

## American Nephrology Nurses Association

### Daily Capitol Hill Update - Tuesday, September 24, 2019

(The following information comes from Bloomberg Government Website)

#### Schedules: White House and Congress

##### WHITE HOUSE

- 9:25am: President Trump departs Trump Tower in New York City for UN Headquarters
- 10:15am: Trump addresses UN General Assembly
- 11:15am: Trump meets with U.K. Prime Minister Boris Johnson
- 12:15p: Trump has a meeting with Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi
- 1pm: Trump participates in pull-aside with UN Sec. General Antonio Guterres
  - 1:20pm: Trump participates in luncheon hosted by Guterres
- 3pm: Trump participates in pull-aside with president of the 74th session of UN General Assembly
- 3:30pm: Trump participates in bilateral meeting with Iraq President Barham Salih at Lotte New York Palace
- 4pm: Trump participates in multilateral meeting with Middle East Strategic Alliance
- 7:15pm: Trump, first lady Melania Trump attend diplomatic reception
- 9:10pm: Trump due back at Trump Tower where he'll remain overnight

##### CONGRESS

- House meets at noon
  - House Democrats to meet 4pm to discuss whistle-blower complaint raising concerns about President Trump's interactions with Ukraine's leader
- Senate meets at 10am; to resume post-cloture consideration of the nomination of Brian McGuire to be a Deputy Under Secretary of Treasury
  - Senate to also consider nominations of Joseph Cella to be ambassador to Fiji, Kiribati, Nauru, Tonga and Tuvalu; Daniel Jorjani to be solicitor of Interior Dept and David Black to be deputy commissioner of Social Security
  - Senate adjourns for policy luncheons at 2:15pm

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

- **Pelosi Drug Bill Vote Possible in October:** Wendell Primus, Pelosi's senior health advisor, unexpectedly stopped by a Medicare conference yesterday to promote Pelosi's drug pricing bill, which was released last week. Primus said the bill could make it to the

House floor by the end of October, an ambitious timeline for the recently released legislation.

- Primus used the conference as a platform to push back against claims the bill was socialist and would disrupt innovation. The measure says that research and development costs "must be compensated for," Primus said. The National Institutes of Health "whose main job it is to foster development of orphan drugs" would also receive funding through the bill, he said.
- **Puerto Rico Medicaid:** Grassley yesterday said a response he received from CMS Administrator Seema Verma on how much Puerto Rico receives in Medicaid funding shows "inconsistencies" between her agency and the local government of Puerto Rico. "It's my goal to provide Medicaid beneficiaries the help they need while holding the government accountable as stewards of the program," Grassley said in a statement.
- **NYC Gateway May Get Senate Boost:** Senate appropriators are including language in their transportation spending bill that's designed to support the \$30 billion trans-Hudson Gateway bridge and tunnel project by allowing New York and New Jersey to count federal loans toward their cost-sharing requirements. The provision in the fiscal 2020 appropriations bill advanced in committee last week is aimed at thwarting the Trump administration's opposition to the project. It would bar the Federal Transit Administration from enforcing a 2018 policy, but stops short of provisions in the House-passed version.
- **Benefits Agency Urged to Delay Shakeup:** House and Senate Democrats with oversight of the Labor Department's benefits branch want government officials to stall a looming staff shakeup until someone explains to Congress what's going on, House Education and Labor Chairman Bobby Scott (D-Va.) and Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee ranking member Patty Murray (D-Wash.) said in a letter to Employee Benefits Security Administration Director Preston Rutledge.
- **China Gives New Waivers for Soy:** The Chinese government has given new waivers to several domestic state and private companies to buy U.S. soybeans without being subject to retaliatory tariffs, according to people familiar with the situation. The companies received waivers for between 2 million to 3 million tons, said the people, who asked not to be identified as the information is private. Some firms already bought at least 20 cargoes, or about 1.2 million tons, from the U.S. Pacific Northwest yesterday, the people said.
- **Japan-U.S. Trade Talks End:** Japan and the U.S. have finished talks on a trade deal with no indication yet on how the two sides responded to Trump's threat to slap tariffs on the \$50 billion in cars and parts shipped by Japan to the U.S. annually. Japanese Foreign Minister Toshimitsu Motegi told reporters yesterday in New York that he would explain more about the tariffs in two days' time after a meeting of Trump and Japanese Prime

Minister Shinzo Abe set for the sidelines of the General Assembly. He added that he didn't think the car tariffs would be a cause for concern.

- **Surging Warren Now a Target:** Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.) has been on a steady upward trajectory for six months, raising big money from small donors, drawing huge crowds, and rising from also-ran to top-tier. And a new Iowa poll has her in first place. But now she's a target. Warren has risen to the point where voters and reporters are both scrutinizing her record. She's also becoming the focus of attacks from rivals concerned about her momentum. Unaffiliated Democrats say Warren's campaign has consistently impressed them.
- **Group Says Trump May Have Broken Election Law:** Trump might have violated election law when he urged his Ukrainian counterpart to investigate Biden, according to complaints filed by a campaign finance watchdog group. Common Cause said that Trump, Giuliani, and other political operatives solicited foreign nationals for campaign help when they asked Ukrainian authorities to reopen an investigation into largely discredited allegations against the Democratic front-runner and his son Hunter Biden. Federal law prohibits foreign citizens from contributing money or other things of value to campaigns. It also bars candidates and their representatives from asking foreigners for such assistance.
- **New York Urges Rejecting Trump Subpoena Challenge:** Manhattan District Attorney Cyrus Vance Jr. urged a judge to reject Trump's challenge to state prosecutors' subpoenas demanding eight years of the president's tax returns in a probe of whether the Trump Organization falsified business records. Trump's challenge belongs in New York state rather than federal court, Vance argued in court papers filed yesterday. He also said that the president hasn't shown he's immune from investigation for things he did before he was elected.