

Government Affairs Committee Report

March 2016

Below is a summary of major highlights on AACN's progress in advancing its Federal Policy Agenda since October 2015. For further information, visit [AACN Government Affairs website](#).

2016 Federal Policy Agenda Priorities:

Nursing Education

- AACN is advancing [appropriations efforts](#) for Title VIII programs in FY 2017. AACN and the [Nursing Community](#) coalition (AACN convenes) are requesting \$244 million.
- On December 9, AACN's President and CEO Deb Trautman testified before the House Energy and Commerce, Subcommittee on Health, on H.R. 2713. With 23 Subcommittee members present, the [hearing](#) echoed bipartisan support for the Title VIII programs. AACN submitted [written testimony](#), and the Nursing Community also sent [written testimony](#) for the record.
- AACN's 2015 Graduate Nursing Student Debt Survey closed on January 4, 2016 with a total of 1,374 responses. Full analysis of the results will inform AACN's engagement with Higher Education Act Reauthorization efforts, including student loans and college affordability. AACN continued to work with the Federation of Associations of Schools of the Health Professions coalition on higher education priorities.

Nursing Research

- AACN is leading [appropriations efforts](#) for the [National Institute of Nursing Research](#) in FY 2017. AACN and the [Nursing Community](#) coalition are requesting \$157 million. AACN also supports the Ad Hoc Group for Medical Research's FY 2017 request of "at least \$34.5 billion" for the National Institutes of Health.
- AACN continued to develop its new Emerging Scientists campaign to showcase the work of nurse researchers and the role of nursing science. In light of several research-oriented initiatives to address healthcare issues (Zika Virus, Cancer Moonshot), AACN will promote nursing science at the forefront of these discussions.

Nursing Practice

- On October 21, AACN [committed to partnering](#) with the White House on its [prescription drug abuse initiative](#) to educate 15,000 faculty and students over 24 months on opioid abuse treatment and prevention practices. Two member deans represented AACN at a [White House event](#) with President Obama in Charleston, WV which convened healthcare stakeholders on how to address this national crisis.
- On November 10, AACN supported the Veterans Health Care Staffing Improvement Act ([S. 2279](#)) and attended a press conference with Senators Merkley (D-OR), Rounds (R-SD), Tillis (R-NC), and Warner (D-VA) on the merits of full practice authority for APRNs serving in the Veterans Health Administration.
- On January 26, AACN submitted [comments](#) in collaboration with the APRN Workgroup to the Senate Finance Committee Chronic Care Working Group in regards to the draft [Chronic Care Policy Options](#) document. The comments focused on the importance of APRNs in coordination of care for the chronically ill and highlighted concerns that the document did not address the issue of chronic pain management.

2016 Government Affairs Strategic Goals:

Increase AACN member engagement in advocacy opportunities to amplify academic nursing's voice in the policy arena.

- AACN's [Grassroots Network](#) responded to 3 action alerts sending almost 650 messages to Congress.

Develop healthcare policy leaders from within the profession to be a formidable voice in the state and federal policy arenas.

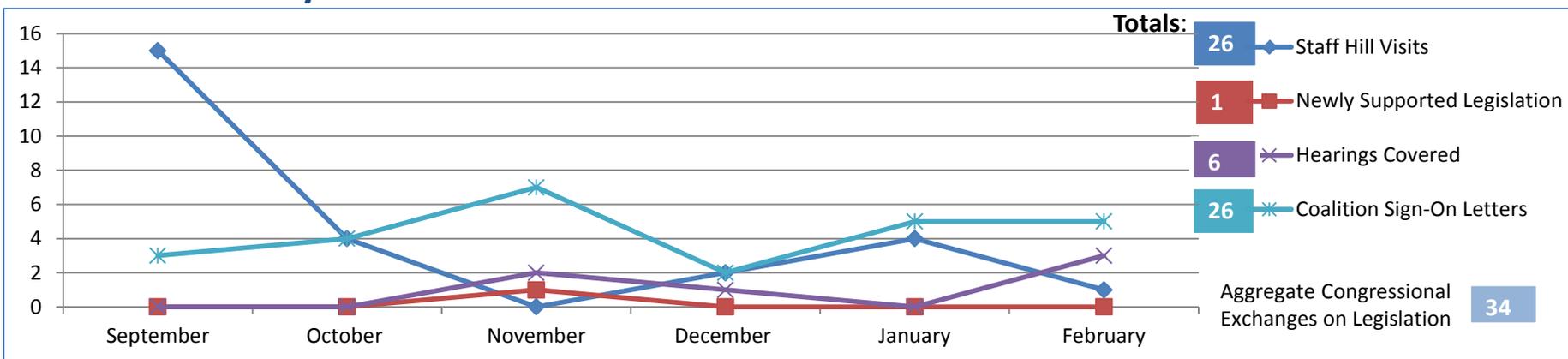
- On December 3-4, AACN convened an invitational [Policy Faculty Symposium](#) for a day and a half dialogue to engage faculty across the nation to discuss current and future state of health policy education in nursing.
- AACN's [Health Policy Advisory Council](#) launched its monthly meetings with its 10-person membership.

Partner with other healthcare organizations to advance strategic policy initiatives.

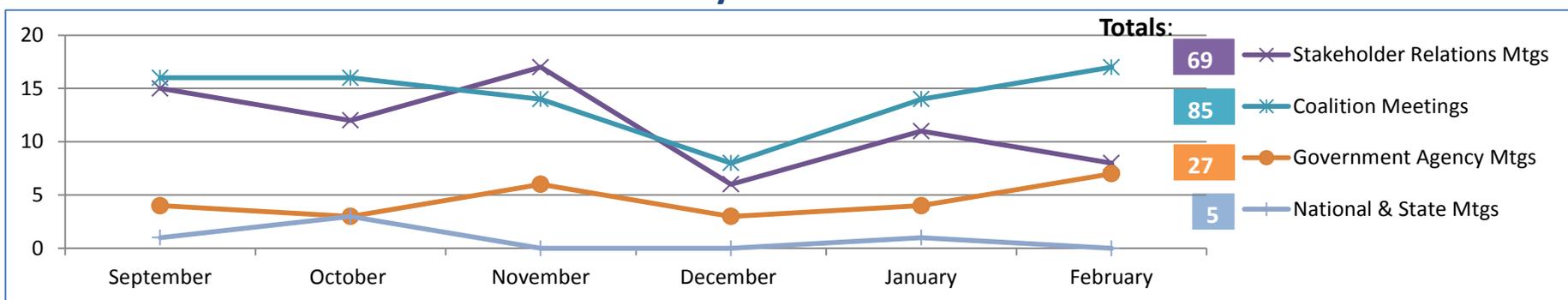
- On November 10, AACN supported [Joining Forces Wellness Week](#) through a series of [webinars](#) focused on the health care of our nation's Veterans and servicemen and women.

ADVOCACY by AACN Staff

September, 2015 to February, 2016



STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT by AACN Staff



GRASSROOTS

1,582 New Grassroots Network Members, ↑ 14%

2,033 Average Policy Beat Opens per Month

3 Grassroots Action Alerts & 645 Responses

79 State Grassroots Liaison Members

517 Twitter followers for @AACNPolicy, ↑ 50%

HEALTH POLICY

53 Faculty Attended AACN Invitational Policy Faculty Symposium

598 Faculty Responded to FPI Policy Faculty Survey

104 State & National Snapshots & Profiles

5 Policy Presentations Delivered by Staff