

American Nephrology Nurses Association

Daily Capitol Hill Update - Tuesday, September 28, 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.
- The White House Covid-19 Response Team is scheduled to give a 12:30 p.m. press briefing, with another briefing by Press Secretary Jen Psaki at 1:30 p.m.

CONGRESS:

- The House will continue consideration of the bipartisan infrastructure bill, and could also consider five bipartisan measures under expedited procedure.
- The Senate plans to vote on two of Biden's nominees to be assistant secretaries at the State Department.

Congressional, Health Policy, and Political News

- **CIDRAP: Anticoagulants Linked With Reduced COVID Hospitalization, Death:** Taking anticoagulants before contracting COVID-19 is associated with a 43% lower risk for hospital admission, and receiving anticoagulants while in the hospital is tied to a lower death rate, according to a study published late last week in EClinicalMedicine. The researchers created a retrospective cohort of 6,195 adults with COVID-19 across M Health Fairview hospitals and clinics in the midwestern United States from Mar 4 to Aug 27, 2020. Of these, 598 were immediately hospitalized and the remainder were initially treated as outpatients. Overall, case fatality was 2.8%, with hospitalized patients having a 13% mortality rate, and the researchers note that 5.9% of outpatients eventually needed hospitalization.
- **Bloomberg Government: Nominations:** Biden announced his intent to nominate John N. Nkengasong as coordinator of the U.S. government activities to combat HIV/AIDS internationally at the Department of State, according to a press release. The position was last held by Deborah Birx.
- **Bloomberg Government: Democratic Rift Persists on Biden Agenda:** Democrats remained deeply divided late yesterday as they struggled to close an intra-party split on infrastructure and tax and spending legislation.
 - Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) and Biden have been calling lawmakers to resolve differences between moderates and progressives that are stalling votes on a \$550 billion bipartisan infrastructure bill (H.R. 3684) and a much larger tax and social spending measure.

- The larger bill, with a price tag of as much as \$3.5 trillion is proving particularly vexing for Democrats amid demands from moderates to narrow the size and scope of the measure. Party leaders were examining ways to shrink the price tag. “They will continue their close coordination over the coming days,” the White House said in an account of a Biden telephone call with Pelosi and Schumer.
 - Yesterday, Pelosi told her members in a closed-door meeting that leaders are still working on a final bill and prefer to reach an agreement with the Senate and White House before the House votes on the larger package, according to a lawmaker who attended the session.
 - The speaker, the lawmaker said, doesn’t want the legislation to go through a series of changes as it ping-pongs from chamber to chamber. Another lawmaker said Pelosi told them that Biden is negotiating a top-line number for the bill with Senate Democrats.
 - Democrats are pushing the legislation through using a reconciliation process, which requires a simple majority in the Senate. But with slim majorities and no GOP support in both chambers, party leaders must rally the rank-and-file. “Ten times as complicated as the ACA in one-tenth the time,” Rep. Peter Welch (D-Vt.) said yesterday, referring to then-President Barack Obama’s Affordable Care Act.
 - Asked after the meeting if the House would vote on the infrastructure measure on Thursday, even if the reconciliation bill is not complete, Majority Leader Steny Hoyer (D-Md.) said: “That is fair to say.”
- **Politico: Democrats Grapple With Cuts To Health Care Priorities:** Top House Democrats are voicing a new willingness to pare down their ambitious health care proposals within the sweeping \$3.5 trillion social spending bill as they scramble to build consensus ahead of a potential vote this week. President Joe Biden’s call for \$400 billion to boost long-term care services is expected to be sharply trimmed, lawmakers and advocates told POLITICO. And plans to expand Medicaid to more than 2 million people in states that have for a decade refused to do so may also have to be curtailed, said Jim Clyburn (D-S.C.), one of Congress’ most enthusiastic supporters of that effort.
 - **AP: Biden, McConnell Get COVID-19 Boosters, Encourage Vaccines:** Seventy-eight-year-old Joe Biden and 79-year-old Mitch McConnell got their booster shots Monday, the Democratic president and the Republican Senate leader urging Americans across the political spectrum to get vaccinated or plus up with boosters when eligible for the extra dose of protection. The shots, administered just hours apart on either end of Pennsylvania Avenue, came on the first workday after the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Food and Drug Administration recommended a third dose of the Pfizer vaccine for Americans 65 and older and approved them for others with preexisting medical conditions and high-risk work environments.