

# American Nephrology Nurses Association

Daily Capitol Hill Update - Thursday, September 2, 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 deliver remarks at 11:30 a.m. on his administration's response to Hurricane Ida.
- At 1:45 p.m., the president will participate in a virtual meeting with rabbis to commemorate the upcoming Jewish holidays.

### CONGRESS:

- Out of Session

## Congressional, Health Policy, and Political News

- **Bloomberg Government: Lawmakers Add \$25 Billion for Pentagon in Defense Bill:** The Pentagon would be authorized to spend \$25 billion more than President Joe Biden's recommended level for the next fiscal year, as House lawmakers cited a need to counter an emerging China and demanded that Congress receive detailed accounting and periodic updates on Afghanistan after a messy withdrawal. More than a dozen Democrats on the House Armed Services Committee defied Biden by joining with Republicans to increase the Pentagon's budget to \$740 billion from the \$715 billion the White House requested. The provision is part of the fiscal 2022 defense authorization bill. The funding authorization is similar to the defense policy bill the Senate Armed Services Committee approved in July.
  - The House Armed Services Committee approved the defense policy bill 57-2 early this morning. The full House will have to consider the measure next. The Senate also has to approve its own version of the bill before it heads for final negotiations with the House.
- **Bloomberg Government: FDA Regains Rulemaking Authority in Trump Reversal:** The Food and Drug Administration again has the authority to issue its own regulations under a notice released yesterday that reverses a change from the Trump administration. Former HHS Secretary Alex Azar issued a memo last year requiring that any rules coming out of the department's agencies and offices would need to be signed by the secretary. The notice from Secretary Xavier Becerra, revokes that memo.
- **Bloomberg Government: Painless, Silent Organ Damage Seen in 'Long Hauler' Study:** Kidney damage is painless and silent, and it's the latest ailment to be identified afflicting a large swath of Covid-19 survivors. Injury to the blood-filtering organ can occur among people who recover from the virus at home, a study found. Even non-hospitalized patients with no

renal problems have almost a twofold higher risk of developing end-stage kidney disease, compared with someone who was never infected with the virus.

- **Bloomberg Government: Hospital Admissions Fall for First Time Since June in U.S.:** Hospital admissions of Covid-19 patients in the U.S. are declining for the first time since late June, a sign that the latest surge may have peaked – at least for now. The seven-day average of new daily admissions with confirmed Covid-19 fell 2.4% from a week earlier to 12,280, the first such drop since June 27, according to the Health and Human Services Department. The decline is led by drops in recent hot spots like Florida and Texas.
- **Politico: Newsom has Strong Support in Latest California Recall Survey:** With a strong majority of residents backing his handling of Covid-19 amid the Delta variant spread, California Gov. Gavin Newsom enjoys support from a strong majority of likely voters who say they're voting against his recall, according to a new poll from the Public Policy Institute of California.
  - The survey released Wednesday night showed that 58 percent of likely voters say they'll reject the recall, with just 39 percent voting yes. The margin is slightly larger than in two previous PPIC polls this year with less than two weeks left until the Sept. 14 election, the latest evidence that the Democratic governor has gained breathing room in recent polls, according to a consolidated average by FiveThirtyEight.
- **Bloomberg Government: Moderna Seeks U.S. Authorization for Booster Shot:** Moderna said that it had filed initial data with the FDA for clearance of a third-dose booster of its Covid-19 vaccine, adding fuel to a debate over the need for additional doses. In a statement yesterday, the company said its booster, using a reduced dose of 50 micrograms, which is half the dose used in the existing vaccine, raised antibody levels against the more infectious delta variant by more than 40-fold in clinical trials.