

## American Nephrology Nurses Association

Weekly Capitol Hill Update - Monday, May 22, 2017

### Congressional Schedule

#### *House*

- “Convenes at 2 p.m. for consideration of six bills under suspension of the rules, all related to child safety and protection.” (CQ)
- “**Week Ahead:** Tuesday, the House meets at noon for consideration of 12 bills under suspension of the rules on veterans’ issues and human trafficking.” (CQ)

#### *Senate*

- “Convenes at 3 p.m. to resume consideration of the nomination of Terry Branstad to be ambassador to China. The chamber is expected to take a confirmation vote at 5:30 p.m.” (CQ)

### Legislative Updates

- **Week in Review:**
  - *House May Need to Vote Again on GOP Obamacare Repeal Bill.* “House Republicans barely managed to pass their Obamacare repeal bill earlier this month, and they now face the possibility of having to vote again on their controversial health measure. House Speaker Paul Ryan hasn’t yet sent the bill to the Senate because there’s a chance that parts of it may need to be redone, depending on how the Congressional Budget Office estimates its effects. House leaders want to make sure the bill conforms with Senate rules for reconciliation, a mechanism that allows Senate Republicans to pass the bill with a simple majority.”
    - To read more: <https://www.bloomberg.com/politics/articles/2017-05-18/house-may-be-forced-to-vote-again-on-gop-s-obamacare-repeal-bill>
  - *Ryan downplays possibility of re-vote on ObamaCare repeal.* “The House will probably not be forced to re-vote on the GOP’s ObamaCare replacement bill despite a potential technical issue, Speaker Paul Ryan (R-Wis.) said Friday. “No, we don’t think that’s the case,” Ryan said in an interview with conservative radio host Hugh Hewitt. The House, despite passing the American Health Care Act

two weeks ago, is waiting to send the legislation to the Senate until the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office (CBO) produces its analysis of the bill.”

- To read more: <http://thehill.com/policy/healthcare/334207-ryan-downplays-possibility-of-re-vote-on-gop-health-bill>
- ***Senate Panel Approves Bill Revamping Medicare for Chronically Ill Patients.*** “The Senate Finance Committee on Thursday unanimously advanced legislation aimed at improving care for people with chronic illnesses, part of a bipartisan effort that has advanced even as Republicans and Democrats fight over the future of the Affordable Care Act. The bill, which is backed by the American Heart Association and dozens of other industry groups, would revamp how Medicare works for patients who have chronic medical conditions. Specifically, the bill is aimed at reducing costs associated with chronic illness by giving people greater access to telehealth services, promoting care coordination between providers and expanding value-based payment models.”
  - To read more: <https://morningconsult.com/2017/05/18/senate-panel-approves-bill-revamping-medicare-chronically-ill-patients/>
- ***Price pushes Congress to follow Trump plan for more FDA user fees.*** “HHS Secretary Tom Price pressed Congress to heed President Donald Trump's call to make the FDA rely more on industry fees — and less on taxpayer dollars — for product evaluations, as lawmakers continue work on extending the agency's user fee programs. The request, made in a letter to Senate HELP ranking Democrat Patty Murray, could threaten deals the agency already struck with name-brand, generic and biosimilar manufacturers, as well as device makers, by forcing the industries to ante up more than they committed. The user fee legislation would cover payments from fiscal 2018 to fiscal 2022.”
  - To read more: <http://www.politico.com/story/2017/05/17/price-pushes-lawmakers-to-follow-trumps-plan-for-more-fda-user-fees-less-taxpayer-funding-238508>
- **Week Ahead:**
  - ***Senate Republicans quietly working on health overhaul bill.*** “Remember the Republican health care bill? Washington is fixated on President Donald Trump's firing of FBI chief James Comey and burgeoning investigations into possible connections between Trump's presidential campaign and Russia. But in closed-door meetings, Senate Republicans are trying to write legislation dismantling President Barack Obama's health care law.”
    - To read more: [http://hosted.ap.org/dynamic/stories/U/US\\_CONGRESS\\_HEALTH\\_OVERHAUL?SITE=AP&SECTION=HOME&TEMPLATE=DEFAULT&CTIME=2017-05-20-11-14-04](http://hosted.ap.org/dynamic/stories/U/US_CONGRESS_HEALTH_OVERHAUL?SITE=AP&SECTION=HOME&TEMPLATE=DEFAULT&CTIME=2017-05-20-11-14-04)
  - ***CBO score of GOP healthcare bill to be released Wednesday.*** “The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) will release its analysis of the House-passed GOP healthcare reform bill Wednesday afternoon. The long-awaited analysis of the bill will give

an idea of how the legislation will impact the deficit and how many people could lose coverage. The initial version showed that the American Health Care Act (AHCA) would increase the number of people without health insurance by 24 million by 2026.”

- To read more: <http://thehill.com/policy/healthcare/334235-cbo-score-of-gop-health-bill-to-be-released-wednesday>
- ***Trump's proposed budget sets up an 'epic battle' over government spending.*** “Another fight is brewing in Washington that analysts predict could be of epic proportions. President Donald Trump's team is expected to roll out its fiscal 2018 budget proposal this week, starting the process of laying out the government's funding future. Analysts say Trump's budget proposal is unlikely to resemble what makes its way into law, based on what's reported to be included. It could, however, set up a larger philosophical battle that would reveal the ideological dynamics in Washington.”
  - To read more: <http://www.businessinsider.com/trump-budget-fy18-cuts-2018-medicaid-spending-2017-5>

### **Regulatory Updates**

- ***Trump administration to continue funding insurer subsidies.*** “A federal appeals court on Monday granted the Trump administration a 90-day delay on its decision to appeal a case brought by House Republicans against ObamaCare subsidies paid to insurers. The payments will continue during the appeals process, which avoids an immediate crisis with the ObamaCare insurance market but still leaves insurers uncertain about the future.”
  - To read more: <http://thehill.com/policy/healthcare/334542-trump-administration-to-continue-funding-insurer-subsidies-reports>
- ***Medicare Dinged for Failing to Lower Payment Error Rates.*** “The CMS didn’t bring improper payment rates for Medicare and Medicaid below 10 percent in fiscal year 2016, failing to meet a legislative requirement. The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services also failed to meet improper payment rate targets for the Medicare Advantage program and the Children’s Health Insurance Program and has yet to award a recovery audit contract for Medicare Advantage, according to a Health and Human Services Office of Inspector General report released May 16.”
  - To read more: <https://www.bna.com/medicare-dinged-failing-n73014451171/>
- ***CMS' emergency preparedness deadline looms, and many facilities may not make the cut.*** “After Hurricane Katrina in 2005, Amedisys decided it needed to upgrade its disaster plan. The national home healthcare and hospice provider began conducting risk analysis and factoring in potential local hazards to develop a plan to ensure staff and residents at its U.S. facilities could weather natural disasters. From this came several changes: greater coordination with first responders, regular drills and closer collaboration with other Medicare providers...But now Amedisys and other providers like it are being asked to step up their efforts. Many of the nation's healthcare providers

are facing a deadline to implement new federal requirements that standardize how they handle natural disasters and terrorists' threats."

- To read more:

<http://www.modernhealthcare.com/article/20170520/MAGAZINE/170519827>

### **Articles of Interest**

- ***Republicans Race The Clock On Health Care – But The Calendar Is Not Helping.*** "Back in January, Republicans boasted they would deliver a "repeal and replace" bill for the Affordable Care Act to President Donald Trump's desk by the end of the month. In the interim, that bravado has faded as their efforts stalled and they found out how complicated undoing a major law can be. With summer just around the corner, and most of official Washington swept up in scandals surrounding Trump, the health overhaul delays are starting to back up the rest of the 2018 agenda."
  - To read more: <http://khn.org/news/republicans-race-the-clock-on-health-care-but-the-calendar-is-not-helping/>
- ***Lobby groups to watch in Senate healthcare fight.*** "Lobbying groups opposed to the House's healthcare reform bill are pinning their hopes on the Senate for big changes. Industry groups felt largely cut out of the House's drafting and passage of the American Health Care Act and now are clamoring for action to fix what they view as serious defects in the legislation."
  - To read more: <http://thehill.com/policy/healthcare/333969-lobby-groups-to-watch-in-senate-healthcare-fight>
- ***California Bill Addresses Safety Concerns At Dialysis Clinics.*** "Saying they are concerned about safety in California's dialysis clinics, a coalition of nurses, technicians, patients and union representatives is backing legislation that would require more staffing and oversight. The bill, introduced by Sen. Ricardo Lara (D-Bell Gardens), would establish minimum staffing ratios, mandate a longer transition time between appointments and require annual inspections of the state's 562 licensed dialysis clinics."
  - To read more: <http://khn.org/news/california-bill-addresses-safety-concerns-at-dialysis-clinics/>
- ***Do Best-Selling Drugs That Calm Stomachs Damage Kidneys? The Answer's Unclear.*** "Sherry Herman was watching TV when the ad popped up on the screen. Lawyers were seeking clients for a class-action lawsuit, suggesting a link between certain heartburn pills and chronic kidney disease – including the beige capsules she'd taken for years. "And I was like, 'Oh my gosh, yeah – me!'" said Herman, a 50-year-old homemaker in Dayton, Ohio. She'd been on a drug known as a proton pump inhibitor (PPI) for acid reflux disease since 2004. Thinking it was a "very safe drug," she had taken the prescription pills for a decade, even though the label recommended four to eight weeks."
  - To read more: <http://khn.org/news/do-best-selling-drugs-that-calm-stomachs-damage-kidneys-the-answers-unclear/>

- *In Jamaica, a push to market island getaways – with a side of surgery.* “This beach town is better known for its marijuana than for its medical expertise. But a few blocks from the ocean, a new medical center is nearing completion. Flanked by lush palm trees and decorated with a bright yellow grid, it could be confused for a resort – and that’s the point. Jamaica, like other developing nations before it, is trying to boost its economy by wooing “medical tourists” to fly in for an inexpensive knee replacement or nose job. The private entrepreneurs opening the medical complex here are all in.”
  - To read more: <https://www.statnews.com/2017/05/18/jamaica-medical-tourism/>

### Hearings and Markups

#### Wednesday, May 24th

- The Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Subcommittee of House Appropriations Committee will hold a hearing on the [Indian Health Service Budget](#).
  - 1:00 p.m., 2007 Rayburn House Office Building
- The Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Subcommittee of House Appropriations Committee will hold a hearing on [High Risk American Indian and Alaska Native Programs \(Education, Healthcare, Energy\)](#).
  - 2:00 p.m., 2007 Rayburn House Office Building

#### Thursday, May 25th

- The Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Subcommittee of House Appropriations Committee will hold a hearing on the [Food and Drug Administration](#).
  - 10:00 a.m., 2362-A Rayburn House Office Building

### Other Events of Interest

#### Tuesday, May 23rd

- **Bipartisan Policy Center panel discussion on “Patient Safety and Information Technology.”** “Preventable harm in health care is one of the leading causes of death in the United States. Each year, millions of individuals suffer from medical errors and more than 200,000 Americans die from such errors. Information technology (IT) – which is now widely adopted – plays a key role in preventing many of these errors by offering clinical decision support, alerts and reminders, and better communication between clinicians and patients. However, technological advances can introduce different types of risk, including those that stem from poor usability, lack of interoperability, or extended down-time, which can be brought about by cybersecurity events. Join us to hear about new BPC recommendations on the role of government and the private sector in improving IT’s role in providing safer care.”
  - Tuesday, May 23, 2017, 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. ET
  - Bipartisan Policy Center, 1225 Eye Street NW, Suite 1000, Washington, DC, 20005
  - For more information and to register: <https://bipartisanpolicy.org/events/patient-safety-and-information-technology/>