AACN Member Advocacy Report
March-October 2013

I. Action Alert Activity

AACN Action Alerts are sent through the Grassroots Network, currently comprised of 8,861 AACN member deans, faculty, students, and other community stakeholders. Membership in the network grew from 5,173 to 8,861 deans, directors, faculty, and students between March and October 2013, a 71% increase. Action Alerts provide AACN members the opportunity to urge their legislators to take specific action on an AACN issue of interest. Grassroots Network members automatically receive Action Alerts via email with instructions on how to contact their Members of Congress. This information can also be found on AACN’s Government Affairs Grassroots webpage. AACN Government Affairs staff tracks response activity from the Grassroots Network to report to the membership. The following five Action Alerts were sent between March and October 2013.

March 16, 2013
Action Alert: Join AACN’s Virtual Advocacy Day and Make Your Voice Heard Today
Target: U.S. House of Representatives and U.S. Senate
Message:
• Support the Title VIII Nursing Workforce Development programs, the National Institute of Nursing Research (NINR), and the Nurse-Managed Health Clinics (NMHC) in FY 2014.
Response: There were 65 Grassroots Network members who sent 202 messages to Congress (58 Senators and 55 Representatives were contacted).
Result: The FY 2014 appropriations process continues to unfold. The full Senate Appropriations Committee approved the FY 2014 Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education report allocating $251.099 million for the Title VIII programs, $145.272 million for NINR, and included bill language proposing $5.00 million for the NMHCs. These funding levels are in line with AACN’s and the Nursing Community’s FY 2014 requests.

April 3, 2013
Action Alert: Urgent! Congress is Deciding Federal Funding Levels for FY 2014 Now!
Target: U.S. House of Representatives
Message:
• Please sign the bipartisan Dear Colleague letter supporting the Title VIII Nursing Workforce Development programs that is being circulated by Representative Lois Capps, RN (D-CA) and Representative Richard Hanna (R-NY).
• Support $150 million for the National Institute of Nursing Research in their FY 2014 programmatic requests.
• Support $20 million for Nurse-Managed Health Centers in their FY 2014 programmatic requests.
Response: There were 293 Grassroots Network members who sent 300 messages to 159 Representatives.
Result: Currently awaiting Congressional action on the federal budget.
April 11, 2013  
**Action Alert:** Congress Extends Deadline for FY 2014 Funding Requests!  
**Target:** U.S. House of Representatives  
**Message:**  
- Sign the bipartisan Dear Colleague letter supporting the Title VIII Nursing Workforce Development programs that is being circulated by Representative Lois Capps, RN (D-CA) and Representative Richard Hanna (R-NY).  
- Sign the bipartisan Dear Colleague letter that is being circulated by Representative Edward Markey (D-MA) and Representative David McKinley (R-WV) requesting support for the National Institutes of Health of at least $32 billion.  
**Response:** There were 125 Grassroots Network members who sent a total of 126 messages sent to 83 Representatives.  
**Result:** A total of 57 Representatives signed the bipartisan Title VIII Dear Colleague letter and a total of 168 Representatives signed the bipartisan NIH Dear Colleague letter.

April 16, 2013  
**Action Alert:** Last Chance for Action  
**Target:** U.S. House of Representatives  
**Message:**  
- Sign the bipartisan Dear Colleague letter supporting the Title VIII Nursing Workforce Development programs that is being circulated by Representative Lois Capps, RN (D-CA) and Representative Richard Hanna (R-NY).  
**Response:** There were 93 Grassroots Network members who sent 98 messages to 77 Representatives.  
**Result:** At the end of its circulation, at total of 84 Representatives signed the bipartisan Title VIII Dear Colleague letter.

April 22, 2013  
**Action Alert:** Now It’s Time for the Senate to Hear Your Voice!  
**Target:** U.S. Senate  
**Message:**  
- Sign the Dear Colleague letter that is being circulated by Senator Jeff Merkley (D-OR) requesting $251 million for the Title VIII Nursing Workforce Development programs.  
- Sign the bipartisan Dear Colleague letter that is being circulated by Senator Robert Casey (D-PA) and Senator Richard Burr (R-NC) requesting strong support for the National Institutes of Health.  
**Response:** There were 169 Grassroots Network members send a total of 339 messages to 71 Senators.  
**Result:** A total of 28 Senators signed the Title VIII Dear Colleague letter and a total of 52 Senators signed the bipartisan NIH Dear Colleague letter.

II. Historical AACN Congressional Visits (Fall 2006-Spring 2013)

*Please note that in AACN members participated in a Virtual Advocacy Center in lieu of a traditional Hill Day during the 2013 Fall Semiannual Meeting.*
III. Top 10 States Communicating with Congress (March-October 2013)

Number of Responses (Phone, Email, Fax, In-person meetings)

- California: 87
- Michigan: 75
- Maryland: 63
- Pennsylvania: 61
- New York: 58
- Florida: 57
- Texas: 54
- Ohio: 49
- Virginia: 48
- Massachusetts: 47

IV. AACN’s Grassroots Network

When it began in 2009, the AACN Grassroots Network was comprised of 665 deans, directors, and other academic leaders from AACN member schools. Since that time, AACN staff has requested that members encourage their faculty and students to join our Grassroots Network to maximize our advocacy efforts and strengthen the voice of professional nursing education on Capitol Hill. Currently, the AACN Grassroots Network has grown to 8,861 subscribed members. However, as the chart below illustrates, the Grassroots Network still captures only a very small portion (approximately 2.1%) of the constituents represented by AACN. Interested individuals can join AACN’s Grassroots Network by visiting http://capwiz.com/aacn/home.

Portion of AACN Members/Deans, Faculty, and Students Enrolled in the Grassroots Network

Total= 409,824

- Grassroots Network= 8,861