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9/20/21 Weekly Washington Update

Headlines to Know

- Pfizer has announced that their vaccine showed evidence of protection against the virus in kids 5-11. The company is confident that their vaccine is safe for children, but the FDA will have to authorize it before children can be vaccinated. Pfizer plans to apply for authorization by the end of the month. According to The New York Times, there is a chance millions of children will be vaccinated by Halloween.
- Democrats are continuing to struggle to pass the \$3.5 trillion reconciliation bill as well as the \$1 trillion infrastructure bill. They are facing several road blocks such as a possible government shut down due to hitting the debt ceiling. House Majority Leader Steny Hoyer has stated that the House will vote this week on raising the debt limit and a continuing resolution to fund the government until the end of 2021. Democrats will need at least 10 votes from Republican Senators to advance a continuing resolution. If Democrats fail to pass this legislation, this could negatively affect them in the 2022 election cycle.
- The Senate Parliamentarian ruled last night that Democrats cannot include pathways to citizenship in the \$3.5 trillion reconciliation bill. The plan would have provided green cards for Dreamers, Temporary Protected Status holders, and essential workers. The parliamentarian claimed that this plan “dwarfs its budgetary impact”

Other News to Know

- California Governor Gavin Newsom (D-CA) won the recall election and will maintain his role as Governor. Newsom was able to make a national impact with his campaign which may suggest a successful 2022 election cycle for Democrats.

This Week on Capitol Hill

Hearings of Interest:

- Tuesday, September 21st | Time TBA House Veterans' Affairs Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity hearing to amend Title 38
- Tuesday, September 21st | 9:30 AM Senate Committee on Armed Services closed briefing on Department of Defense support of Afghan Nationals who have recently left Afghanistan

This Week on Capitol Hill *(continued)*

Hearings of Interest: *(continued)*

- Wednesday, September 22nd | Time TBA House Committee on Veterans' Affairs hearing on Veteran Suicide Prevention: Innovative Research and Expanded Public Health Efforts

Markups and Votes of Interest:

- No markups of interest this week

Schedule of Floor Activity:

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