Update on Healthcare Reform Progress

Tomorrow, February 25, 2010, the President will host a televised bipartisan Health Summit that will continue the reform discussions. Specifically, the President will comment on his Healthcare Reform Proposal that was released Monday, February 22, 2010. This proposal is said to “bridge the gap between the House and the Senate bill, and includes new provisions to crack down on waste, fraud, and abuse” (The President’s Proposal, 2010). A few of the President’s key policy improvements and modifications include increasing tax credits for health insurance plans, addressing the “donut hole” for Medicare prescription drug beneficiaries, improving provider responsibility, and investing $11 billion in Community Health Centers. Of interest to AACN members, the President’s proposal remains committed to the provisions AACN worked diligently to advance during the healthcare reform discussions, including:

- Increasing the supply of nurses by awarding competitive grants to schools of nursing
- Increasing nursing student loan amounts
- Providing scholarship and loan repayment opportunities for nurse faculty
- Investing in the National Health Service Corps.

For more information on the President’s Proposal see:
Proposal: http://www.whitehouse.gov/health-care-meeting/proposal
Key Improvements: http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/summary-presidents-proposal.pdf
Healthcare Workforce Section: http://www.whitehouse.gov/health-care-meeting/proposal/titlev
Primary Care Section: http://www.whitehouse.gov/health-care-meeting/proposal/titlev/investing-primary-care

In preparation for the upcoming healthcare reform discussion, AACN and 45 members of the Nursing Community sent a letter to the White House and Congressional invitees requesting their attention and commitment to specific nursing priorities as they continue to discuss national healthcare reform. The 46 national nursing organizations noted, “The White House Healthcare Reform Summit will spotlight the continued need to focus on healthcare reform. The Nursing Community stands ready to support your persistent reform efforts and appreciates your commitment to comprehensive and meaningful change for our U.S. healthcare system.”

For a copy of this letter and to view AACN’s efforts for healthcare reform see:

- AACN’s Healthcare Reform Effort: http://www.aacn.nche.edu/Government/npb.htm
Register Today for AACN’s First Annual Student Policy Summit

AACN’s Inaugural Student Policy Summit will take place March 21-23, 2010 in Washington, DC. This opportunity is open to baccalaureate and graduate students at AACN member schools who have an interest in nursing and health policy. The Summit will coincide with AACN’s Spring Annual Meeting and will feature a variety of plenary speakers, panels, and networking opportunities. AACN is thrilled to announce that distinguished nursing leaders Dr. Patricia Grady, Director of the National Institute of Nursing Research, Dr. Deborah Trautman, Executive Director of the Center for Health Policy at Johns Hopkins University and former health fellow to Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi (D-CA), and Darlene Curley, Executive Director of the Jonas Center for Nursing Excellence and former Maine State Legislator are confirmed presenters for the Summit. To view the complete Summit agenda, visit www.aacn.nche.edu/Government/pdf/SPSAgenda.pdf.

Accompanied by AACN members deans and directors, students will have the opportunity to make visits to the Capitol Hill offices of their members of Congress. This is a fantastic opportunity to network with Congressional staff and leaders from nursing academia.

The registration rate for the Summit is $149 (registration is limited). A small hotel room block for the AACN Student Policy Summit is available now. Students can make reservations at the Washington Marriott located at 1221 22nd Street, NW, Washington, DC for $179 a night. Book rooms now to reserve this great rate by calling 1-800-228-9290. The hotel is located just a few blocks from the Fairmont Washington where most of the Summit activities will take place. More information can be found online at www.aacn.nche.edu/government/sps.htm.

Government Affairs Events at the AANC Spring Meeting

The Government Affairs Committee is planning a number of programs for members as a part of the AACN Spring Annual Meeting taking place March 21-23, 2010 at the Fairmont Washington, DC. On Sunday, March 21, the Government Affairs Session “The Future of Healthcare Workforce Development” will feature Dr. Janet Heinrich, Associate Administrator of the Bureau of Health Professions as speaker.

AACN members are encouraged to begin scheduling meetings with their members of the House of Representatives for Monday, March 22, between 1-4 pm. To prepare for these visits, the Government Affairs Committee and State Grassroots Liaisons will host an informal breakfast discussion Monday morning from 7:45-8:45 am. This spring’s Congressional Reception will take place in the Rayburn House Office Building Foyer from 4:30-6:30 pm. Please be sure to extend an invitation to your member of Congress when calling to schedule your meetings.

AACN will once again offer bus service to and from Capitol Hill and the Fairmont to better facilitate meetings. AACN members who might need physical assistance from the bus drop off point to the office buildings are encouraged to contact Chandra Burnside at cburnside@aacn.nche.edu to make arrangements.

The Government Affairs Committee will host a second program session “National Healthcare Reform: What’s Next?” on Tuesday, March 23. This session will feature Dr. Deborah Trautman, Executive Director of the Center for Health Policy at Johns Hopkins Medicine.
2009-2010 Title VIII Student Recipient Survey Now Open

AACN launched the third annual Title VIII Student Recipient Survey on February 4, 2010. AACN members are asked to have their financial aid offices return a one-page document reporting on Title VIII awards to the school of nursing as well as to forward the online survey link to students who receive Title VIII funding. These survey results are critical for producing the student profiles AACN members take to Capitol Hill during the spring and fall AACN meetings, as well as other national and state specific data points needed for appropriations advocacy. **The survey closes tomorrow, February 25, 2010.**

Work Continues on FY 2011 Appropriations

As reported earlier, President Obama’s budget, presented to Congress on February 1, 2010, requested level funding for the Title VIII Nursing Workforce Development Programs. AACN and other national nursing organizations will be meeting with key Congressional staffers in the coming weeks to collaborate on securing a sound investment in nursing education for FY 2011. Additionally, AACN will work to advance the science at the National Institute of Nursing Research by advocating for increased funding in FY 2011. For more information on FY 2011 appropriations see: [http://www.aacn.nche.edu/Government/appropriations.htm](http://www.aacn.nche.edu/Government/appropriations.htm).

Nurses Impacting Policy

**Janet Heinrich DrPH, RN, FAAN**
Dr. Heinrich was recently named the Associate Administrator for the Bureau of Health Professions at the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA). Her distinguished career as a nurse leader in research, education, and policy will make her an excellent asset to HRSA. AACN looks forward to working with Dr. Heinrich to address the workforce challenges acutely impacting nursing.

**Marilyn B. Tavenner, RN**
Ms. Tavenner was recently named the new principal Deputy Administrator for the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS). She served as the Secretary of Health and Human Services for the Commonwealth of Virginia under Governor Tim Kaine (D-VA). As an experienced nurse executive and former member of the governor’s cabinet, she will bring a fresh perspective to CMS.

Kaiser Health Reports on the Need for Nurse Practitioners

In an article titled "Doctor Shortage Fuels Nurses’ Push For Expanded Role," the Kaiser Health News reports on the role Nurse Practitioners will play in addressing the primary care needs of the nation. The article provides an overview of the arguments for and against expanded scope of practice for Nurse Practitioners. To read a copy of this article see: [http://www.kaiserhealthnews.org/Stories/2010/February/22/nurse-practitioners.aspx](http://www.kaiserhealthnews.org/Stories/2010/February/22/nurse-practitioners.aspx)

NI NR Turns 25 in September 2011

The National Institute of Nursing Research (NINR) is celebrating their 25th Anniversary in 2011 and NINR has planned a variety of special events to celebrate, including a conference, workshops, a symposium, and lecture to celebrate. For more details see: [www.ninr.nih.gov/25years](http://www.ninr.nih.gov/25years).