

American Nephrology Nurses Association

Daily Capitol Hill Update – Monday, September 9, 2019

Schedules: White House and Congress

WHITE HOUSE

- 11am: President Trump presents Medal of Valor and Heroic Commendations
- 12:30pm: Briefing by Customs and Border Protection Acting Commissioner Mark Morgan
- 2:35pm: Trump leaves White House for N.C.
- 7pm: Trump rally in Fayetteville, N.C., in support of Republican Dan Bishop, who faces Democrat Dan McCready in a special U.S. House election Tuesday
- Vice President Mike Pence in N.C., delivers remarks with Bishop and attends rally with Trump

CONGRESS

- Congress returns from recess under pressure to address gun legislation, government funding and the renegotiated NAFTA accord
- House meets at 2pm; takes up four energy bills; first vote ~6:30 pm, last vote ~7:00 pm
- Senate meets at 3pm; considers nomination of Kelly Craft to be U.S. representative to the UN General Assembly; the chamber confirmed her separate nomination to be the U.S. ambassador to the UN before the August recess

Congressional, Health Policy, and Political News

- **HHS Appropriations:** The Senate Appropriations Labor-HHS-Education Subcommittee meets tomorrow to mark up its unreleased fiscal 2020

appropriations bill. The full Senate Appropriations Committee meets Thursday to mark up the bill.

- **Maternal Health:** The House Energy and Commerce Health Subcommittee holds a hearing Wednesday on legislation to improve maternal health.
- **Sick Children:** The House Oversight and Reform Civil Rights and Civil Liberties Subcommittee plans a hearing Wednesday on medical deferred action for critically ill children.
- **Small Medical Practices:** The House Small Business Committee meets Wednesday for a hearing on barriers to care and burdens on small medical practices.
- **Doctors Shift Surprise Bills Stance:** Doctors groups are backing away from asking for payments based on high list charges as part of negotiations over legislation that aims to end surprise medical bills to patients. The medical community no longer is looking for “a charge-based solution,” according to Anthony Cirillo, director of health policy and legislative advocacy with US Acute Care Solutions LLC, a Canton, Ohio-based emergency medicine management company. Instead, physicians are asking for what they call a “commercially reasonable payment.”
- **Impeachment and Investigations Outlook:** Pelosi hasn’t given any deadline on deciding whether to pursue articles of impeachment. Although more than half of the 235 Democrats in the House are calling for Trump to be impeached or at least support an inquiry, she has her eye on the dozens of members who represent Republican-leaning districts and will face voters again in 2020.
 - The House Judiciary Committee is set to vote this week on setting up special procedures for future hearings, including extending time for the panel’s staff to question witnesses, potentially allowing for more focused inquiries at public hearings, according to a congressional aide familiar with the plan. The changes also would include taking evidence in closed session to deal with sensitive information, such as grand jury material.
- **Warren Gains on Biden in Perceived Electability:** Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.) is gaining both in probable Democratic convention delegates and in perceived electability, a CBS News/YouGov tracker poll showed yesterday, even as former Vice President Joe Biden leads in an estimate of likely delegates from early-voting states. Among those considering supporting Warren, the percentage who think she would probably beat Trump in 2020 has jumped 16 percentage

points since June, to 55% from 39%. That cuts into Biden's key argument that he's the Democrat most likely to beat Trump.

- Meanwhile, another of Biden's rivals suggested yesterday that he might not have what it takes to defeat Trump. "What I see is that every time Democrats have won since 1960, they've won because we had a nominee that excited young people, brought together a new diverse coalition of Americans, and was able to get that victory," Julian Castro said on CNN. The "winning formula" in 2020 "is not to play it safe," said Castro, a low-polling candidate who served in the Obama administration and is a former mayor of San Antonio, Texas. "It's not to believe that is if we are just little bit different from Republicans we are going to win."
- **Sanford Running for GOP Nomination Against Trump:** Mark Sanford said he's running for the 2020 Republican presidential nomination against Trump, joining at least two others looking to topple the party's popular leader. Sanford joins former Massachusetts Gov. William Weld and syndicated talk show host and former one-term Illinois Congressman Joe Walsh in challenging Trump at a time some states are poised to cancel their Republican primaries altogether.
 - The former U.S. representative from South Carolina made the announcement on "Fox News Sunday," calling for "an earnest and real conversation on debt and deficits and government spending."
- **DNC Chair Doesn't See a Third-Party Challenge:** Democratic National Committee Chairman Tom Perez said he appreciates former Starbucks Chairman Howard Schultz's decision not to run for president in 2020 as an independent, and is confident that Rep. Tulsi Gabbard (D-Hawaii) won't mount a third-party challenge either. Gabbard has been critical of some of her rivals for the Democratic nomination but said in August she's ruled out an independent run.
- **Texas Economy May Usher in a Democrat in 2020:** For Republicans, the Texas Miracle may become a victim of its own success. The booming economy that helped the Lone Star State weather the 2008 recession has also sparked a migration there that's changing the face of Texas politics. The workers who've moved to Texas for jobs in the energy and tech sectors are more liberal than Texas natives, slowly turning the deep-red state into a richer purple. Democrats now find themselves close enough to winning Texas that they've scheduled the third round of 2020 primary debates for Houston on Thursday.
 - Texas is a big political prize, and getting bigger. Second only to California in size and electoral votes, it's the eighth-fastest growing state in the country, helped by a higher-than-average birthrate, immigration, and domestic migration. And while a growing Hispanic population may

someday fundamentally transform Texas politics, for now the leftward turn is driven mostly by the predominately white people moving to Texas from other states.

- **Schumer Picks Senate Primary Favorites:** Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer's (D-N.Y.) effort to unite Democrats behind well-funded, centrist Senate candidates has sparked a backlash from progressives who warn that the Democratic leader risks turning off voters they'll need to take back the chamber. Consolidating the party apparatus behind strong candidates early can help raise their profile -- and bring in millions of dollars in fundraising. But the strategy is angering local activists and competing primary hopefuls.
 - The campaign committee associated with Senate leaders has already picked well-established candidates in key battleground states more than a year before the election, including Maine House Speaker Sara Gideon, who's seeking to unseat Republican Susan Collins, and former Governor John Hickenlooper in Colorado targeting Republican Cory Gardner. Most of the favored Senate hopefuls don't back "Medicare for All" or the "Green New Deal," and in many cases they have more progressive competition.
- **Air Force Orders Review After Trump Resort Stays:** The U.S. Air Force ordered a review of hotel and overnight lodging rules, Politico reports, amid concerns that Trump's properties have benefited from questionable itineraries. The review follows reports that air crews had been using a small airport in Scotland proximate to one of Trump's properties as a refueling stop, at higher fuel costs than the government would otherwise bear if using military facilities, and staying overnight at Trump's luxury Turnberry resort.