



July 24, 2020



THIS WEEK IN WASHINGTON:

(I Can't Get No) Satisfaction

The long-awaited fifth coronavirus relief package proposal from the Senate GOP is still, well, awaited. After expectations that the legislation would be unveiled yesterday, the timeline has now been shifted to this coming Monday, as the White House and Senate continued to scrap late this week over issues such as Chinese manufacturing. President Trump's earlier demands to include a payroll tax have now been axed, but expected to be addressed in the bill are issues related to a new round of stimulus checks, aid for schools, money for testing, changes to unemployment assistance rules, more money for small businesses, and liability reform setting up legal protections to make it hard for employees to sue their employers if they become sick at work (a subject already deemed a nonstarter by House Democrats).

Congress is facing two tight deadlines in the next two weeks – the first is that additional unemployment monies for those impacted by the pandemic are slated to run out next Friday, and the second is that Congress departs for August Recess the following Friday. Then, once August Recess hits, the clock really begins to tick down to Election Day, making any legislation exponentially more fraught.

We expect them to try, and try, and try, and try, but any satisfaction will likely come down to the wire.

Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Azar also signed a 90 day extension for the national Public Health Emergency, allowing the current waivers and flexibilities to continue until late October.

Note: D.C. office staff are out of office next week but will keep you apprised of any significant updates. Expect *Ready Nation: Policy* back in your inbox August 7.

Hearings the Week of July 27, 2020

[Experiences of Vulnerable Populations During Disaster](#)

House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure
Tuesday, July 28, 10:00am ET

[Oversight of COVID-19 Financial Relief Packages](#)

Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee

Tuesday, July 28, 10:00am ET

[Protecting the Reliability of the U.S. Medical Supply Chain During the COVID-19 Pandemic](#)

Senate Committee on Finance

Thursday, July 30, 9:30am ET

More News from the Nation's Capital...

Congressional Committees Send Letters to Administration on Planning for Compound Disasters and to FEMA on Leadership Vacancies

Letters went out from several committees to the Administration and to FEMA on the need to plan for additional disasters during the response to COVID-19 and the significant number of leadership vacancies at FEMA during a critical mission period.

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Administrator Gaynor Testifies Before House Committee on Homeland Security

FEMA Administrator Gaynor testified alone on the national response to the coronavirus pandemic. Committee members were concerned about testing capacity and who would coordinate PPE distribution until shortages are eradicated.

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CISA Releases Guidance for Election Officials During COVID-19 and Election TTX Package

The guidance focuses on innovative practices this year in the context of COVID-19 and the exercise package seeks to support stakeholders with recovery and continuity planning for the pandemic.

[Read More](#)

Other News from DC and Around the Country:

[NEMA List of Recently Released Federal Resources](#)

U.S. News: [Hurricane Douglas Bears Down on Hawaii as Pandemic Flares](#)

Homeland Security Today: [COVID-19 Impacts on Toilet Paper, Meat Expose Fragility of the Supply Chain](#)

GovTech: [Report Recommends National Framework for Public Health Response](#)

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