



The following brief report highlights the progress of AACN's legislative priorities for the month of April 2008.

Troops to Nurse Teachers (TNT)

On March 5, 2008, Senator Richard Durbin (D-IL) introduced the Troops to Nurse Teachers Act of 2008 (S. 2705). Currently, the bill has strong bipartisan support with 14 cosponsors. Representative Lois Capps (D-CA) and Representative Steven LaTourette (R-OH) recently introduced the House companion bill (H.R. 5878) on April 23, 2008.

AACN has been working on this legislation for over three years and needs your assistance to secure the support of both your House and Senate Members. **Please continue to make calls to your Senators and start calling your Representative's offices to support H.R. 5878.** Also encourage your students and faculty to call in support of this important legislation.

AACN sponsored a military nurse shortage briefing in collaboration with Senator Durbin and Senator Barbara Mikulski (D-MD) on April 8 in the U.S. Capitol Building. For more information on the success of this briefing, please see:

<http://www.aacn.nche.edu/Government/pdf/MilitarySummary.pdf>

Should you have any questions regarding the TNT Act of 2008, please contact Suzanne Begeny at sbegeny@aacn.nche.edu or 202-463-6930 ext. 247.

Higher Education Act (HEA) Reauthorization

On April 2, 2008, AACN and members of the nursing community sent a letter to Chairman Edward Kennedy (D-MA) and Ranking Member Michael Enzi (R-WY) of the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP) Committee. This letter urged the HELP Committee to include the nursing language contained in the College Opportunity and Affordability Act (H.R. 4137) during the House and Senate reauthorization of the Higher Education Act.

The House and Senate are currently in conference regarding the HEA reauthorization. The most recent extension for the programs authorized under HEA will expire today, April 30, 2008. It is expected that Congress will pass another 30 day extension. AACN will continue to monitor the status of the HEA reauthorization to ensure the nursing language supported by AACN and the nursing community remains in the final bill.

Budget and Appropriations for Title VII and VIII of the Public Health Service Act

The House Appropriations committee is currently focusing on the Iraq war supplemental bill. AACN will continue to monitor the appropriations process and update you on the funding levels for Title VII and Title VIII.

Nursing Education Opportunities (NEO) Act

The Nursing Education Opportunities Act (S. 2230 and H.R. 4001) was introduced as a solution to the nursing and nurse faculty shortage. Senator Joseph Biden (D-DE) and Representatives Charles Boustany (R-LA) and Charlie Melancon (D-LA) sponsored the Senate and House companion bills. The bill would offer a six-step approach to address both the current nursing shortage and the shortage of doctoral nurse faculty members. Please ask your Members of

Congress to support this important piece of legislation. Should you have any questions regarding the NEO Act, please contact Suzanne Begeny at sbegeny@aacn.nche.edu or 202-463-6930 ext. 247. For more information on this legislation please see: <http://www.aacn.nche.edu/Government/pdf/NEOAct.pdf>
<http://thomas.loc.gov/cgi-bin/bdquery/z?d1110:s.02230>:

AACN's Spring Meeting

During AACN's Spring Meeting, the Government Affairs Committee (GAC) hosted a number of successful events that were widely attended by Members of Congress, their staff, and AACN Deans and Directors. On March 31, 2008, the GAC hosted a reception on Capitol Hill. The event was attended by six Members of Congress, House and Senate staff, and AACN member deans who had made congressional visits earlier in the day. For more information on this event please see: <http://www.aacn.nche.edu/Government/pdf/reception.pdf>

Please remember to turn in your yellow Congressional debriefing sheets to Gene Throwe at gthrowe@aacn.nche.edu. To submit this form on line, please see: <http://aacn.nche.edu/Surveys/CDB.nsf/gac?OpenForm>

Additional Information

For any questions regarding these or any other AACN legislative priorities, please contact Suzanne Begeny at sbegeny@aacn.nche.edu or 202-463-6930 ext. 247.