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Yuri Gripas / Reuters

Confirmation Hearing for Secretary of Education Nominee Betsy DeVos

On January 17, the U.S. Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor & Pensions (HELP) held a [confirmation hearing](#) for President-Elect Trump's nominee for Secretary of Education, Betsy DeVos. In regards to higher education, Committee members inquired about issues concerning college affordability and the prospect of simplifying the burden of financial aid, free college tuition, Title IX, and holding higher education institutions accountable for providing quality education for their students. There is a vote scheduled for January 24 on her nomination if all materials are received.



House Approves FY17 Budget Resolution

On January 12, the Senate voted 51 to 48 to approve the budget resolution for FY 2017 (and recommended budgetary levels for FY 2018-FY 2026) ([S.Con.Res.3](#)). It was sent to the House on January 13, and passed with a vote of 227 to 198. This process laid the groundwork for further legislative action on the ACA by including reconciliation instructions that require committees of jurisdiction—the Senate Finance Committee, Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee, House Energy and Commerce Committee, and the House Ways and Means Committee—to produce legislation totaling savings of at least \$1 billion to the Budget Committee by January 27.



Register up to FOUR Students for Student Policy Summit

The Student Policy Summit will be expanding the registration cap from two students to four students after several schools expressed overwhelming enthusiasm to send additional participants. Registration will remain open until the 200 slots are filled. If you are interested in registering additional students (up to four total) for the Summit, you may do so [here](#). The Summit is a three-day conference held in Washington, D.C. and is open to baccalaureate and graduate nursing students enrolled at an AACN member institution.



AACN's 2017 Faculty Policy Intensive

The American Association of Colleges of Nursing will hold its fifth annual [Faculty Policy Intensive](#) on October 30-November 1 in Washington, DC. This three-day immersion program is designed for faculty of AACN member schools who are interested in actively pursuing a role in health policy. The deadline to apply is Monday, March 13. If you have any questions, please contact Dr. Colleen Leners, AACN Policy Director, CLeners@aacn.nche.edu or (202) 868-4311 ext. 223.