

# American Nephrology Nurses Association

Daily Capitol Hill Update - Thursday, January 13, 2022

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 will provide an update at 10:30 a.m. on the administration's Covid-19 response.
- The president will travel to the Capitol at 1 p.m. to meet with Senate Democrats to discuss voting rights legislation.
- Press Secretary Jen Psaki and National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan hold a press briefing at 3p.m.

### CONGRESS:

- The Senate meets at 10 a.m. and plans to consider a bill to impose sanctions on the Nord Stream 2 pipeline.
- The House starts at 9 a.m. and is scheduled to vote on legislation combining two of Democrats' voting rights bills.

## Congressional, Health Policy, and Political News

- **The Wall Street Journal: Red Cross, Facing Blood Shortage, Offers Donors Chance To Win Super Bowl 2022 Tickets:** "This crisis is so severe that we are having to limit the amount of blood that can be sent to hospitals," said Emily Coberly, Red Cross divisional medical officer.... The nonprofit hopes to entice donors by entering those who give blood in January into a drawing to win tickets to Super Bowl LVI in Los Angeles next month. January donors will also get a chance to win a home-theater package for the game.
- **Bloomberg Government: Democrats Launch Voting Bill Gambit:** Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-N.Y.) said he'll try to break a logjam on two voting-rights measures and start debate on the Senate floor as soon as today, but Republicans could still block a final vote on the measure. The move comes as Democrats in the chamber continue a long-shot bid for an elusive agreement to change the filibuster rules and get the legislation to Biden's desk.
  - Schumer told all Senate Democrats he plans to use a procedural gambit to prevent Republicans from blocking the beginning of debate. The House today is on track to pass legislation that combines two bills that were held up in the evenly split Senate in 2021 and then send them to the Senate, which can use the legislation to bypass the typical 60-vote threshold to proceed. Schumer pointed out Republicans can still scuttle it later before a vote on final passage.

- “With this procedure, we will finally have an opportunity to debate voting rights legislation – something that Republicans have thus far denied,” Schumer said in a memo to Democrats that was obtained by Bloomberg News. “Of course, to ultimately end debate and pass the voting rights legislation, we will need 10 Republicans to join us, which we know from past experience will not happen, or we will need to change the Senate rules as has been done many times before.”
  - Biden plans to go to Capitol Hill to step up pressure on Senate Democrats to change the filibuster rules and enable passage of voting legislation. Biden and Senate Democratic leaders are seeking to pressure reluctant Senate Democrats to change Senate filibuster rules so that the voting rights legislation could clear the chamber on a simple majority vote. It takes 60 votes to end a filibuster -- essentially endless debate -- and move forward on most legislation.
- **Modern Healthcare: Unions Sue DaVita, Fresenius Over Alleged Discriminatory Dialysis:** A labor union sued DaVita, Fresenius Medical Care and Satellite Healthcare on Tuesday, alleging Latino and Asian patients are more likely to experience adverse symptoms during hemodialysis at the companies' California centers. The Service Employees International Union-United Healthcare Workers West and the National Health Law Program allege nearly one in five treatments delivered to Asian patients and one in seven treatments given to Latino patients are administered at high speeds above 13 milliliters per hour. That's a higher rate than white patients, according to the groups' analysis of renal data submitted to the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services.
  - **Bloomberg Government: FDA Nominee Panel Vote:** The Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee plans a vote on nominations including Robert Califf to be commissioner of the Food and Drug Administration. Califf was initially set to testify yesterday, but the hearing was delayed to today. Sen. Maggie Hassan (D-N.H.), a member of the panel, announced on Tuesday she would oppose Califf's nomination. Hassan joins fellow committee member Sen. Sanders in opposition, meaning Califf would need three votes from Republicans to make it to the full Senate.
  - **Bloomberg Government: The U.S. military will deploy new help to hospitals** in New York and New Jersey as they grapple with a wave of hospitalizations driven by the omicron variant. Biden will announce today that his administration is deploying military doctors, nurses and others to six hospitals in six states, including Coney Island Hospital in Brooklyn and University Hospital in Newark, the White House said. The workers are relief teams dispatched to ease pressures on overwhelmed health centers. Biden will make the announcement in a speech on the latest in his administration's pandemic response, focusing on surge teams and aid sent to states. He'll be joined by Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin and Federal Emergency Management Agency Administrator Deanne Criswell.
  - **ABC News: Study Finds COVID-19 May Increase Risk Of Diabetes In Kids:** Kids who have recovered from COVID-19 may have an increased risk of developing diabetes, according to a new study from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The study, which looked at databases with information for over 2.5 million patients under 18, found that children diagnosed with COVID-19 were about 2.5 times more likely to receive a new diabetes diagnosis a month or more after infection.