



Government Affairs Committee Report

March 2018

Below is a summary of the major highlights on AACN's progress in advancing its [2017-2018 Federal Policy Agenda](#) since October 2017. For further information, visit [AACN's Government Affairs and Policy website](#).

Higher Education

- On February 15, AACN sent [comments](#) to the Senate in response to the Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions (HELP) Committee's [white paper](#) on accountability. The association continues to work with its higher education colleagues to promote the principles of accessibility, affordability, excellence, and efficiency.
- On December 12, AACN sent a [letter](#) to the House Education and Workforce Committee in response to the PROSPER Act ([H.R. 4508](#)); a framework for reauthorization of the Higher Education Act.
- On November 30, AACN [supported](#) the Employer Participation in Student Loan Assistance Act ([H.R. 795/S. 796](#)) to expand the U.S. tax code to allow a tax benefit to be used towards employees' student loan repayments.
- On November 29, AACN [weighed in](#) on the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act ([H.R. 1](#)) opposing provisions that would repeal certain tax credits for students and graduates.

Research

- For Fiscal Year (FY) 2019, AACN and the Nursing Community Coalition are requesting \$170 million for the National Institute of Nursing Research. AACN joined with the Ad Hoc Group for Medical Research to support at least \$38.4 billion for NIH, joined the Friends of the CDC coalition to support \$7.9 billion for CDC, and joined the Friends of AHRQ to request \$454 million for AHRQ.
- On March 7, AACN [supported](#) the Gun Violence Research Act ([H.R. 1478](#)) which would repeal the Dickey Amendment that bans the promotion or advocacy of gun violence research.
- On February 22, in response to the Parkland, FL school shooting, AACN joined [75 health organizations](#) in sending a letter to Congress urging for policies to support funding for federal research and public health surveillance on firearm-related injuries and fatalities.
- AACN served on the planning committee for a joint meeting titled *Building the Evidence Base for Improving Health Care* hosted in February by the National Academy of Medicine (NAM) and Academy Health to discuss health services research as a national priority.

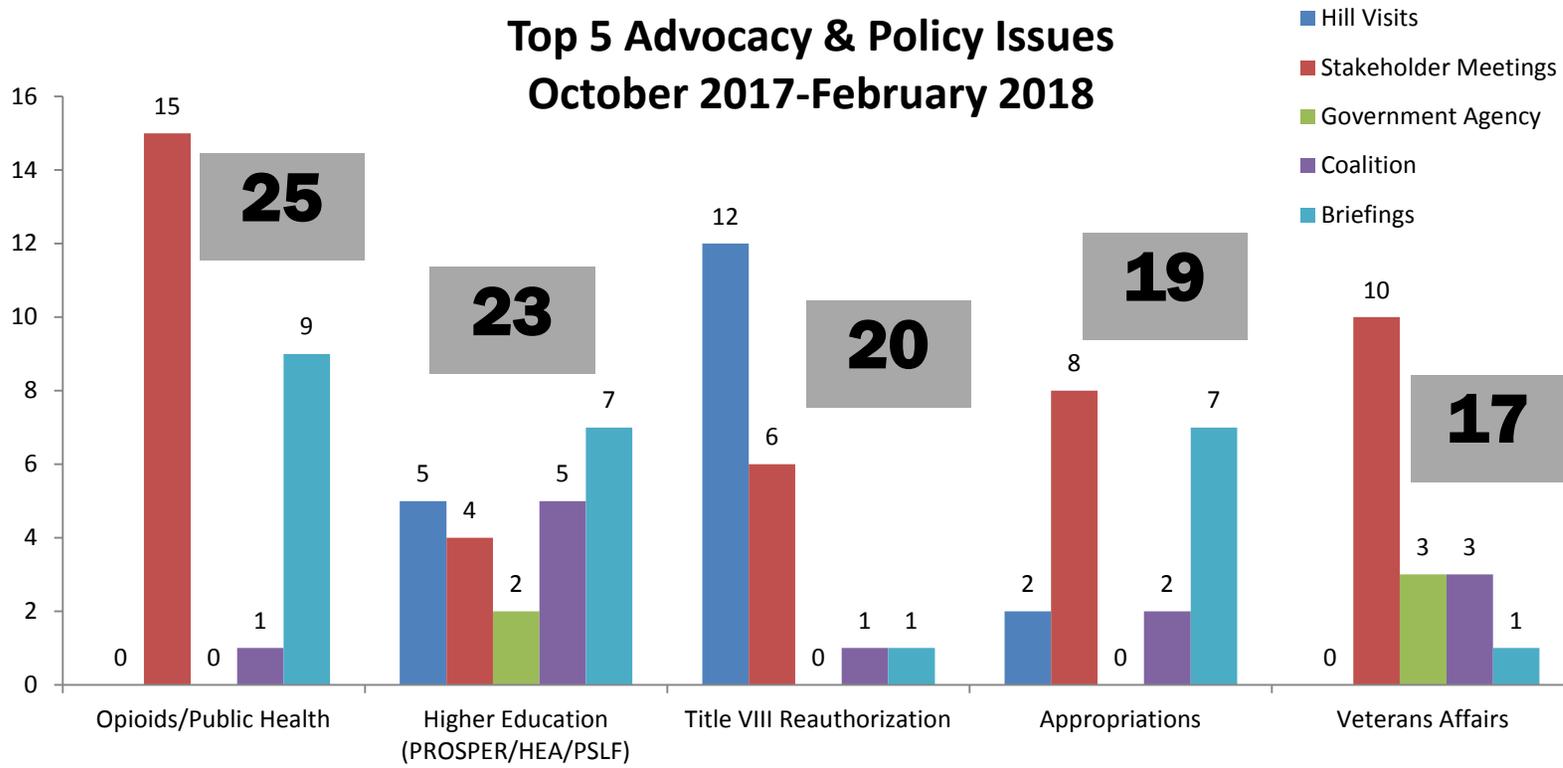
Workforce

- AACN and the Nursing Community Coalition are requesting \$244 million for the Title VIII programs in FY 2019. AACN [opposed](#) the proposed \$145 million cut to the programs in the President's FY 2019 budget.
- On March 8, AACN's Chief Policy Officer spoke at a Senate HELP briefing to provide Hill staff insight on the Title VIII Nursing Workforce Development Programs as the committee advances the Title VIII Nursing Workforce Reauthorization Act ([H.R. 959/S. 1109](#)).
- On March 6, AACN joined the Coalition for Health Funding in their #FundHealth Hill Day to request federal support for programs supporting the spectrum of public health.

Models of Care

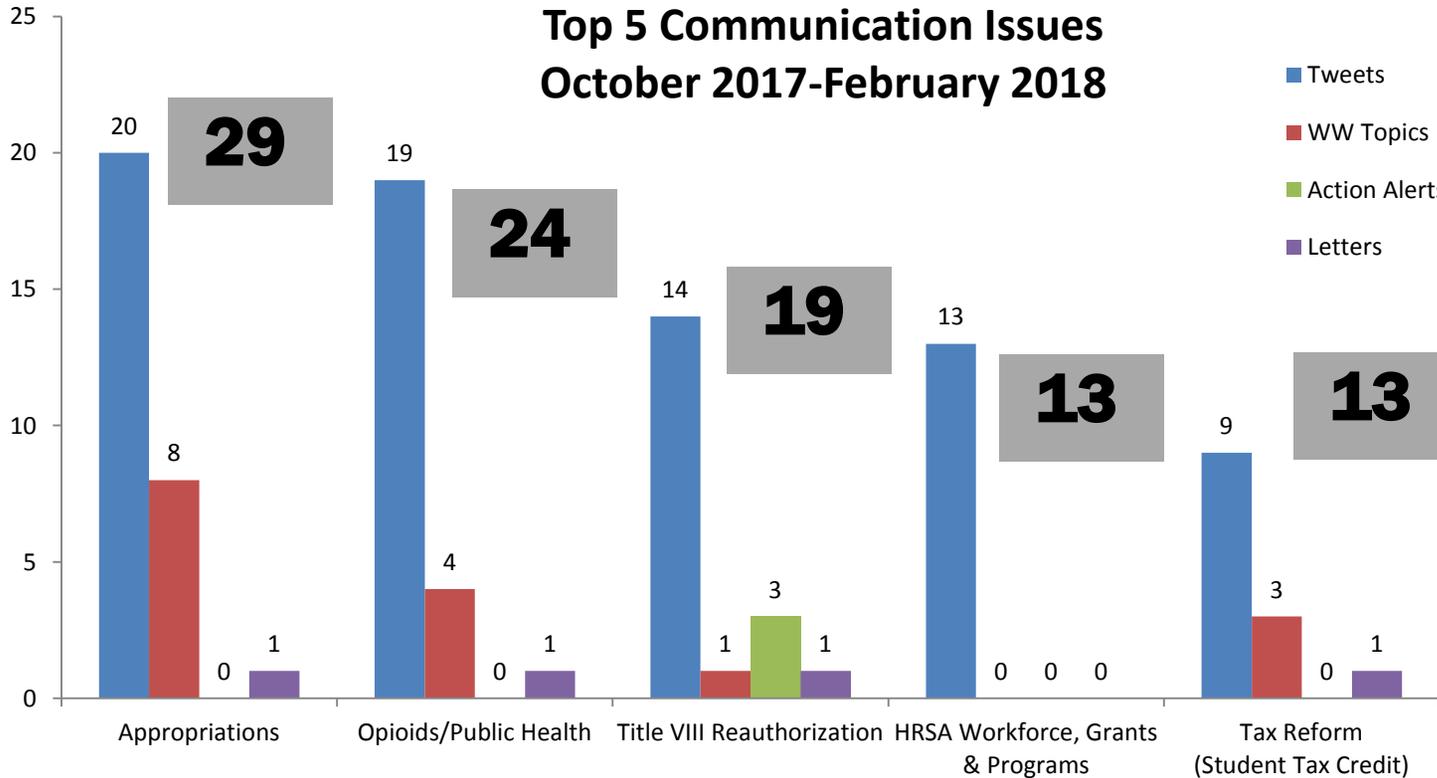
- On February 20, AACN submitted [comments](#) to the House Ways and Means Committee in response to a "Hearing on the Opioids Crisis: Removing Barriers to Prevent and Treat Opioid Abuse and Dependence in Medicare." AACN's comments emphasized the role of APRNs in prescribing buprenorphine and urged for removing limitations in the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act ([P.L. 144-198](#)).
- On December 7, AACN and the Nursing Community Coalition hosted a [briefing](#) titled "The Opioids Crisis: How Nursing Practices Save Lives." Rep. Paul Tonko (D-NY) offered remarks as the coalition supports his bill, the Addiction Treatment Access Improvement Act ([H.R. 3692](#)).
- On November 13, AACN [supported](#) the Creating Opportunities Now for Necessary and Effective Care Technologies (CONNECT) for Health Act ([S.1016](#)), which would expand the use of telehealth services to promote access to health professionals, including Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRNs).
- On November 9, AACN and the Nursing Community Coalition [supported](#) the Addiction Treatment Access Improvement Act ([H.R. 3692/S. 2317](#)), which would broaden the Controlled Substances Act to create a permanent solution so that APRNs can prescribe and refer Medication Assisted Treatment.

Top 5 Advocacy & Policy Issues October 2017-February 2018



Total Advocacy & Policy Activities = 227
 Hill Visits - 20
 Stakeholder Meetings - 92
 Government Agency - 23
 Coalition Meetings - 36
 Briefings - 56

Top 5 Communication Issues October 2017-February 2018



Total Communications Activities = 236
 Tweets - 195
 Policy Twitter followers have increased by 19%
 Washington Weekly Topics - 27
 Action Alerts - 3
 (Members sent 372 messages to the Hill)
 Letters to the Hill and the Administration - 14