

American Nephrology Nurses Association

Daily Capitol Hill Update - Thursday, September 3, 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

- 11:30am: President Trump receives intelligence briefing
- 12:30pm: Trump has lunch with Sec. of State Mike Pompeo
- 5:25pm: Trump departs White House for Latrobe, Pa.; Trump delivers remarks in Pa. at 7pm
- Trump arrives back at White House at 10pm
- Vice President Mike Pence travels to Raleigh, N.C.

CONGRESS

- House, Senate out

Congressional, Health Policy, and Political News

- **Bloomberg Government: Hospitals Get \$3.5 Billion From Medicare:** Medicare payments for inpatient hospital services will increase by \$3.5 billion, or 2.7%, in fiscal year 2021, the Trump administration announced yesterday. The payment boost is significantly more than the estimated \$2.1 billion, 1.6% payment bump that the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services first proposed in May.
- **Bloomberg Government: Job Gains Seen Hanging On in August:** The battered U.S. labor market probably saw a fourth month of improvement in August, but chances of further outsize gains are diminishing without the widespread stimulus payments and small-business aid that have sustained incomes and spending. Economists project tomorrow's jobs report will show the unemployment rate dropped below 10% for the first time since March, with employers adding 1.35 million people to payrolls, a figure boosted by the Census Bureau's hiring of about 240,000 temporary workers to help conduct a decennial count that's been delayed by the pandemic.
 - It's been a tough year to manage a state unemployment agency, and unemployment officials in at least eight states now have resigned or been fired during the pandemic. The latest is Ken Lawson, who resigned as director of Florida's Department of Economic Opportunity on Monday. The department has responsibility for paying unemployment benefits in Florida, although Gov. Ron DeSantis (R) assigned a different state agency head to oversee those benefits in April amid criticism of lengthy delays in getting the payments to laid-off workers.
- **Bloomberg Government: Trump Orders Funding Review of 'Lawless' Cities:** Trump is ordering a review of funding of Democratic-run cities that have been epicenters of a wave of protests demanding racial justice, saying so-called "anarchist jurisdictions" should be disfavored for federal money. Trump signed a memorandum yesterday aimed specifically at New York, Portland, Seattle and Washington, D.C., but including steps that could affect

other U.S. cities. The document calls on the White House Office of Management and Budget to detail within two weeks how all federal agencies will submit reports detailing funding to those four cities.

- **NPR: CDC Asks States To Plan For Potential Vaccine Distribution Starting In Late October:** CDC Director Robert Redfield also sent a letter asking governors to fast-track permits and licenses so that vaccine distribution sites can be up and running by Nov. 1, McClatchy reports. That request, as well as the three planning documents, are the latest indication that the race for a vaccine may be picking up speed. Months into the pandemic, the U.S. has recorded more than 6 million cases and 185,000 deaths from COVID-19.
- **Stat: Steroids Cut Deaths Of Hospitalized Covid-19 Patients By One-Third:** Use of inexpensive, readily available steroid drugs to treat people hospitalized with Covid-19 reduced the risk of death by one-third, according to an analysis encompassing seven different clinical trials conducted by the World Health Organization and published Wednesday in the Journal of the American Medical Association. The positive steroid findings – the result of a pooled look at data known as a meta-analysis – confirm a similar survival benefit reported in June from a single, large study. Corticosteroids are the first, and so far only, therapy shown to improve the odds of survival for critically ill patients with Covid-19.