

American Nephrology Nurses Association

Weekly Capitol Hill Update - Monday, July 10, 2017

Congressional Schedule

“House, Senate in session.

- House to take up FY18 defense authorization, H.R. 2810, as well as a Calif. water rights bill, H.R. 23.
- MON at 5:30pm: Senate votes on confirmation of Neomi Rao to head the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs. Will also hold procedural vote for nomination of David Nye to become U.S. District Judge for the District of Idaho; confirmation vote likely later in the week. Senate may also take up nomination of William Francis Hagerty IV to become ambassador to Japan.
- Though vote unlikely [this] week, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell in talks with GOP senators seeking to secure support for health-care legislation; CBO scoring options.” (*Bloomberg Government*)

Legislative Updates

- **Week in Review:**
 - *Senate GOP and White House plan final, urgent blitz to pass health-care law.* “The White House and Senate Republican leaders are planning a final, urgent blitz to pressure reluctant GOP senators to pass an overhaul of the Affordable Care Act before their month-long August recess. Aware that the next 14 days probably represent their last chance to salvage their flagging endeavor, President Trump, Vice President Pence and Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.) intend to single out individual senators and escalate a broad defense of the evolving proposal, according to Republicans familiar with their plans.”
 - To read more: https://www.washingtonpost.com/powerpost/senate-gop-and-white-house-plan-final-urgent-blitz-to-pass-health-care-law/2017/07/07/08367830-631d-11e7-8adc-fea80e32bf47_story.html?utm_term=.d588d98aeb85
 - *McConnell Takes a Risk With Talk of Bipartisan Health-Care Bill.* “Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell is taking a risk by calling for a bipartisan health-care plan if the Republican-only bill fails: While his comments may encourage conservatives to fall in line with his approach, party moderates may be emboldened to abandon the

GOP legislation. McConnell told a home-state Kentucky audience Thursday that if Republicans can't agree on an adequate replacement, then some kind of action with regard to the private health insurance market must occur."

- To read more: <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2017-07-07/mcconnell-taking-a-risk-with-talk-of-bipartisan-health-care-bill>

- **Week Ahead:**

- **Senate Returns No Closer to Health Care Deal.** "Senate Republicans return to Washington, D.C., on Monday from a 10-day recess no closer to a deal on legislation to overhaul the U.S. health insurance system, with little time left on the calendar and other agenda items piling up. And as conservative and moderate GOP lawmakers continue to spar over just how much of the 2010 health care law to repeal and replace, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell is signaling that a bipartisan compromise to help stabilize the shaky insurance markets created by the law could be the fallback strategy."
 - To read more: <http://www.rollcall.com/news/politics/senate-health-care-effort-remains-limbo>
- **Senate GOP aims to release new health bill by week's end.** "Senate Republicans are hoping to unveil a revamped draft of their legislation to repeal and replace Obamacare by the end of this week, though there are major questions about how it will address roiling GOP disagreement over a proposal touted by conservative senators. New bill text could be unveiled to senators as soon as Thursday, according to sources familiar with the proposal. A Congressional Budget Office score is likely to follow as soon as next Monday; a vote could come by the end of next week."
 - To read more: <http://www.politico.com/story/2017/07/10/senate-republican-health-care-bill-july-schedule-240363>
- **Congress's Other Health-Care Problem Awaits Action on ACA.** "Congress must renew a fee program that funds government review of new drugs and medical devices, but a legislative logjam over the Senate's health-care overhaul stands in its way. Lawmakers need to sign off on the drug and device fees by the end of September or the program will lapse. If Congress can't pass legislation, the Food and Drug Administration could be forced to send layoff notices by the end of this month to more than 5,000 employees involved in product reviews, who would lose their jobs within 60 days."
 - To read more: <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2017-07-10/congress-s-other-health-care-problem-anxiously-awaits-aca-action>

Regulatory and Administration Updates

- **Georgia health commissioner named CDC director in Atlanta.** "Georgia's health commissioner was named Friday to lead the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the federal government's top public health agency. Dr. Brenda Fitzgerald is an OB-GYN and has been head of the Georgia Department of Public Health since 2011.

She succeeds Dr. Tom Frieden, who resigned as CDC director in January at the end of the Obama administration. “I am humbled by the challenges that lie ahead, yet I am confident that the successes we’ve had in Georgia will provide me with a foundation for guiding the work of the CDC,” Fitzgerald said in a statement.”

- To read more: <https://www.apnews.com/a7f33cbcc3414d7587c5b4b19877a9fb/Georgia-health-commissioner-named-CDC-director-in-Atlanta>
- ***CMS Announces Technical Expert Panel (TEP) Calls and In-Person Meeting.***
 - ESRD Medication Reconciliation & Management TEP Teleconference
 - Monday, July 10, 2017, 3:30 pm to 4:30 pm ET
 - Patient Reported Outcomes (PRO) Post-TEP Teleconference
 - Wednesday, July 19, 2017, 11:00 am to 1:00 pm ET
 - Medication Reconciliation and Management Technical Expert Panel In-Person Meeting
 - July 19, 2017, 8:00 am to 4:00 pm ET, DoubleTree BWI Airport, 890 Elkridge Landing Rd, Linthicum Heights, MD 21090
 - For more information: <https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Quality-Initiatives-Patient-Assessment-Instruments/MMS/TechnicalExpertPanels.html>

Articles of Interest

- ***Poor Patient Care at Many Nursing Homes Despite Stricter Oversight.*** “In 2012, Parkview Healthcare Center’s history of safety violations led California regulators to issue an ultimatum reserved for the most dangerous nursing homes. The state’s public health department designated Parkview, a Bakersfield, Calif., nursing home, a “special focus facility,” requiring it to either fix lapses in care while under increased inspections or be stripped of federal funding by Medicare and Medicaid – a financial deprivation few homes can survive. After 15 months of scrutiny, the regulators deemed Parkview improved and released it from extra oversight.”
 - To read more: <https://www.nytimes.com/2017/07/05/health/failing-nursing-homes-oversight.html>
- ***Is your surgeon double-booked?*** “The controversial practice has been standard in many teaching hospitals for decades, its safety and ethics largely unquestioned and its existence unknown to those most affected: people undergoing surgery. But over the past two years, the issue of overlapping surgery – in which a doctor operates on two patients in different rooms during the same time period – has ignited an impassioned debate in the medical community, attracted scrutiny by the powerful U.S. Senate Finance committee that oversees Medicare and Medicaid, and prompted some hospitals, including the University of Virginia’s, to circumscribe the practice.”
 - To read more: https://www.washingtonpost.com/national/health-science/is-your-surgeon-double-booked/2017/07/10/64a753f0-3a7d-11e7-9e48-c4f199710b69_story.html?utm_term=.94b0e9ba6305
- ***Heartburn Drugs May Increase Risk of Early Death.*** “...P.P.I.s, sold over the counter under such brand names as Nexium and Prevacid, have been associated with serious

adverse side effects, including kidney disease, bone fractures and infections. This study found an association with death from any cause.”

- To read more: <https://www.nytimes.com/2017/07/05/well/live/heartburn-drugs-may-increase-risk-of-early-death.html>
- ***Man Diagnosed With Stage 5 Kidney Failure Determined to Live.*** “An hour before bedtime, every night, Jack Carroll plugs himself into a dialysis machine and tries to fall asleep. Over the next eight hours, nearly 170 ounces of fluid cycles through his body, removing toxins his failing kidneys leave behind. This nightly routine is Carroll's latest treatment for Dent's disease, a rare genetic condition affecting only a few hundred families worldwide. Several men in Carroll's family have died from the disease, which causes kidneys to age prematurely. Carroll, 32, is battling stage 5 kidney failure. He can no longer work, and is hoping to get a kidney transplant. For now, dialysis keeps him alive.”
 - To read more: <https://www.usnews.com/news/best-states/new-hampshire/articles/2017-07-03/man-diagnosed-with-stage-5-kidney-failure-determined-to-live>
- ***Bobby Elliott was 'everything that is good about college athletics.*** “Bobby Elliott, the former Iowa football player who spent the last 19 years of his distinguished coaching career undergoing a series of cancer scares and bold recoveries, died Saturday of complications from the disease that occasionally sapped his strength but never his spirit. Elliott, 64, died in hospice care in Iowa City weeks after taking a hiatus from his final job at Nebraska. He was with his family at the time, close friend Dan McCarney said. Elliott was hired to be safeties coach at the Big Ten Conference school in February but moved into a defensive analyst position June 20 as his illness recurred.”
 - To read more: <https://www.usatoday.com/story/sports/football/2017/07/09/iowa-coach-bobby-elliott-dies-64/460582001/>

Congressional Hearings and Markups of Interest

Tuesday, July 11th

- The Senate Committee on Veterans’ Affairs holds a hearing on pending health care legislation.
 - 2:30 p.m., 418 Russell Senate Office Building

Wednesday, July 12th

- The Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on the Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies holds a hearing on “Review of the FY2018 Budget Request for the Indian Health Service.”
 - 9:30 a.m., 124 Dirksen Senate Office Building
- The House Energy and Commerce Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee holds a hearing on the opioid crisis in the states.
 - 10:00 a.m., 2123 Rayburn House Office Building.

- The House Energy and Commerce Health Subcommittee holds a hearing on “Examining Medical Product Manufacturer Communications.”
 - 10:15 a.m. in 2322 Rayburn House Office Building.

Thursday, July 13th

- The House Judiciary Courts, Intellectual Property, and the Internet Subcommittee holds a hearing on “The Impact of Bad Patents on American Businesses.”
 - 10:00 am, 2141 Rayburn House Office Building
- The House Veterans’ Affairs Subcommittee on Health hold a hearing on “Maximizing Access and Resources: An Examination of VA Productivity and Efficiency.”
 - 2:00 p.m., 334 Cannon House Office Building
- The House Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies holds a markup of the FY2018 Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Appropriations Bill.
 - 4:30 p.m., 2358-C Rayburn House Office Building

Per KCP: Possible House Ways and Means Committee markup this week on the following bills of interest:

- [“H.R. 3164](#), introduced by Reps. Diane Black (R-TN) and Suzan DelBene (D-WA), which would expand access to home dialysis therapy through the use of telemedicine.
- [H.R. 3166](#), introduced by Reps. Lynn Jenkins (R-KS) and John Lewis (D-GA), which would provide for independent accreditation for dialysis facilities and assurance of high quality surveys with respect to such facilities.
- [H.R. 3168](#), introduced by Reps. Patrick Tiberi (R-OH) and Sander Levin (D-MI), which would reauthorize Medicare chronic condition Special Needs plans for five years.”

Other Events of Interest

Tuesday, July 11th

- *Health Affairs* hosts an event on “Advanced Illness And End-Of-Life Care.”
 - 9:00 a.m. to 12:45 p.m., National Press Club, 529 14th Street NW, Washington, DC
 - For more information and to register:
 - http://www.healthaffairs.org/events/2017_07_11_advanced_illness_end_of_life_care/
- The Bipartisan Policy Center holds an event on “Solutions to Long-Term Care Financing in Politically Challenging Times.”
 - 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. ET, Bipartisan Policy Center, 1225 Eye St NW, Suite 1000, Washington, DC and webcast live online
 - For more information and to register:
 - <https://bipartisanpolicy.org/events/solutions-to-long-term-care-financing-in-politically-challenging-times/>

