Fiscal Year 2011 and 2012: Federal Funding Update

The Department of Health and Human Services released the detailed spending plans for Fiscal Year (FY) 2011 on Monday, May 16. Included were details from the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) on the outcomes of the proposed $164 million cut to the Bureau of Health Professions (BHPr) within HRSA, which funds programs such as the Title VIII Nursing Workforce Development programs and the Title VII Health Professions programs. The discretion for administering this cut was left to HRSA, and AACN collaborated with the Health Professions and Nursing Education Coalition to encourage the agency to protect BHPr funding. The final result was a total of $242.387 million appropriated to Title VIII. This is $1.485 million less than FY 2010, or a 0.61% decrease. Highlighted below are the funding levels by Title VIII program and how much the program decreased from FY 2010:

- Advance Nursing Education: $64.046 million (-$255,000)
- Nurse Loan Repayment and Scholarship Program: $93.292 million (-$572,000)
- Nursing Workforce Diversity: $16.009 million (-$64,000)
- Nurse Education, Practice and Retention: $39.653 million (-$158,000)
- Nurse Faculty Loan Program: $24.848 million (-$99,000)
- Comprehensive Geriatric Education: $4.539 million (-$18,000)

Additionally, the funding details were released for the National Institute of Nursing Research (NINR). In FY 2011, NINR was appropriated $144.381 million—a 0.7% reduction in funding from FY 2010. The entire National Institutes of Health budget was reduced by over $317 million—a 1.01% reduction in appropriations from FY 2010.

AACN is currently advocating for increased funding for both the Title VIII programs and NINR in FY 2012. In addition to the visits made by our members in March, staff have met with both House and Senate Labor, Health, and Human Services (LHHS) Appropriations Subcommittee staff, submitted testimony to the House LHHS Appropriations Subcommittee (and soon in the Senate), and have raised staff awareness to how increased funding for programs such as Title VIII and NINR will help meet the demand for a more highly educated nursing workforce. As part of AACN’s conversations with appropriators, we have emphasized the goals set by the IOM Future of Nursing report, specifically those related to baccalaureate and doctoral education. For more information on FY 2011 and FY 2012, see:

FY 2012
http://www.aacn.nche.edu/Government/appropriations.htm

FY 2011
http://www.aacn.nche.edu/Government/11Appropriations.html
Federal Trade Commission Weighs in on APRN Scope of Practice

Two recent rulings by the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) call for state legislatures in Texas and Florida to adopt less restrictive regulatory models for Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRNs) that permit APRNs to practice without unnecessary physician supervision. In their letter to legislators in the state of Texas, the FTC referenced that their staff have “urged several states to reject or narrow restrictions that curtail competition among health care providers because they limit patients’ access to health care and raise prices.” The FTC staff also noted in their letter to Texas legislators that there does not appear to be any evidence that the safety of care provided by APRNs differs from that of the care provided by physicians, and in their letter to Florida legislators, they clearly articulate that based on the current evidence, APRNs provide safe care when they practice within their scope. AACN commends the FTC's thorough analysis and conclusion that "restrictions on the supervisory relationships between physicians and APRNs impose costs on Florida (Texas) health care consumers." AACN has used the FTC's stance as a reference in our own advocacy with state legislatures trying to impose restrictions on APRN scope of practice. To read a copy of the FTC letters, see:

Texas: [http://www.ftc.gov/os/2011/05/V110007texasaprn.pdf](http://www.ftc.gov/os/2011/05/V110007texasaprn.pdf)

Major General Horoho Nominated for US Army Surgeon General

On May 10, 2011, President Obama nominated Major General Patricia D. Horoho, Chief of the US Army Nurse Corps, to be the 43rd Army Surgeon General. This historic nomination marks the first time a registered nurse has been nominated to head the US Army Medical Command as Surgeon General.

MG Horoho currently serves as the commander of the US Army Nurse Corps, and her distinguished career has included command at every level with positions ranging from bedside nurse, to senior clinical roles, and commander of deployable and garrison hospitals, including Walter Reed Health Care System. Additionally, in 2009, MG Horoho served as an affiliate faculty member at Pacific Lutheran University’s School of Nursing in Tacoma, WA. She has been celebrated with both military and civilian honors throughout her career, including recognition for her actions at the Pentagon on September 11, 2001 and as the USO’s “Woman of the Year” in 2009.

AACN congratulates MG Horoho on her nomination and applauds President Obama for recognizing the unique and outstanding leadership this nurse will bring to the US Army Medical Command. MG Horoho now awaits Senate confirmation for her simultaneous promotion to Lieutenant General and Army Surgeon General. To read more about MG Horoho, visit: [http://www.armymedicine.army.mil/leaders/horoho.html](http://www.armymedicine.army.mil/leaders/horoho.html).

NHSC Scholarship Application Open

The National Health Service Corps (NHSC) Scholarship Application is now open. The NHSC is a network of more than 8,000 healthcare professionals providing culturally competent primary care at more than 10,000 sites in urban, rural, and frontier areas. To support their service, the NHSC provides students and primary care providers with financial support in the form of scholarships and loan repayment. To receive an NHSC scholarship, you must be a:
• U.S. citizen or U.S. national
• Full-time student at an accredited school of nursing, pursuing a primary care degree as a Nurse Practitioner or Certified Nurse-Midwife

The scholarship includes:
• Payment for tuition, required fees, and other reasonable educational costs
• Monthly support stipend (taxable)
• Assistance in finding a practice site

NHSC Scholars must commit to serving one year for each year of support received (minimum of two years’ service) at an approved site in a high-need Health Professional Shortage Area (HPSA). For more information on HPSAs, visit: http://bhpr.hrsa.gov/shortage. Scholars will compete for employment at the approved service sites of their choice from a listing of job vacancies in their discipline and specialty. The NHSC helps Scholars select a compatible service site and pays for travel to and from interviews.


Congress Celebrates National Nurses Week

National Nurses Week 2011 was celebrated May 6 through May 12, and was officially recognized through H.RES. 83 which was introduced in February by Representative Eddie Bernice Johnson, RN (D-TX) and was co-sponsored by 41 other members. The bill recognized the contributions of nurses to the U.S. health care system, expressed support for the goals and ideals of National Nurses Week, and encouraged the American public to recognize the safe, quality care nurses provide their patients. The bill also highlighted the significance of State and Federal funding for nursing education programs to ensure adequate numbers of nursing faculty, classroom facilities, and clinical sites. Further, the bill acknowledged nurses as “strong allies to Congress” in efforts to improve nursing education, workforce retention and recruitment, and patient safety. A number of AACN members contacted their Representatives asking them to cosponsor this resolution. The annual week of honorary recognition correlates with the birthday of one of the most influential founders of modern nursing practice, Florence Nightingale.

National Advisory Council to NINR Meets

The National Advisory Council to NINR (NACNR) met May 17-18, 2011 at the National Institute of Health campus in Bethesda, MD. The public session included updates on extramural genetics research and advances in understanding symptoms and management. During the portion of the meeting which was closed to the public the Advisory Council reviewed applications. More information about the role of the NACNR can be found here: http://www.ninr.nih.gov/AboutNINR/NACNR/.

Submit Video Testimonials to Support Nursing Education Funding

The Health Professions and Nursing Education Coalition (HPNEC) is collecting 1-2 minute video testimonials from student recipients of Title VII and Title VIII funding. These videos will be posted to a dedicated YouTube Channel (http://www.youtube.com/user/HPNEC1) and will be used to promote the Title VII and VIII to Congress, the Administration, and the public. If you are or know a nursing student who received this aid (this information can be obtained from the student financial aid office at your school), please consider submitting a video today! The guidelines for the HPNEC initiative and instructions for submitting your video can be found here: https://www.aamc.org/advocacy/hpnec/vpp.pdf.