

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

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

The House and Senate Appropriations Committees have begun preparing the 13 appropriations bills. The House Labor, Health and Human Services (LHHS), and Education Appropriations Subcommittee marked up their bill on June 19<sup>th</sup>. The bill restores and increases funding to the Title VII and Title VIII programs, which was cut by \$240 million in the President's FY 2009 budget proposal. Additionally, Chairman David Obey (D-WI) remarked that the bill would increase funding for the National Institutes of Health (NIH). According to his official statement released on June 19<sup>th</sup>:

“The quality of health care delivered to the American people rests fundamentally on the level of knowledge that we have about diseases. That means expanded medical research is crucial. The President's response is to freeze funding for the National Institutes of Health. This bill rejects that freeze. It provides a \$1.2 billion increase over last year and the request, so that NIH can capitalize on unprecedented scientific opportunities to reduce the disease burden on the country. This increase is the largest in six years. More than 1,000 new research grants will be supported.”

The Subcommittee unanimously approved the bill and reported it out of the Subcommittee on June 19<sup>th</sup>. While NINR and Title VIII funding levels have been reported, these are subject to change as the full House Appropriations Committee has yet to mark up the bill. The House Appropriations Committee was scheduled to mark up its version of the LHHS bill on June 26, but the markup was abruptly adjourned due to partisan disputes regarding the Interior Appropriations bill. Therefore, based on the LHHS Appropriations Subcommittee levels, the bill provides \$174.41 million, an 11.8% increase over last year. The Subcommittee's bill also restores funding to the Advanced Education Nursing (AEN) program. Of significant interest, The Nurse Faculty Loan (NFLP) would receive \$12 million, a 52.7% increase over last year's level. NINR would receive \$142.34 million, a 3.53% increase over last year's level.

The Senate LHHS Appropriations Subcommittee marked up their bill on June 24<sup>th</sup>, which passed unanimously out of the Subcommittee. In a statement released by the Subcommittee's Chair, Senator Tom Harkin (D-IA), the bill "provides more than \$167 million for nursing education, \$11.6 million over the FY 2008 level." The full Senate Appropriations Committee marked-up the LHHS Appropriations bill and reported it out of Committee on June 26<sup>th</sup>. The bill would provide \$167.65 million for the Title VIII programs as well as restore and increase funding to the AEN program. Other increases were seen to the Loan Repayment and Scholarship program. The Senate proposes to raise funding for the NINR by providing \$141.44 million, a 2.9% increase over last year's level.

AACN is excited to see that the House LHHS Appropriations Subcommittee and the Senate Appropriations Committee propose to restore funding to the AEN program and provide significant increases for Title VIII and NINR (See the below chart). It is still uncertain when the Senate LHHS Appropriations bill will come to the floor for a vote. In the Senate LHHS Appropriations Subcommittee hearing, Chairman Harkin commented that he would like to move quickly and hopefully have the bill come to the floor soon after the July 4<sup>th</sup> recess. It is also uncertain when the House Appropriations Committee will take up the LHHS Appropriations bill.

AACN will continue to monitor the process and activate our grassroots network when it is time to contact your Members of Congress and encourage them to vote for the House and Senate LHHS Appropriations bills. For more information on the levels appropriated by the House and Senate for

these and other programs of interest, please contact Suzanne Begeny at [sbegeny@aacn.nche.edu](mailto:sbegeny@aacn.nche.edu).

	<b>FY 2008 Level</b>	<b>President's FY 2009 Request</b>	<b>FY 2009 House Subcommittee Mark Up</b>	<b>FY 2008-2009 %(+/-) Change</b>
Nursing Workforce Development (Title VIII)	\$156.05 mil	\$109.85 mil	\$174.41 mil	11.8%+
-Advanced Education Nursing	\$61.88 mil	\$0 mil	\$61.88 mil	0%
-Nursing Workforce Diversity	\$15.83 mil	\$16.11 mil	\$16.11 mil	1.8%+
-Nurse Education, Practice, and Retention	\$36.64 mil	\$37.29 mil	\$37.29 mil	1.8%+
-Loan Repayment and Scholarship Programs	\$30.51 mil	\$43.74 mil	\$43.74 mil	43.4%+
-Nurse Faculty Loan Program	\$7.86 mil	\$9.32 mil	\$12.00 mil	52.7%+
-Comprehensive Geriatric Education	\$3.33 mil	\$3.39 mil	\$3.39 mil	1.8%+
National Institute of Nursing Research	\$137.48 mil	\$137 mil	\$142.34	3.5%+

	<b>FY 2008 Level</b>	<b>President's FY 2009 Request</b>	<b>FY 2009 Senate Full Committee Mark Up</b>	<b>FY 2008-2009 % (+) Change</b>
Nursing Workforce Development (Title VIII)	\$156.05 mil	\$109.85 mil	\$167.65 mil	7.4%+
-Advanced Education Nursing	\$61.88 mil	\$0 mil	\$62.98 mil	1.8%+
-Nursing Workforce Diversity	\$15.83 mil	\$16.11 mil	\$16.11 mil	1.8%+
-Nurse Education, Practice, and Retention	\$36.64 mil	\$37.29 mil	\$37.29 mil	1.8%+
-Loan Repayment and Scholarship Programs	\$30.51 mil	\$43.74 mil	\$40.00 mil	31.1%+
-Nurse Faculty Loan Program	\$7.86 mil	\$9.32 mil	\$7.89 mil	0.4%+
-Comprehensive Geriatric Education	\$3.33 mil	\$3.39 mil	\$3.39 mil	1.8%+
National Institute of Nursing Research	\$137.48 mil	\$137 mil	\$141.44 mil	2.9%+

### ***Higher Education Act (HEA) Reauthorization***

The House and Senate are currently in conference regarding the HEA reauthorization. The most recent extension for the programs authorized under HEA was signed into law by President Bush on May 30, 2008 (PL 105-244) and will expire June 30, 2008. Congress recently passed yet another extension that will authorize the programs under HEA until July 31, 2008. 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.

### ***Troops to Nurse Teachers (TNT)***

On April 23, 2008, House Nursing Caucus Chairs, Representatives Lois Capps, RN (D-CA) and Steven LaTourette (R-OH), introduced the Troops to Nurse Teachers Act (H.R. 5878), a companion bill to S. 2705. Current House cosponsors include Representatives Henry Waxman (D-CA), Raul Grijalva (D-AZ), Charles Rangel (D-NY), and Michael Castle (R-DE).

Senator Richard Durbin (D-IL) introduced S. 2705 on March 5, 2008 and the bill currently has 17 cosponsors. Senators James Inhofe (R-OK), Barack Obama (D-IL), Joseph Lieberman (I-CT), Joseph Biden (D-DE), Jack Reed (D-RI) Barbara Mikulski (D-MD), Susan Collins (R-ME), Robert Menendez (D-NJ), Elizabeth Dole (R-NC), Daniel Inouye (D-HI), Hillary Clinton (D-NY), Sherrod Brown (D-OH), Evan Bayh (D-IN), Claire McCaskill (D-MO), Amy Klobuchar (D-MN), Sheldon Whitehouse (D-RI), and Norm Colman (R-MN) all support the TNT Act.

Should you have any questions regarding the TNT Act of 2008, please contact Suzanne Begeny at [sbegeny@aacn.nche.edu](mailto:sbegeny@aacn.nche.edu) or 202-463-6930 ext. 247. Please also refer to AACN's fact sheet for additional information: [http://www.aacn.nche.edu/Government/pdf/08TNT\\_FS.pdf](http://www.aacn.nche.edu/Government/pdf/08TNT_FS.pdf)

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