal Board has

“begun frequently denying petitions” to reconsider the validity of already-granted IP rights “for reasons not based on the merits,” lawmakers from both parties wrote.

- **CIDRAP: Studies Show Good COVID Booster Effect, Waning 2nd-Dose Protection:** Several new studies on the Pfizer/BioNTech mRNA COVID-19 vaccine describe good effectiveness against the Delta (B.1.617.2) variant after a booster dose and high but waning protection against infection and severe illness 6 months after the second dose. Other, much smaller, studies demonstrated the safety of third mRNA vaccine doses. And a new British study on waning two-dose effectiveness coincides with the recent decision by UK officials to recommend booster doses.
- **Fox News: CDC Study Finds Childhood Obesity Increased At ‘Substantial And Alarming’ Levels During COVID Pandemic:** Child obesity levels in the U.S. increased significantly during the COVID-19 pandemic, particularly among children who were already obese from the outset, according to the findings of a new report from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The CDC’s Dr. Alyson Goodman, who contributed to the report, said the results signal a "profound increase in weight gain for kids" and are "substantial and alarming." The study, released Thursday, is the largest yet to look at obesity trends during the pandemic. Among its chief findings was that roughly 22% of children and teens were obese last August – up from 19% a year earlier.
- **KHN: Covid-Overwhelmed Hospitals Postpone Cancer Care And Other Treatment:** It’s a bad time to get sick in Oregon. That’s the message from some doctors, as hospitals fill up with covid-19 patients and other medical conditions go untreated. Charlie Callagan looked perfectly healthy sitting outside recently on his deck in the smoky summer air in the small Rogue Valley town of Merlin, in southern Oregon. But Callagan, 72, has a condition called multiple myeloma, a blood cancer of the bone marrow. “It affects the immune system; it affects the bones,” he said. “I had a PET scan that described my bones as looking ‘kind of Swiss cheese-like.’”