

## American Nephrology Nurses Association

### Daily Capitol Hill Update - Monday, September 23, 2019

(The following information comes from Bloomberg Government Website)

#### Schedules: White House and Congress

##### WHITE HOUSE

- 11:30am: President Trump leads UN event on religious freedom

##### CONGRESS

- House not in session; meets at noon Tuesday
- Senate meets at 3pm
  - Resumes consideration of nomination of Brian McGuire to be a deputy undersecretary of the Treasury
- Democrats and U.S. Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer will meet again this week to discuss USMCA trade deal

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

- **Drug Price Bill:** The House Energy and Commerce Committee's health panel will hold a hearing Wednesday on legislation dealing with drug prices, including a bill (H.R. 3) unveiled last week that would direct the secretary of the Health and Human Services Department to negotiate on the price of at least 25 but up to as many as 250 medicines. The government would focus on certain drugs: those with little competition but have been on the market long enough for manufacturers to have recouped their research and development dollars.
  - The House Education and Labor Health, Employment, Labor and Pensions Subcommittee plans a hearing Thursday on drug prices and transparency.
- **Medical Research:** The House Labor-HHS-Education Subcommittee on Wednesday will discuss medical research institutes including the National Institutes of Health.
- **Medical Bill Forgiveness:** Democratic presidential candidate Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.) on Saturday introduced a plan to cancel \$81 billion in past-due medical bills and replace private credit-reporting companies with a public registry that will exclude debt tied to health costs.
- **Pelosi's Warning:** Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) signaled her readiness to take stronger action against Trump over the call. "If the administration persists in blocking this whistle-blower from disclosing to Congress a serious possible breach of constitutional duties by the President, they will be entering a grave new chapter of lawlessness which will take us into a whole new stage of investigation," Pelosi said yesterday in a letter to colleagues.

- Pelosi didn't mention impeachment, although a key House lawmaker -- Intelligence Committee Chairman Adam Schiff (D-Calif.) -- suggested Trump's actions "may very well have crossed the Rubicon" warranting further action.
- **AOC Says Failure to Impeach is a Scandal:** Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (D-N.Y.) said Democrats were being weak on Trump. "At this point, the bigger national scandal isn't the president's lawbreaking behavior - it is the Democratic Party's refusal to impeach him for it," she tweeted on Saturday night. "It is one thing for a sitting president to break the law. It's another to let him," she said in a series of postings. "The integrity of our democracy isn't threatened when a president breaks the law. It's threatened when we do nothing about it. The GOP's silence & refusal to act shouldn't be a surprise. Ours is."
  - Calls for a stronger Democratic response are coming not just from the freshman congresswoman from New York and her allies, but much of the Democratic presidential field. Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.) pressed Congress to "step up" and begin impeachment proceedings against Trump while campaigning in the state.
- **Warren Overtakes Biden in Iowa:** Warren took the lead in Iowa in a new poll released Saturday, barely dislodging Biden from the No. 1 spot and putting the two of them in a statistical tie in a key state on the road to the nomination. Warren has the support of 22% of likely participants in the Iowa caucuses, up 7 percentage points from June. Biden was second with 20%, down slightly from June. Though the result is in the poll's 4 percentage point margin of error, it's the first time Warren has led Biden in the Iowa Poll series.
- **Sanders Begins Iowa Tour:** Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.) is working to convince working-class voters who were drawn to Donald Trump in 2016 that they will find a lot to like with his own brand of economic populism. Sanders plans to take this strategy for a trial run on Monday with a "Bernie Beats Trump Tour" of four Iowa counties that went for President Barack Obama in 2008 and 2012 and to Trump in 2016. The goal is to prove that he is the candidate best able to woo back working-class voters in Rust-Belt states like Michigan, Wisconsin and Pennsylvania, longtime Democratic strongholds that were captured by Trump and that are key to winning the presidency.
- **Warren, Sanders Add Trips to UAW Pickets:** Biden and Warren joined striking United Auto Workers members on a picket line yesterday as they compete for the support of a critical voting bloc in the race for the Democratic presidential nomination.
- **Booker to End Bid Without Cash:** Sen. Cory Booker's (D-N.J.) fundraising isn't keeping pace with what's required and the New Jersey lawmaker will quit the Democratic presidential race unless he collects \$1.7 million in the next 10 days, the campaign said. "If we cannot raise the \$1.7 million to scale up our operation, we don't believe we are

going to be in position to compete for the nomination," Addisu Demissie, Booker's manager, said Saturday in a call with reporters.

- **Kennedy Takes on Markey:** Rep. Joe Kennedy (D-Mass.) formally announced a challenge to Sen. Ed Markey (D-Mass.) in next year's Democratic primary, setting up a blockbuster battle between an heir to an American political dynasty and an incumbent now in his fifth decade in Congress. At a Saturday news conference at the East Boston Social Center, Kennedy said he wants to remove significant barriers to success for people, adding "I'm running for the U.S. Senate to tear that down, to fight back with everything we've got." He also reflected on his family, which arrived in America as struggling immigrants from Ireland and went on to produce a president, three U.S. senators and members of Congress.
- **Collins Charged With Insider Trading Appeals Decision:** A House Republican charged with insider trading is appealing a judge's decision that he can't review materials he says would show investigators violated a constitutional provision limiting official inquiries into legislative matters. Christopher Collins (R-N.Y.), was charged last year with trading with non-public information about Innate Immunotherapeutics, an Australian biotechnology firm. He was arrested in August 2018 along with his son, Cameron Collins, and Stephen Zarsky, father of Cameron's fiancée. All have pleaded not guilty.
- **U.S. Signs Asylum Deal With El Salvador:** The U.S. could be able to send some asylum seekers at its borders to El Salvador as part of a new cooperation deal signed between the two countries Friday, according to acting Homeland Security Secretary Kevin McAleenan, who made remarks to reporters at the signing. The agreement was signed by El Salvadoran Foreign Minister Alexandra Hill and McAleenan at the headquarters of the U.S. Customs and Border Protection in Washington. McAleenan said the agreement is a broad cooperation to help El Salvador develop its own asylum acceptance system.