

Below is this week's government and legislative affairs update. All previous legislative guidance and other affiliate resources are stored via the [VillageMD Affiliated Practices COVID-19 Resource Center](#).

After today, the Senate will only be in pro forma (very brief) sessions the rest of the month with Senators coming back to town September 8<sup>th</sup>. The House was not in session this week but is subject to a 24-hour call back to D.C. for votes by the Speaker. The House returns to session with votes on September 14<sup>th</sup>.

#### **On Capitol Hill:**

- Both Senate and House leaders did not make any progress on COVID relief discussions. They continue to be very far apart on main issues such as added funding to states and liability reforms for employers. There are currently no negotiations occurring on the relief package.
- After the four Executive Orders signed by the President last week, both sides have retreated to their respective corners. Serious negotiations will likely not begin again until September unless something occurs to change the political dynamics.
- The next deadline facing Congress is the expiration of the current fiscal year and government funding on September 30<sup>th</sup>. A continuing resolution to fund the government past September 30<sup>th</sup> could be used as a legislative vehicle for a COVID-relief package.
- The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services announced additional policy clarity - a rural healthcare model first announced in the President's Executive Order last week to improve Rural Health and Telehealth Access.
  - The Community Health Access and Rural Transformation (CHART) Model ties payment to value-based care, increases Medicare flexibility and gives additional money to communities. Providers interested in the CHART Model have two track options for participation and the first track areas for consideration will be announced in early [September 2020](#).

#### **In the news:**

- Presidential candidate Joe Biden announced his running mate will be Kamala Harris, who will be both the first Black and Indian American vice-presidential candidate in the nation's history. Both have maintained they would like to reform both the cost of drugs and expand Medicare over 10 years to more individuals.

#### **PAC Update:**

- Gary Jacobs attended a PAC event with Senate Banking Chairman Mike Crapo (R-ID). Sen. Crapo is in line to be Chair of Senate Finance committee if the Republican's hold the Senate.