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Carolyn Kaster/AP

Senate Committees Hold Hearings on HHS Secretary Nominee Tom Price

The U.S. Senate Committee on Finance held a [hearing](#) on January 24 to consider the nomination of Representative Tom Price (R-GA) to serve as Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). In response to questions on the Affordable Care Act (ACA), Representative Price, a former orthopedic surgeon, stated that his goals for a replacement plan include accessibility, affordability, incentivizing to provide for the highest quality of health care, and providing choices for Americans. This hearing followed the one held by the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions on January 18, during which he faced questions from both sides of the aisle about the ACA, as well as issues concerning telemedicine and Electronic Health Records. A vote before the Senate Finance and the full Senate will need to be held to confirm Rep. Price as the new HHS Secretary. AACN will keep the Grassroots Network members apprised of new information.



Student Policy Summit to Offer Grassroots Student Ambassador Prize

This year at the Student Policy Summit, we will be awarding two exceptional students the Grassroots Student Ambassador Prize. The \$750 prize will be granted to two students who involve others to engage in grassroots advocacy. Diana Mason, Freida Outlaw, Deborah Gardner, Eileen O'Grady, and Elsevier Publishing Company, on behalf of all the contributors to the seventh edition of *Policy and Politics in Nursing and Health Care*, are pleased to sponsor this Grassroots Student Ambassador Prize. More information will be provided during the [February 8 webinar](#).



Federal Government Issues Changes to Common Rule

On January 19, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, together with a host of other federal agencies, announced a [final rule](#) intended to better protect human subjects involved in research under the *Federal Policy for the Protection of Human Subjects*, better known as the Common Rule. The revisions made in the final rule are in an effort to modernize, simplify, and enhance the current system of oversight. The final rule [differs significantly](#) from the proposed rule in that several proposals are not being adopted. Most notably, it does not expand the policy to cover clinical trials that are not federally funded. In addition to the proposals not being adopted, the final rule makes significant changes to the Common Rule, including new requirements regarding the information given to prospective research subjects and allowing the use of consent to unspecified future research. The rule will go into effect on January 19, 2018.