

AACN's

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Senate Bipartisan Deal May Provide Path Forward on Health Reform

Senator Lamar Alexander (R-TN) and Senator Patty Murray (D-WA), Chairman and Ranking Member of the Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP) Committee, respectively, have reached a preliminary agreement that aims to stabilize insurance subsidies in the Marketplace. The bill proposes funding to cover cost-sharing subsidies under the Affordable Care Act (ACA) for two years, and would also promote state flexibility in the Marketplace. This approach reflects a bipartisan balance to ensure short-term stabilization while acknowledging that additional changes to current law is still on the table. Earlier this month, President Trump announced his intention to strip approximately \$7 billion in funding for ACA subsidies. He is currently reviewing Senators Alexander and Murray's proposal, while continuing to urge Republican leadership to advance efforts for ACA repeal and replace. AACN maintains that Congress [puts patients first](#) in any health reform measures. AACN will keep our Grassroots Network members up to date as conversations around this legislation continues. Read [Chairman Alexander's statement](#) and [Ranking Member Murray's statement](#).



AACN's 2017 Graduate Nursing Student Debt Report

Last winter, AACN conducted the [2017 Graduate Nursing Student Loan Survey](#) on student loan debt acquired by master's and doctoral nursing students, which make up 32% of AACN's student population within member schools. After receiving IRB approval, the survey was disseminated to more than 12,000 individuals. The resulting report, *The Numbers Behind the Degree: Financing Graduate Nursing Education*, included data on 2,235 students in 328 schools in all 50 states and the District of Columbia. Key findings of the report provide insight on graduate nursing student loan debt, loan repayment, and financial support. Read the full report [here](#).



Faculty Policy Think Tank Reports on Policy Education

The Faculty Policy Think Tank (FPTT), created in 2015, was tasked with providing critical insight into the state of and recommendations for policy education in undergraduate and graduate nursing programs. Members of the FPTT concluded that more policy generalists are needed in academic nursing and recommended that schools of nursing "create a culture that allows faculty and students to explore the impact of policy on their practice and their research." AACN's Board of Directors reviewed and accepted the full Faculty Policy Think Tank report in July 2017. Read the report [here](#).