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3/9/21 Weekly Washington Update

Headlines to Know

- Last Friday, a second Senate "vote-a-rama" took place over the amendments to the Covid-19 Relief Package. The bill passed on Saturday with a 50-49 party-line vote. **The House will vote on the bill tomorrow and send it to President Biden for his signature. The President will make his first national address on Thursday.**
- Last week, Neera Tanden's nomination to serve as Director of the Office of Management and Budget was determined unlikely to be confirmed based on bipartisan pushback. While Biden has yet to announce Neera Tanden's replacement, Shalanda Young, who was officially nominated to serve as Deputy Director, may in fact become a candidate. She would receive a much stronger backing from both Democrats and Republicans. Her confirmation hearing for Deputy Director may take place as early as next week.
- Rep. Deb Haaland's nomination to serve as Secretary of the Interior Department has run into some Republican opposition. She appears to have the votes to be confirmed but Leader Schumer will have to clear several procedural hurdles first. If confirmed, she would be the first Native American to win approval to a Cabinet position.

Other News to Know

- A bill passed through the Florida House last week establishing protections for businesses from lawsuits associated with the Covid-19 Pandemic. The passing of the bill, FL HB7, poses questions around how best to deal with lawsuits that have been filed in response to employer decisions in the midst of a lot initial uncertainty regarding the spread of the virus. For a year now, there have been calls for federal liability protections but Democrats have resisted. Now, President Biden is poised to have a Labor Secretary who is expected to take a renewed look at what worker protections will be required.

This Week on Capitol Hill

Hearings of Interest:

- Monday, Mar. 8 | 10:30 a.m. House Rules Committee meets to formulate a rule on H.R. 842 (117), the "Protecting the Right to Organize Act of 2021"; H.R. 8 (117), the "Bipartisan Background Checks Act of 2021"; and H.R. 1446 (117), the "Enhanced Background Checks Act of 2021."

This Week on Capitol Hill *(continued)***Hearings of Interest:** *(continued)*

- Tuesday, Mar. 9 | 10 a.m. Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee hearing on "Examining Our COVID-19 Response: An Update from the Frontlines." 106 Dirksen.
- Tuesday, Mar. 9 | 10 a.m. House Appropriations Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Subcommittee hearing on "The Rural Economy."
- Wednesday, Mar. 10 | 10 a.m. House Financial Services Committee hearing on "Justice for All: Achieving Racial Equity Through Fair Access to Housing and Financial Services."
- Wednesday, Mar. 10 | 10 a.m. House Small Business Committee hearing on "The Next Steps for the Paycheck Protection Program." 2360 Rayburn.
- Wednesday, Mar. 10 | 10:30 a.m. House Energy and Commerce Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee hearing on "The Path Forward: Restoring the Vital Mission of EPA."
- Wednesday, Mar. 10 | 2 p.m. House Appropriations Energy and Water Development, and Related Agencies Subcommittee hearing on "Innovation and Investment in Water Resources Infrastructure."
- Thursday, Mar. 11 | 9 a.m. House Agriculture Committee hearing on "A Look at Food Insecurity in America." 1300 Longworth.
- Thursday, Mar. 11 | 10 a.m. House Appropriations Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies Subcommittee hearing on "COVID-19 and the Mental Health and Substance Use Crises."
- Thursday, Mar. 11 | 10:30 a.m. House Energy and Commerce Consumer Protection and Commerce Subcommittee hearing on "Kids Online During COVID: Child Safety in an Increasingly Digital Age."
- Thursday, Mar. 11 | 10:45 a.m. House Education and Labor Workforce Protections Subcommittee hearing on "Clearing the Air: Science-Based Strategies to Protect Workers from COVID-19 Infections." 2175 Rayburn.
- Thursday, Mar. 11 | 2 p.m. House Appropriations Financial Services and General Government Subcommittee hearing on "Oversight of the U.S. Postal Service."
- Thursday, Mar. 11 | 2 p.m. House Ways and Means Select Revenue Measures Subcommittee hearing on "Tax Tools to Help Local Governments." 1100 Longworth.

This Week on Capitol Hill *(continued again)*

Hearings of Interest: *(final)*

- Thursday, Mar. 11 | 2 p.m. House Natural Resources Water, Oceans and Wildlife Subcommittee hearing on "Building Back Better: Building Resilience for the Economy, Climate and Ecosystems."

Markups (votes) of Interest:

- Wednesday, Mar. 10 | 9:45 a.m. Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee markup to vote on the nomination of Shalanda D. Young to be deputy director of the Office of Management and Budget. 342 Dirksen.

Schedule of Floor Activity

- The House and Senate will be in session this week, voting to continue the process of confirming Biden's Cabinet, as well as moving forward on the appropriations bill and organizing committees.