

# AACN's WASHINGTON WEEKLY

Your Inside Track to Federal Policy



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## AACN Joins Higher Education Colleagues in Championing Key Policies

Accessibility and affordability within higher education are core principles encompassed in AACN's [2017-2018 Federal Policy Agenda](#). To advance policies that support these principles, AACN is partnering with its higher education colleagues as part of the [Protect Dreamers Higher Education Coalition](#), which is dedicated to supporting Dreamers, nearly 800,000 young people registered under the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA). Last month, the association signed onto a [letter](#) urging Congress to find a permanent, legislative solution for those protected under DACA. Additionally, AACN has joined an interdisciplinary coalition of stakeholders representing health professions, law, and higher education working together to preserve funding for the U.S. Department of Education [Public Service Loan Forgiveness](#) program. The [program](#) aims to reduce the loan burden for graduates working in public service careers.



## Eric Hargan Named Acting Secretary of HHS

On October 10, President Trump announced the nomination of [Eric D. Hargan, JD](#), as Acting Secretary for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). He will take the place of Don Wright, who had been serving as Acting Secretary since the resignation of Tom Price, MD. Mr. Hargan was confirmed by the Senate last week to serve as HHS Deputy Secretary by a vote of 57-38. He previously worked at Greenberg Traurig. In the public service sector, Mr. Hargan served as the Acting Deputy Secretary in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services from 2003-2007 under President George W. Bush.

## Graduate Nurse Education Demonstration Report Released

The [Graduate Nurse Education \(GNE\) Demonstration](#), a pilot project established through the Affordable Care Act, provided funding to [five hospitals](#) who have partnerships with surrounding nursing school(s) and community-based settings to reimburse costs associated with the clinical training of advanced practice registered nurse (APRN) students. The program was created to increase the number of APRNs, particularly those who will be providing primary care, preventive care, transitional care, and chronic care management. The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, who allocated the funding, released their [official evaluation](#) where the program was run on October 5, 2017.

