FY2011 Appropriations Update

On December 8, 2010, by a vote of 212 to 206, the House passed a long-term continuing resolution (CR) that would fund a majority of the federal programs at the Fiscal Year (FY) 2010 levels through September 2011. This spending bill, if enacted, does make adjustments for specific priorities including the Health Professions Programs (Title VII of the Public Health Service Act [PHSA]) and the Nursing Workforce Development Programs (Title VIII, PHSA). The Title VII and Title VIII programs would receive a 23% increase over the FY 2010 levels to $613 million. For more information on the House spending bill, see: http://www.rules.house.gov/111/LegText/111_fullyearcr.pdf

The Senate will now act to approve an omnibus spending measure for FY 2011, a draft of which was released on December 14, 2010. The draft does not provide specifics for all programs. However, of interest to AACN stakeholders, the National Institute of Nursing Research would receive $149.34 million a 2.5% increase over FY 2010. Additionally, in a summary released by the Labor, Health and Human Services Appropriations Subcommittee, the bill includes $292 million for nurse training and retention (an increase of $48 million from FY 2010) and $43.6 million for nurse faculty loan forgiveness (an increase of $18.7 million from FY 2010). Finally, this omnibus, if passed, would include $3 million for the National Health Care Workforce Commission, created by the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, to begin its critical work. The draft omnibus is available at: http://appropriations.senate.gov/news.cfm?method=news.view&id=9ac3518e-7e19-4328-bf52-16a6c2a1d333.

The Senate is expected to consider the measure before December 20, 2010. Should the omnibus bill gain the support of 60 Senators and be approved by the chamber, it is likely the House would quickly take up its consideration and pass the spending measure as well, which would complete the FY 2011 appropriations process. AACN will continue to monitor the final stages of this federal funding process and report its outcome to the membership.

NACNEP Holds 123rd Meeting

The National Advisory Council on Nurse Education and Practice (NACNEP) held their 123rd Meeting on November 18-19 in Rockville, MD. The meeting theme was “Diversity in Nurse Education and Practice” and the speakers included:

- Mary Wakefield, PhD, RN, FAAN, Administrator of the Health Resources and Services Administration
- Marilyn Mobley, PhD, Vice President for Inclusion, Diversity, and Equal Opportunity for Case Western Reserve University
The presentations covered diversity issues in the nursing workforce, the IOM report on *The Future of Nursing*, and an update on the diversity mission at the Bureau of Health Professions. The discussion highlighted the need to have a workforce that is reflective of the increasingly diverse population of patients in the United States. AACN staff attended the two day meeting and offered public comments. To read AACN’s fact sheet on Nursing Workforce Diversity, see http://www.aacn.nche.edu/Media/FactSheets/diversity.htm. For more information about NACNEP and other reports commissioned by the council, see http://bhpr.hrsa.gov/nursing/nacnep.htm.

**PCORI Hosts First Public Meeting**

The Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI) was created by the *Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act* and will serve as a non-profit research organization that will help patients and clinicians make informed decisions on how various diseases, disorders, and conditions can best be treated and managed. The Government Accountability Office announced the appointments to the PCORI Governing Board in September. One nurse, Dr. Debra Barksdale, PhD, RN, Associate Professor, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill School of Nursing, was appointed to the Governing Board. The PCORI hosted its first public meeting on November 23, 2010, and AACN staff attended. This initial meeting covered operational and administrative issues and established a process for the ongoing activities of the group. The PCORI Governing Board will be assisted by the PCORI Methodology Committee, which will be appointed in 2011.

**Keynote Speaker Confirmed for Student Policy Summit**

AACN is delighted to announce that the Administrator of the Health Services and Resources Administration, Mary Wakefield, has confirmed her participation in the Student Policy Summit as the keynote speaker. Dr. Wakefield’s impressive career as a nurse and health policy expert guarantees her session will be a highlight of the 2011 Summit. This event will coincide with AACN’s Spring Meeting and will be held March 20-22, 2011 at the Fairmont Hotel in Washington, DC.

In other news regarding the Summit, a hotel room block for participants is now open. A limited number of rooms are available at the Fairmont Hotel. Those interested in booking rooms at the rate of $249 should do so by calling (202) 429-2400 and mentioning the code "Student Policy Conference." To see a list of other hotels near the conference, including some less expensive options, visit http://www.aacn.nche.edu/Governm...
Interested stakeholders. For more information, see http://www.aacn.nche.edu/Government/pdf/11SPSSponsorship.pdf.

Students interested in applying for the two AACN scholarships should act quickly, as applications for the scholarship are due this Friday, December 17, 2010. For more information on the application process, see http://www.aacn.nche.edu/Government/pdf/11SPSScholarApp.pdf.

HRSA Nursing Education Grants Available

Earlier this month the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) announced two funding opportunities for schools of nursing. The first is the Nursing Workforce Diversity program, announcement number HRSA-11-040 and the second is the Nurse Education, Practice, Quality, and Retention (NEPQR) program announcement number HRSA-10-041.

The Nursing Workforce Diversity program awards grants to eligible applicants to increase nursing education opportunities for individuals who are from disadvantaged backgrounds, including racial and ethnic minorities underrepresented among registered nurses. More information about this program can be found at https://grants.hrsa.gov/webExternal/SFO.asp?ID=9FF8EC85-981D-4E95-A937-359FC98B74A8.

The NEPQR program grants are awarded to eligible institutions for projects to strengthen and enhance the capacity for nurse education, practice and retention to address the nursing shortage. More information about the NEPQR program, which was modified by the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, can be found at https://grants.hrsa.gov/webExternal/SFO.asp?ID=3739C707-4320-4CC7-801C-C103F9AE8464.

National Health Service Corps Loan Repayment Open

The National Health Service Corps (NHSC) offers educational loan repayment for primary care nurse practitioners, certified nurse midwives, and psychiatric nurse specialists in exchange for two or more years of practice in an NHSC-approved site. For more information on the NHSC and to apply for the loan repayment program, visit http://nhsc.hrsa.gov/loanrepayment.

Happy Holidays from the American Association of Colleges of Nursing Government Affairs