06/20/22 Weekly Washington Update

Headlines to Know

- **Updates on New Gun-Control Bill**: The official legislative text for this new bill was released on Tuesday. Despite some delays in negotiations due to outstanding issues related to the “boyfriend loophole” and other details, the bipartisan group of 20 negotiators was able to come to an agreement. A procedural vote occurred last night, with 14 Republicans supporting. If the Senate passes the bill before Friday, it could lead to the House staying in session over the weekend.

- **Schumer and Manchin (D-WV) Reconciliation Deal**: There is a lot of buzz on the Hill about a possible reconciliation deal between Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer and Senator Joe Manchin. Discussions have been ongoing since Build Back Better fell apart in December. The package being discussed by many in the Senate may address full or partial repeal of the 2017 tax cuts, Medicare prescription drug price negotiations and a climate-energy package, with a portion of the revenue raised going to pay down the deficit. Democratic leaders and supporters of a reconciliation package argue that such legislation could stave off a possible recession.

Other News to Know

- **President Joe Biden Considering a Gas-Tax Holiday and Gas Rebate Cards**: There is hefty skepticism among Democrats about the wisdom of a gas-tax holiday, especially after Congress passed a $1 trillion infrastructure package last year that is funded by gas taxes. Speaker Nancy Pelosi is more open to the idea of a rebate card as the savings generated by suspending the gas tax would not necessarily reach consumers. However, it seems unlikely that there would be 60 votes in the Senate to pass such a proposal. Biden cannot suspend the gas tax or send out rebates without congressional approval.

This Week on Capitol Hill

**Hearings of Interest: (all times EST)**

- Wednesday, June 22 | 10:00 AM, Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Meeting: hearings to examine supporting students and schools, focusing on promising practices to get back on track.

- Thursday, June 23 | 5:30 PM, House Appropriations Markup: FY 2023 Labor, Health, and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Bill.

**Schedule of Floor Activity:**

- Both the House and Senate are in session this week.