

American Nephrology Nurses Association

Daily Capitol Hill Update – Monday, September 27, 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 has no public events scheduled for today. White House Press Secretary Jen Psaki is scheduled to hold a press briefing at 1 p.m.

CONGRESS:

- The House plans to begin consideration of the Senate-passed, bipartisan infrastructure bill. The chamber is also scheduled to consider five measures under expedited procedure.
- The Senate plans a procedural vote on the House-passed continuing resolution that includes a proposal opposed by Republicans to increase the debt limit.

Congressional, Health Policy, and Political News

- **Bloomberg Government: House Readies Reconciliation Vote:** House Democrats are heading toward a showdown this week over President Joe Biden's economic agenda, with a planned vote on a \$550 billion infrastructure package that has riven the caucus in two and still more negotiations on broader tax and spending plan.
 - Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) put the infrastructure bill on the schedule for today under pressure from moderates eager to get the bipartisan bill, which has already passed the Senate, enacted. But progressives – whose votes are likely vital – are insisting on progress first on the bigger social-spending bill.
 - Last night, she told House Democrats in a letter that the infrastructure legislation will be voted on Thursday. Party leaders are continuing to negotiate among factions on the second bill encompassing much of the rest of Biden's plans. "We're going to pass the bill this week," Pelosi said of the public works legislation on ABC's "This Week" program yesterday. "I'm never bringing a bill to the floor that doesn't have the votes."
- **Bloomberg Government: Drug Pricing Allies See Promise in Leahy Bill:** A planned bill to make changes to how the Patent Trial and Appeal Board reviews patents includes a new validity challenge that supporters of lower drug prices believe could be useful in getting more generics on the market. The legislation, which Sen. Patrick Leahy (D-Vt.) plans to introduce, would allow the Patent Trial and Appeal Board to examine a patent's validity under the double-patenting doctrine during a review challenge.
- **Bloomberg Government: Providers Want More Time to Spend Relief Money:** Medical groups and health lawyers are calling on the government to give hospitals more time and clarity as they hustle to report how they spent pandemic assistance funds by an approaching

deadline. The delta variant has hit an already overburdened health-care workforce hard, with hospitals losing money and staff. And rules from HHS around how the funds would be spent and accounted for have changed several times.

- **The New York Times: Speaker Pelosi Delays Vote On Infrastructure Bill:** Speaker Nancy Pelosi of California said on Sunday night that the House would vote on a bipartisan \$1 trillion infrastructure bill on Thursday, giving Democrats more time to reach a consensus on President Biden's sprawling domestic policy package. The vote will come hours before government funding — as well as key transportation programs addressed in the infrastructure bill — is scheduled to lapse on Oct. 1, leaving lawmakers with a narrow margin for error.
- **AP: Collins Wants Congress To Pass Fetal Alcohol Disorders Bill:** Maine's Republican senator has co-sponsored a proposal designed to help prevent fetal alcohol spectrum disorders. Sen. Susan Collins said the proposal would use early intervention to address the problem of prenatal substance exposure. She said the proposal would boost federal, state and local programs and funding for prevention efforts.
- **Bloomberg Government: Medicare, Medicaid to Pick Up Tab for Boosters:** Medicare, Medicaid, and the Children's Health Insurance program will pay the full cost of boosters with no cost-sharing for nearly all beneficiaries, the White House said on Friday. "CMS is ensuring that cost is not a barrier to access, including for boosters," said Chiquita Brooks-LaSure, head of the U.S. Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. Beneficiaries in the program already pay nothing for the Covid-19 vaccines or their administration.