

American Nephrology Nurses Association

Weekly Capitol Hill Update - Monday, November 21, 2016

Congressional Schedule

House

- Not in session. The House will return November 29th after the Thanksgiving holiday.

Senate

- Not in session. The Senate will return November 28th after the Thanksgiving holiday. The next vote, on passage of a bill regarding the use of technology to deliver health care in rural areas (S. 2873), will take place November 29th.

Legislative Updates

- ***Upton Says Cures, Mental Health Nearly Ready for Floor Vote.*** “Congress will likely vote on a medical innovation bill that will include mental health legislation after lawmakers return from Thanksgiving recess, House Energy and Commerce Chairman Fred Upton said. “It’s not quite done, but it in essence is,” Upton told reporters on Thursday. “There’s barely an I or a T that needs to be dotted or crossed.” Lawmakers have been negotiating a final number for National Institutes of Health funding in the 21st Century Cures Act, which aims to speed the development of medical cures and will also include funding for the White House Cancer “moonshot.” The House passed a version of the bill last summer, but it stalled in the Senate this year over the NIH funding. Members also say they’ve reached a consensus on a mental health bill, which is expected to pass alongside Cures. Upton said the mental health measure could either be offered as an amendment, or be part of the total bill.”
 - To read more, please visit: <https://morningconsult.com/2016/11/17/upton-says-cures-mental-health-nearly-ready-floor-vote/>
- ***House Passes Bill Targeting ‘Midnight’ Obama Regs.*** “The House on Thursday passed legislation that would allow Congress to overturn in a single vote any regulations finalized in the last days of the Obama administration. Despite Democratic opposition, the Midnight Rule Relief Act passed largely along party lines, by a 240-179 vote. The bill would amend the Congressional Review Act to allow Congress to overturn many rules all at once by way of a resolution. Rep. Bob Goodlatte (R-Va.) urged his colleagues on the floor Thursday morning to pass the legislation and tell the American people that lawmakers heard them on Election Day loud and clear.”

- Read more here: <http://thehill.com/regulation/306564-house-passes-bill-targeting-midnight-obama-regs>
- ***Obama Praises Pelosi Amid House Challenge.*** “President Barack Obama this week praised House Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi, who is facing a challenge to her leadership post from Ohio Rep. Tim Ryan. “I don’t normally meddle with party votes, and certainly on my way out the door, probably shouldn’t meddle here,” Obama said Sunday at a news conference in Lima, Peru. “But I cannot speak highly enough of Nancy Pelosi.” She is “an outstanding and historic political leader,” Obama said. “She does stuff that’s tough, not just stuff that’s easy. She’s done stuff that’s unpopular in her own base because it’s the right thing to do for the American people.” Obama’s remarks come amid Pelosi’s campaign to keep her post as House Democratic leader. EMILY’s List, a group that advocates for Democratic women, last week said it supports her re-election. Pelosi’s office has called on Democratic lawmakers to go online and show they #StandwithNancy.”
 - To view the article, please visit: <https://morningconsult.com/2016/11/21/obama-pelosi-tim-ryan/>

Regulatory Updates

- ***The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services’ Advisory Committee on Organ Transplantation will hold a teleconference on Tuesday, November 22nd from 11:00 am EST to 4:00 pm EST.***
 - Read more here: <http://www.organdonor.gov/about-dot/acot.html>
 - Register here: <http://www.acotmeetings.net/>
 - The draft agenda is available here: <http://www.acotmeetings.net/agenda/>
- ***Hospital Consolidation and Its Implications for Medicare.*** “At its November public meeting, the Commission held a session to discuss hospital consolidation and its implications for the Medicare program. The Commission has been tracking trends in provider consolidation, Medicare and private insurer payment rates, and provider costs for many years. In this post, we pull together a variety of analyses from MedPAC and others for a comprehensive background on hospital consolidation and Medicare.”
 - Read more here: <http://medpac.gov/-blog-/medpacblog/2016/11/15/meeting-highlight-hospital-consolidation-and-its-implications-for-medicare>

Articles of Interest

- ***Nephrologists at Kidney Week Blast Recertification Process.*** “The American Board of Internal Medicine (ABIM) should not make recertification a once-a-decade high-stakes exam, but instead should find other ways to help physicians keep up to date in their specialty, several speakers said at Kidney Week here.” I believe CME is a perfectly reasonable way of maintaining our legitimacy as intelligent practitioners," said Stan Nahman, MD, a nephrologist at the Medical College of Georgia, in Augusta, at a "town hall" session on recertification... Mark Rosenberg, MD, chair of the American Society of Nephrology (ASN) task force on recertification, presented six draft recommendations that the task force had developed to guide the ASN leadership when it works with ABIM on the recertification issue.”

- Read more here:
http://www.medpagetoday.com/MeetingCoverage/ASN/61557?xid=nl_mpt_DHE_2016-11-19&eun=g939522d0r&pos=13