

# American Nephrology Nurses Association

Daily Capitol Hill Update – Friday, September 25, 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

- 11am: President Trump participates in Latinos for Trump roundtable in Doral, Florida before traveling to Atlanta
- 2:40pm: Trump speaks on Black Economic Empowerment in Atlanta, Ga. before traveling back to Washington
- 6:45pm: Trump participates in fundraiser at his Washington D.C. hotel; then travels to Virginia
- 9pm: Trump holds campaign rally in Newport News, Va.
- 11:30am: Trump arrives at White House

### CONGRESS

- Senate returns Tuesday

## Congressional, Health Policy, and Political News

- **Bloomberg Government: Agencies Racing to Finalize New Regulations:** Federal agencies appear on track to issue at least a dozen high-priority regulations by the end of 2020, racing to enact Trump's agenda. Underscoring that sense of urgency, this month the Trump administration unveiled a pair of proposed rules – one empowering the Department of Homeland Security to expand its collection of biometric data from those seeking to enter the U.S., and one from the Department of Labor that could redefine what it means to be an independent contractor – each with just a 30-day window for public comment, rather than the more typical 60 or 90 days.
- **Bloomberg Government: Ginsburg's Death Threatens Biosimilars:** The system that allows for low-cost versions of biologic drugs is at risk of being eliminated if Obamacare is reversed in the wake of Ruth Bader Ginsburg's death. The Affordable Care Act created a pathway for companies to make biosimilars – generic versions of biologic drugs that are very similar, although not identical, to the originals – without having to jump through costly hoops associated with getting a novel medicine approved.
- **Kaiser Health News: Trump Approves Final Plan To Import Drugs From Canada 'For A Fraction Of The Price':** President Donald Trump, outlining his "America First Health Plan" Thursday, announced that his administration will allow the importation of prescription drugs from Canada. The final plan clears the way for Florida and other states to implement a program bringing medications across the border despite the strong objections of drugmakers and the Canadian government.
- **USA Today: Rapid, Cheap COVID Tests Are Ready But Regulatory Barriers Remain:**

Two months after federal regulators unveiled rules for at-home coronavirus tests, no company has federal approval to sell these fast and cheap tests even though the technology is ready. Molecular PCR tests processed at medical labs remain the standard of accurate testing, but they are more expensive and results can take days to process. Antigen tests are less expensive, plentiful and deliver results in minutes. Three companies gained Food and Drug Administration authorization to sell antigen testing instruments to labs or clinics. A fourth company, Abbott Laboratories, won approval to market a \$5 rapid, credit card-sized test administered by a health care professional.