Breaking News—Budget and Debt Ceiling Deal Reached

As you are aware, the deadline passed (October 1, 2013) for Congress to reach a deal to fund the federal government for Fiscal Year 2014, forcing the federal government to shut down for the first time in 17 years. Earlier this afternoon, a Senate deal was reached that would fund the federal government at the sequestration levels through January 15, 2014 and extend the debt limit until February 7, 2014. Additionally, it would create a budget conference to negotiate a long-term spending plan by December 13th and provide back pay for furloughed workers. Both the House and Senate are expected to take up the measure before the close of the day and send it to the White House for the President’s signature. AACN will continue to keep you apprised on the continued progress of the federal appropriations and debt ceiling process.

CMS Administrator Marilyn Tavenner to Receive AACN’s 2013 Policy Luminary Award

Marilyn Tavenner, MHA, RN, will accept the AACN 2013 Policy Luminary Award on Monday, October 28, 2013. This award is given to one nurse each year whose work in public policy has made significant and lasting contributions to the nursing profession. Ms. Tavenner serves as the Administrator of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). A graduate of Virginia Commonwealth University School of Nursing, Ms. Tavenner manages all aspects of CMS, the $820 billion federal agency that ensures healthcare coverage for 100 million Americans. AACN is pleased to announce Ms. Tavenner will be able to offer brief remarks during the acceptance ceremony at the meeting.

To read more about Administrator Tavenner, visit: [http://www.cms.gov/About-CMS/leadership/](http://www.cms.gov/About-CMS/leadership/).

Click on the link for more information on previous Policy Luminary Award recipients and their accomplishments.

Mark Your Calendars! AACN’s Virtual Advocacy Day is October 28

AACN will host its Virtual Advocacy Day on Monday, October 28, 2013, and your participation is vital! Members of AACN’s Grassroots Network will be invited to send a message to their federal legislators requesting they advance policies that support the autonomy of advanced practice registered nurses and address faculty shortages and student capacity-building in our nation’s nursing schools. These requests will include supporting:
• **The Home Health Care Planning Improvement Act of 2013** (H.R. 2504, S. 1332). Introduced on June 26, 2013 by Reps. Greg Walden (R-OR) and Allyson Schwartz (D-PA), the bill would allow nurse practitioners, certified nurse-midwives, and clinical nurse specialists to certify home health services for Medicare patients.

• **Nursing and healthcare funding.** It is critical that Congress understands how the Title VIII Nursing Workforce Development programs and the National Institute of Nursing Research are essential to their state as well as the importance of supporting healthcare programs in general.

• **Removal of capacity barriers for nursing schools.** AACN will focus on how faculty shortages and the demand for clinical sites in our member schools impacts the nursing pipeline.

AACN appreciates all that our members do to promote sound policies that advance our profession and the health of our patients. Your support is critical to ensuring that nursing’s voice is at the forefront of those that influence policy decision-making at the federal level.

To join AACN’s Grassroots Network, see: [http://capwiz.com/aacn/home/](http://capwiz.com/aacn/home/).

**Scheduling Capitol Hill Visits for the Fall Meeting**

During the afternoon of Monday, October 28, AACN will host its Capitol Hill Day. Due to the current government shutdown, you may be experiencing difficulty or delay in securing Hill visits as Congressional offices have limited staff. However, we encourage you to continue reaching out to your legislators’ offices. GA staff suggests reaching out to the Health Legislative Assistant by email. GA staff also recommends contacting offices when the government resumes operations as your prior email may have been missed.

In addition, many of AACN’s State Grassroots Liaisons (SGLs) have been contacting Senate offices to schedule visits for AACN members in their state and may have already contacted you regarding the details of these meetings. If that is the case, and you have been contacted by an SGL, please do not schedule a separate Senate meeting.

If you continue to experience difficulty with scheduling House visits, or if Congressional staff has additional questions, please do not hesitate to contact the SGL(s) for your state or GA staff at Smiyamoto@aacn.nche.edu or Linouye@aacn.nche.edu.

Click [here](http://capwiz.com/aacn/home/) to view a list of AACN’s State Grassroots Liaisons.

**AACN Applauds Veterans Administration’s Proposal to Designate APRNs as Licensed Independent Practitioners**

Recently, the Veterans Administration’s has put forward proposed changes to its Veterans Health Administration’s (VHA) Nursing Handbook 1180.03 to improve how care is delivered to our nation’s Veteran servicemen and women. One proposed recommendation to the Nursing Handbook would recognize advanced practice registered nurses (APRNs) as Licensed Independent Practitioners in all VHA facilities. This proposal directly aligns with the Institute of Medicine’s Future of Nursing report, which states that nurses should practice to the full extent of their education and training. This proposed amendment to the handbook aims to foster a practice environment that would allow them to do so. AACN has partnered with American Association of Nurse Anesthetists to support this issue and has met with members of the House Nursing Caucus, House and Senate Veterans Affairs Committee members, and the committee staff over the course of September and October.
AACN sent a letter of support for this proposed change to VA Secretary Shinseki. AACN also signed on to a letter of support signed by 41 national nursing organizations of the Nursing Community coalition, of which AACN is a member, as well as a letter sent by the APRN Workgroup. To view these letters, click here.

### PARTS Act Supports APRNs Delivering Care in Rural Areas

AACN recently sent letters thanking Representatives for introducing the Protecting Access to Rural Therapy Services (PARTS) Act (S. 1143, H.R. 2801). The bill would expand the ability of APRNs to provide services in rural communities, especially therapeutic hospital outpatient services, and would eliminate the direct supervision requirement for APRNs furnishing many of these services.

S. 1143 was introduced on June 12, 2013 by Senators Jerry Moran (R-KS), John Thune (R-SD), and Jon Tester (D-MT). The legislation has six additional cosponsors. H.R. 2801 was introduced on July 26, 2013 by Representatives Kristi Noem (R-At Large SD), Collin Peterson (D-MN), Kevin Cramer (R-At Large ND), and Steve Daines (R-At Large MT). The legislation has eleven additional cosponsors. Click here to view AACN’s letter of support to these cosponsors.

This legislation underscores the significant role APRNs play in serving some of our nation’s most vulnerable communities and helps to ensure that patients receive high-quality services in a timely manner by reducing burdensome and unnecessary oversight.

### Congressional Briefing Highlighting Health Professions and Nursing Workforce Development Programs

As a member of the Health Professions and Nursing Education Coalition (HPNEC), AACN—in conjunction with over 60 national healthcare organizations—hosted a Capitol Hill briefing showcasing how the Health Resources and Services Administration’s Title VII Health Professions and Title VIII Nursing Workforce Development Programs (Public Health Service Act) continue to impact the ability of our nation’s healthcare workforce to meet the changing needs of America’s patients. The programs are specifically designed to enhance care delivery for specific patient populations and help to ensure that a diverse, highly-educated and skilled healthcare workforce is sustained.

Over 70 attendees, including staff from Congress and the Administration, as well as other stakeholders heard presentations from a panel of Title VII and Title VIII experts. The speakers included Beatrice Kalisch, PhD, RN, FAAN, a current Institute of Medicine (IOM) scholar and the Shirley Titus Distinguished Professor of Nursing and Director of Innovation and Evaluation at the University of Michigan School of Nursing; Mindy Fain, MD, professor of medicine and chief of the Division of Geriatrics, General Internal Medicine and Palliative Medicine at the University of Arizona College of Medicine; and Tiffany Groover, MD, MPH, a recipient of the Title VII Health Careers Opportunity Program (HCOP) and a primary care physician at Total Health Care, Inc. in Baltimore, MD. Dr. Kalisch gave a robust overview of the history of Title VIII programs and how they address the growing demand for nurses and nurse faculty. Dr. Fain discussed how the Title VII and VIII geriatric education programs prepare health professionals to care for the nation’s rapidly growing older adult population. Dr. Groover recalled for the audience how HCOP helped her achieve her dream of becoming a physician and her goals for giving back to her community.
The Title VII programs celebrated its 50th anniversary since being signed into law on September 24, 1963. The Title VIII programs will celebrate its 50th year of success in September 2014.

**IOM Reviews Progress Toward Implementing Goals of Future of Nursing Report**

Three years after the IOM released its landmark report *The Future of Nursing: Leading Change, Advancing Health* on October 5, 2010, Harvey Fineberg, MD, PhD, President of the IOM, and Risa Lavizzo-Mourey, MD, MBA, President and CEO of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF), published an article commenting on the progress made towards implementing the IOM’s recommendations. The report calls for allowing registered nurses (RNs) to practice to the full extent of their education and training, promoting academic progression in order to realize a more highly educated nursing workforce, making nurses full partners with other healthcare professionals in the redesign of the healthcare delivery system, and working towards improved data collection and information infrastructure.

To illustrate progress to counter scope of practice barriers, Drs. Fineberg and Lavizzo-Mourey point to 43 state action coalitions that have prioritized initiatives to remove regulations that prevent APRNs from practicing to the full extent of their education and training. Additionally, seven states (IA, KY, MD, NE, ND, OR, and RI) have removed barriers to practice for APRNs, and legislation to remove physician supervision requirements that interfere with APRN practice has been introduced in 15 states thus far in 2013. There have also been increases in enrollment in RN to BSN programs, which the authors hope are the beginnings of a trend toward a more highly educated nursing workforce. One of the goals in this landmark report is to have 80% of the nursing workforce be baccalaureate-prepared by the year 2020.

To read Drs. Fineberg and Lavizzo-Mourey’s article in its entirety, see: [http://iom.edu/~media/Files/Perspectives-Files/2013/Commentaries/EO-Nursing.pdf](http://iom.edu/~media/Files/Perspectives-Files/2013/Commentaries/EO-Nursing.pdf).

For more information on the IOM’s *Future of Nursing* report, see AACN’s policy brief. Click [here](http://iom.edu/~media/Files/Perspectives-Files/2013/Commentaries/EO-Nursing.pdf) to access the full report.

**AACN’s Faculty Policy Intensive Now Accepting Applications**

AACN will hold its second annual Faculty Policy Intensive (FPI) on March 24-27, 2014 in Washington, DC. This fully-funded, four-day immersion program is designed for faculty of AACN member schools who are interested in actively pursuing a role in healthcare and nursing policy. The Faculty Policy Intensive offers participants the opportunity to enhance existing knowledge of policy and advocacy through sessions that will strengthen understanding of the legislative process and the dynamic relationships between federal departments and agencies, national nursing organizations, and the individual advocate. At the conclusion of the FPI, participants will put their new advocacy skills to use as AACN Faculty Policy Fellows. For more information about FPI, including a draft agenda and registration details, visit: [http://www.aacn.nche.edu/government-affairs/fpi](http://www.aacn.nche.edu/government-affairs/fpi).
Join Nursing Leaders at AACN’s 2014 Student Policy Summit!

The AACN Student Policy Summit (SPS) is a three-day conference held in Washington, DC and is open to baccalaureate and graduate nursing students enrolled at an AACN member institution. Students who attend SPS are immersed in didactic program sessions focused on the federal policy process and nursing’s role in professional advocacy. **Registration is on a first-come, first-serve basis, but there is a five student limit per member institution.** **Registration priority will be given to applicants who have not previously attended the Student Policy Summit.** The 2014 Summit will take place March 23-25. Attendees will have the opportunity to hear from nursing policy leaders, including:

**Beatrice Kalisch, PhD, RN, FAAN,** is the 2013-2014 Institute of Medicine Scholar in collaboration with the American Academy of Nursing, the American Nurses Association, and the American Nurses Foundation. Dr. Kalisch is also the Shirley Titus Distinguished Professor of Nursing and Director of Innovation and Evaluation at the University of Michigan School of Nursing. Throughout her career, Dr. Kalisch has conducted numerous research studies examining perceptions of nurses and the nursing profession and is an expert on the history of federal nursing workforce initiatives, including the Title VIII Nursing Workforce Development programs.

**Patricia A. Grady, PhD, RN, FAAN,** is the Director of the National Institute of Nursing Research (NINR) at the National Institutes of Health. Dr. Grady has initiated several major NINR research programs, including: end-of-life; self-management of chronic illness; health disparities; and genetics. Throughout her tenure as Director, Dr. Grady has supported the development of infrastructure and research and training opportunities for new researchers, including development of the NINR Summer Genetics Institute, designed to expand competency and foster interest in genetics and related research.

**Richard Ricciardi, PhD, NP,** is a Health Scientist for the Center for Primary Care, Prevention, and Clinical Partnerships at the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ). Before joining AHRQ in 2010, Dr. Ricciardi was on active military duty for thirty years and had numerous positions with the Department of Defense as a nurse practitioner and held positions as a Senior Leader and a Clinical Scientist. His research interests include: disease prevention and health promotion; human performance and fitness; and Health Services Research focusing on the delivery of health care in primary care settings.

**Barbara Damron, PhD, RN, FAAN,** is 2012-2013 RWJF Health Policy Fellow with the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions. She is also an associate professor at the University of New Mexico (UNM) College of Nursing and directs the Office of Community Partnerships & Cancer Health Disparities and the Hispanic and Native American Community Outreach program at the UNM Cancer Center. Dr. Damron developed and obtained legislative funding and implemented the nation’s first statewide comprehensive cancer nursing education program in the country, the Texas Cancer Council’s Nurse Oncology Education Program.

For more information, including a draft agenda and registration details, see: [http://www.aacn.nche.edu/government-affairs/student-policy-summit](http://www.aacn.nche.edu/government-affairs/student-policy-summit).