Mark Your Calendars for a Joint Home Health Virtual Advocacy Day

On Wednesday, September 28, 2011, AACN will join forces with the American Nurses Association and the American Association of Physician Assistants to offer a virtual advocacy day promoting the *Home Health Care Planning Improvement Act of 2011* (S. 227/H.R. 2276). The legislation, introduced this year by Senator Susan Collins (R-ME) and Representatives Greg Walden (R-OR) and Allyson Schwartz (D-PA), would specifically allow nurse practitioners, certified nurse-midwives, and clinical nurse specialists to certify home health services. The legislation clearly recognizes the critical contributions that Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRNs) make in the delivery of health care.

Be one of the hundreds of advocates who request that their members of Congress support this critical legislation. As the nursing community works to implement the Institute of Medicine’s *Future of Nursing* report, supporting this day of national action helps to address the report’s key message that nurses should practice to the full extent of their education and training. Please be sure to take a few moments on September 28, 2011 to log onto AACN’s grassroots page and send your message. In five minutes or less, you can be part of the solution!

To join AACN’s grassroots network, see: [http://capwiz.com/aacn/home/](http://capwiz.com/aacn/home/)
To contact your Representative, see: [http://capwiz.com/aacn/issues/alert/?alertid=53125886](http://capwiz.com/aacn/issues/alert/?alertid=53125886)
To contact your Senators, see: [http://capwiz.com/aacn/issues/alert/?alertid=53126076](http://capwiz.com/aacn/issues/alert/?alertid=53126076)

FY 2012 Appropriations Update

On Thursday, September 21, 2011, the Senate Appropriations Committee narrowly approved the Senate Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Fiscal Year (FY) 2012 bill by a vote of 16-14. The bill provides $158 billion in discretionary funding. The Title VIII Nursing Workforce Development programs were level funded at the FY 2011 allocations, which are highlighted on page 2 along with additional programs of interest.

There was no funding provided for the Nurse-Managed Health Clinic grant program created through the Affordable Care Act. As reported in the Senate LHHS-ED Appropriations Subcommittee press statement: “National Institutes of Health—The bill provides $30.5 billion, a decrease of $190 million, to fund biomedical research at the 27 Institutes and Centers that comprise the NIH.” Within this $30.5 billion allocation, the National Institute of Nursing Research (NINR) was provided $142.755 million, a 1.13% decrease from FY 2011. The next step in the appropriations process is for the Senate to take the bill for a floor vote.

The Senate LHHS-ED Appropriations bill also included language supporting AACN’s core missions, which is provided below:
Advanced Nursing Education Grants - The Committee is concerned that master’s and doctoral programs lack the resources necessary to keep pace with the demand for new nurse faculty. Doctoral prepared nurse educators are in especially high demand, as the majority of vacant faculty positions require this level of education. The Committee notes that lack of faculty is often cited as the reason why community colleges turn away potential nursing students, despite severe shortage at all levels of nursing. Therefore, the Committee encourages the Division of Nursing to establish a priority for funding full-time doctoral nursing students (including PhD or the doctorate of nursing practice [DNP]). The Committee further encourages HRSA to give priority to nursing students who indicate an interest in nursing.

Baccalaureate Nursing Degrees - In recognition of the Institute of Medicine (IOM) and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation report, “The Future of Nursing: Leading Change, Advancing Health,” the Committee urges the Division of Nursing to enhance programs that increase the number of nurses with baccalaureate degrees. Research has shown that nurses who hold a Bachelor of Nursing (BSN) have better patient outcomes such as lower mortality and failure to rescue rates. The Committee further concurs with the IOM recommendation that the Division’s programs need to encourage nurses with associate degrees and diplomas to enter baccalaureate programs. For that reason, the Committee encourages HRSA to focus grants in nursing education to create and support career ladder programs.

Nurse Practitioners - In the presence of an acute shortage of primary care providers, the need to prepare quality cost-effective clinicians such as nurse practitioners continues to be severe. Nurse practitioners are primary care providers who can assist in meeting the needs of our communities and help to increase access to primary care. The Committee urges HRSA to support educational programs and traineeships for nurse practitioners to help meet the growing health needs of the Nation particularly in rural America.

Nurse Managed Health Clinics - Nurse-managed health clinics [NMHCs] strengthen nursing workforce development efforts by acting as clinical education sites for nursing students. The Committee strongly encourages HRSA to prioritize funding for NMHCs within any competition for new access points in fiscal year 2012. Expanding services this way will help expand coverage to underserved populations, including native and rural communities. The Committee also believes that supporting the nurse-managed model will facilitate the implementation the recommendations in the Institute of Medicine’s report on the future of nursing.

**FY 2012 Funding Levels passed by the Senate Appropriations and LHHS-ED Appropriations Subcommittee**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program</th>
<th>FY 2011</th>
<th>FY2012 (Senate Proposed Levels)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Health Resources &amp; Services Administration</td>
<td>$6.275 billion</td>
<td>$6.23 billion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National Health Service Corps (Title III)</td>
<td>$405 million</td>
<td>$319.848 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bureau of Health Professions (Title VII &amp; VIII)</td>
<td>$514.922 million</td>
<td>$497.924 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nursing Workforce Development (Title VIII)</td>
<td>$242.387 million</td>
<td>$242.387 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advanced Education Nursing:</td>
<td>$64.046 million</td>
<td>$64.046 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nursing Workforce Diversity:</td>
<td>$16.009 million</td>
<td>$16.009 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nurse Education, Practice, Quality, and Retention:</td>
<td>$39.653 million</td>
<td>$39.653 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Loan Repayment and Scholarship Program:</td>
<td>$93.292 million</td>
<td>$93.292 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nurse Faculty Loan Program:</td>
<td>$24.848 million</td>
<td>$24.848 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Comprehensive Geriatric Education:</td>
<td>$4.539 million</td>
<td>$4.539 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National Institutes of Health</td>
<td>$30.7 million</td>
<td>$30.498 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National Institute of Nursing Research</td>
<td>$144.381 million</td>
<td>$142.755 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agency for Healthcare Research &amp; Quality</td>
<td>$372 million</td>
<td>$372.053 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Centers for Disease Control and Prevention</td>
<td>$5.66 billion</td>
<td>$6.218 billion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graduate Assistance in Areas of Nation Need</td>
<td>$30.968 million</td>
<td>$30.968 million</td>
</tr>
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The House of Representatives had originally scheduled its FY 2012 LHHS-ED mark-up for September 8th. It was postponed however, and has not been rescheduled yet. On Wednesday September 21st, the House of Representatives...
failed to pass their FY 2012 Continuing Resolution (CR) -- which would have funded the federal government through November 18th -- by a vote of 195-230. Democrats opposed the fact that it did not include enough disaster funding, and conservative members believed the funding needed further reductions. The House GOP leadership developed a slightly revised CR, which would include a new cost offset to raise $100 million in hopes to win enough additional Republican support to pass the measure. Last night, September 22, 2011, the House of Representatives did in fact pass this CR by a vote of 219-203. However, this bill is unlikely to have the support of Senate Democrats. For more information on the House’s progress, see: http://www.politico.com/news/stories/0911/64102.html, http://www.politico.com/news/stories/0911/64102.html

Many speculate that Congress will likely pass a long-term CR, a minibus, or omnibus --with all of the appropriations bills rolled into one-- spending package. With less than two weeks left in FY 2011, Congress is under pressure to develop a spending measure that will pass both the House and Senate or the threat of a government shutdown looms again. AACN will continue to keep you apprised of the appropriations process.

**Archived Webinar: “What are Institutions Doing (or NOT Doing) About State Authorization?”**

On July 12, 2011, the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia voided the portion of the Department of Education’s (DoEd) regulations that requires institutions to gain state authorization for distance education programs in all states where their students are enrolled. The decision came after a lawsuit was filed by the Association of Private Sector Colleges and Universities in January of this year. The judge ruled that the DoEd failed to properly provide notice and opportunity to comment during the proposed rulemaking process for the state authorization requirement for distance-learning programs.

However, AACN has learned from the American Council on Education (ACE) as well as from our members that despite the court ruling, states are moving forward with this requirement. As quoted in an ACE summary of the court ruling,

“The court’s decision does not mean that state authorization requirements for distance education programs have gone away. The regulation that the court struck down required institutions to obtain state authorization for distance education programs in order to award federal student financial aid to students in such programs. States continue to have rules regarding authorization of institutions that operate in state or offer distance education to state residents regardless of whether students are receiving federal student financial aid. The ruling in no way affects the ability of states to enforce those rules or to pursue development of such rules.”

For more information, see: http://www.acenet.edu/AM/Template.cfm?Section=Legal_Issues_and_Policy_Briefs2&TEMPLATE=/CM/ContentDisplay.cfm&CONTENTID=41827

AACN continues to work with our partners such as ACE and the National Council of State Boards of Nursing to investigate how states are changing their requirements and what it will mean for distance nursing education programs. Currently available is an archived webinar hosted on August 25, 2011 titled, “What are Institutions Doing (or NOT Doing) About State Authorization?” presented by the University Professional and Continuing Education Association. To view a copy of the webcast, see: http://wcet.wiche.edu/connect/upcea-wcet-sa-webcast, and https://sas.elluminate.com/site/external/jwsdetect/playback.jnlp?psid=2011-08-25.1117.D.6ED730004FC10DE6DB7425E6F760D6.vcr&sid=vclass
NIH Requests Input on the Future Biomedical Research Workforce

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) is seeking input into the deliberations of the Advisory Committee to the NIH Director Working Group on the Future Biomedical Research Workforce. Please see the following information from the original request for comments:

In its initial deliberations, the working group identified the following issues as important to consider when developing a model of the future biomedical research workforce:

- The balance between supply, including the number of domestic and foreign trained PhDs and post-docs, and demand, i.e. post-training career opportunities.
- Characteristics of PhD training in biomedical research, including issues such as
  - The length of the PhD training period.
  - Recommendations for changes to the PhD curriculum.
  - Training for multiple career paths (including bench and non-bench science).
- Characteristics of clinician-research training including issues such as
  - The balance between MDs and MD/PhDs
  - Career development of clinician-researchers.
  - Recommendations for changes to the curricula for training clinician-researchers.
  - Length of Post-doctoral training.
- The ratio of PhD students and postdoctoral fellows on training grants to those supported by research grants.
- Possibilities for professional/staff scientist positions and the level of training required for such positions (e.g. PhD or MSc degrees).
- Issues related to the attractiveness of biomedical research careers (e.g. salary, working conditions, availability of research funding)
- The effect of changes in NIH policies on investigators, grantee institutions and the broader research enterprise.

Information Requested

To ensure a thorough and comprehensive evaluation of the issues underlying the future of the biomedical research workforce, responses are being sought from the extramural community, including students, postdoctoral fellows, scientists, scientific societies, and NIH grantee institutions, as well as from the general public. Information is sought for each of the areas identified above and any other items the working group might consider.

1. For any of the areas identified above and any other specific areas you believe are worthy of consideration by the working group, please identify the critical issue(s) and impact(s) on institutions, scientists, or both.
2. Please identify and explain which of the issues you identified are, in your opinion, the most important for the working group to address and why
3. Please comment any specific ways you feel these issues would or should affect NIH policies or processes. Response to this RFI is voluntary. Responders are free to address any or all of the above items. Please note that the Government will not pay for response preparation or for the use of any information contained in the response. NIH will provide a summary of all input received which is responsive to this RFI.

How to Submit a Response

All comments must be submitted electronically to: http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/rfi_files/bmw/add.cfm
Responses to this RFI will be accepted through October 7, 2011. You will see an electronic confirmation acknowledging receipt of your response, but will not receive individualized feedback on any suggestions. No basis for claims against the U.S. Government shall arise as a result of a response to this request for information or from the Government’s use of such information.
Prepare Now for AACN’s Fall Advocacy Day and Meeting!

AACN’s Government Affairs Committee (GAC) is pleased to host a number of exciting events at the 2011 Fall Semiannual Meeting.

Monday, October 24, 2011, 8:15-8:50am: Informal Breakfast Discussion
Preparing for Your Capitol Hill Visits: Advice from the SGLs and GAC
Join State Grassroots Liaisons, the Government Affairs Committee, and members of the AACN staff as they review and discuss talking points for AACN’s Capitol Hill Visits.

Monday, October 24, 2011, starting at 1:00pm: AACN Capitol Hill Visits
Help support AACN’s advocacy by scheduling visits with your House and Senate members of Congress TODAY! Now is the ideal time to build existing contacts with your members’ offices and cultivate new relationships. AACN will provide a bus service to and from the J.W. Marriot and Capitol. If you are interested in scheduling a visit but need advice, contact your State Grassroots Liaison (SGL). To identify your SGL see: http://www.aacn.nche.edu/Government/LegislativeStrategies/StateGRPrg.htm.