

American Nephrology Nurses Association

Weekly Capitol Hill Update - Monday, February 27, 2017

Congressional Schedule

House

- “Convenes at 2 p.m. for consideration of four natural resources bills and one judiciary measure under suspension of the rules.” (CQ)
- **Week Ahead:** “The House meets at noon Tuesday for consideration of a bill (H.R. 998) that would create a commission to review existing federal regulations and identify those that should be repealed. The House may take up a resolution (H.J. Res. 83) on the period for which OSHA can cite an employer for failing to officially record a workplace injury or illness, and two bills (H.R. 1009, H.R. 1004) on regulatory policy.” (CQ)

Senate

- “Convenes at noon and resumes consideration of the nomination of Wilbur Ross to be Secretary of Commerce. At 3 p.m., Sen. Ben Sasse (R-NE), will deliver Washington’s Farewell Address. A vote on the Ross nomination is expected at 7 p.m., followed by a vote to limit debate on the nomination of Rep. Ryan Zinke (R-MT-AL), to be Secretary of the Interior.” (CQ)

Legislative Updates

- **Week Ahead:**
 - *Trump Takes The Fight To Congress.* “President Trump will address a joint session of Congress for the first time on Tuesday night, and Republican insiders say he may not be in the mood to play nice. Trump won election as the consummate outsider; his victory came in the face of considerable skepticism from Republicans on Capitol Hill, who often shrank from his flamboyant pronouncements and abrasive personal style. Now, just over a month into his presidency, Trump is coming to Congress on a mission to ensure that his campaign promises become law.”
 - To read more: <http://thehill.com/homenews/administration/321131-the-memo-trump-takes-the-fight-to-congress>

- ***Leaked ObamaCare Bill Fires Up Debate:*** “The ObamaCare battle is returning full-time to Washington. Lawmakers are back on Monday after a weeklong break which saw many Republicans face angry constituents worried about losing coverage under a repeal of ObamaCare. The debate in Washington will be accelerated by the leak on Friday of a draft GOP repeal and replacement bill. That draft bill repeals the core elements of the law, like subsidies to help people afford coverage and the expansion of Medicaid, and puts in place a new system based on a tax credit adjusted for a person's age. Lawmakers will have a chance to further respond to and debate the proposal next week. Governors in town for a conference will also meet with President Trump Monday as Republicans wrestle with the future of ObamaCare's Medicaid expansion.”
 - To read more: <http://thehill.com/policy/healthcare/321095-week-ahead-leaked-obamacare-bill-fires-up-debate>

- ***Week in Review:***
 - ***Leaked ObamaCare Bill Outlines GOP Plan.*** “A draft House Republican ObamaCare bill would dismantle the core aspects of the healthcare law and replace them with a system centered on a new tax credit. The draft bill was provided to The Hill by a lobbying source and was first reported by Politico. The measure is dated Feb. 10, so it is not the most recent version of Republicans’ plan. It is unclear how much has changed since then. The bill would eliminate subsidies for people to obtain coverage, and federal funds for states to expand Medicaid would be phased out in 2020. The mandate for people to buy insurance would also be killed.”
 - To read more: <http://thehill.com/policy/healthcare/321029-leaked-obamacare-bill-outlines-gop-plan>

 - ***Leaked ObamaCare Bill Would Defund Planned Parenthood.*** “A leaked draft of the ObamaCare repeal bill from House Republicans would defund Planned Parenthood, fulfilling their long-held goal cutting off federal money to the organization. It's unclear how much of the draft legislation has changed since it was created Feb. 10, but Speaker Paul Ryan (R-WI) has promised to revoke funding from Planned Parenthood through the same bill that would repeal ObamaCare. Specifically, the language in the draft would block Planned Parenthood, and other health organizations that provide abortions, from receiving Medicaid reimbursements for a year.”
 - To read more: <http://thehill.com/policy/healthcare/321044-leaked-obamacare-bill-would-defund-planned-parenthood>

 - ***House Markup of ObamaCare Repeal Bill Up In the Air.*** “The timing of a House committee session to work on ObamaCare replacement legislation is in flux as Republicans seek to flesh out the document. Though no date was ever formally scheduled, the House Energy and Commerce Committee had been eyeing March 1 for a markup of repeal-and-replace legislation. Lobbyists and aides now say a markup is not likely to happen until at least the week of March 6. Several lobbyists said Republicans on the committee sent some elements of a healthcare

bill to the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) but did not receive the cost estimates that they had expected.”

- To read more: <http://thehill.com/policy/healthcare/320938-house-markup-of-obamacare-repeal-bill-up-in-the-air>
- ***GOP Healthcare Plans Push Health Savings Account Expansion.*** “As Republicans struggle to coalesce around an ObamaCare replacement plan, they generally agree on one thing: It should expand access to health savings accounts. HSAs – special accounts for medical expenses that come with tax breaks – have long been a cornerstone of Republican healthcare plans. They argue giving people more direct control over their medical expenses will drive down healthcare costs.”
 - To read more: <http://thehill.com/policy/healthcare/320656-gop-healthcare-plans-push-health-savings-account-expansion>

Regulatory Updates

- ***GOP Leaps on Congressional Review Act to Kill Obama Rules.*** “A law that’s been successfully used only once until now is the conduit for a whole lot of action on Capitol Hill. Republicans in Congress are expected to send a stream of bills – most of which require a single sentence – to President Donald Trump’s desk, using a process known as the Congressional Review Act to repeal agency rules. The act was tucked into 1996 legislation tied to former House Speaker Newt Gingrich’s famous “Contract with America.” Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, at a press conference last week, joined a group of Republican leaders who have trumpeted using the CRA to roll back regulations put in place under President Barack Obama. The law allows Congress to repeal certain rules of the previous administration under a fast-track process that requires only a simple majority in the Senate. Congress generally has 60 days to begin repeal of those rules.”
 - To read more: www.rollcall.com/news/policy/gop-leaps-congressional-review-act-kill-obama-rules
- ***MedPAC Meeting March 2-3.*** The Medicare Payment Advisory Commission (MedPAC) will hold its next public meeting on Thursday, March 2 and Friday, March 3. The draft agenda is as follows:
 - Implementing a unified payment system for post-acute care (March 2, 10:00 AM - 11:15 AM)
 - Hospital and SNF use by Medicare beneficiaries who reside in nursing facilities (March 2, 11:15 AM - 12:15 PM)
 - Public Comment (March 2, 12:15 PM - 12:30 PM)
 - Medicare Part B drug payment policy issues (March 2, 1:30 PM - 3:30 PM)
 - Refining MIPS and A-APMs and encouraging primary care March 2, 3:30 PM - 5:00 PM)
 - Public Comment 2 (March 2, 5:00 PM - 5:15 PM)
 - Standardization issues in premium support (March 3, 8:30 AM - 10:00 AM)
 - Possible impacts of premium support (March 3, 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM)
 - Public Comment 3 (March 3, 11:30 AM - 11:45 AM)

Articles of Interest

- ***GOP Obamacare Plan Would Cover Fewer People; Blowback Grows.*** “Republican lawmakers expect that their Obamacare replacement will result in fewer Americans covered by health insurance, a fact that’s likely to increase blowback amid growing support for the program. New details of the plan are beginning to emerge, described by lawmakers and their aides. While still being worked out, it would do away with the Affordable Care Act’s requirement that all Americans have health coverage or pay a fine, and replace it with rules that let people choose not to buy insurance, instead paying higher premiums or penalties if they need it later. The result would be fewer people covered, said Republican lawmakers.”
 - To read more: <https://www.bloomberg.com/politics/articles/2017-02-24/gop-obamacare-plan-would-cover-fewer-people-blowback-grows>
- ***GOP governors confront Medicaid divide.*** “Governors are descending on Washington this weekend as Republicans wrestle with the future of ObamaCare’s expansion of Medicaid. GOP lawmakers say they are looking to governors for advice on what to do about the program, which is one of the toughest issues Republicans face as they look to repeal and replace the healthcare law. Many of the lawmakers representing states that accepted the Medicaid expansion are looking to keep it. But they are at odds with conservatives and Republicans from states that rejected the expansion, who are pushing for full repeal.”
 - To read more: <http://thehill.com/policy/healthcare/320914-gop-governors-confront-medicaid-divide>

Hearings

Thursday, March 2nd

- The House Energy and Commerce Health Subcommittee holds a hearing titled “Examining FDA’s Generic Drug and Biosimilar User Fee Programs.”
 - 10:00 am, 2123 Rayburn House Office Building