



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

### ***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), and Charles Rangel (D-NY).

S. 2705, introduced by Senator Richard Durbin (D-IL) on March 5, 2008, currently has 16 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), and Sheldon Whitehouse (D-RI) all support the TNT Act.

**AACN has been working to garner cosponsors for the respective bills on both the House and Senate side of Congress. However, we still need your assistance to secure the support of both your House and Senate Members. Please continue to make calls to your Senators and ask them to cosponsor (S. 2705) and ask your Representative's offices to support H.R. 5878. Also encourage your students and faculty to call in support of this important legislation.**

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)

### ***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. According to Congressional Quarterly, Chairman of the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pension (HELP) Committee, Senator Edward Kennedy (D-MA), due to recent health concerns, has requested Senator Barbara Mikulski (D-MD) help manage the bill at the member level so not to slow the progress of the legislation.

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 and Senate Appropriations committee have begun preparing the 13 appropriations bills. The House Labor, Health and Human Services Appropriations subcommittee will likely mark up their bill in late-June or July. The House and Senate are projecting that all bills will be marked-up and passed on the chamber floors by the end of September. However, it is anticipated that only three (Defense, Homeland Security, and Military Construction, Veteran Affairs) of the 13 appropriations bill will pass this Congress. The remaining FY 2009 bills are expected to be addressed in the 111<sup>th</sup> Congress after the new President takes office.

AACN will continue to monitor the appropriations process and update you on the funding levels for Title VII and Title VIII, NIH, NINR, AHRQ and other federal programs of interest.

***Title VII and Title VIII Reauthorization***

Reports from the Senate HELP Committee confirm that the Title VII and Title VIII reauthorization is not anticipated for completion this Congress.

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