On October 19, the Senate voted 51-49 to pass the Fiscal Year (FY) 2018 budget resolution following 10 hours of floor debate. The measure includes $1.5 trillion in tax cuts and sets the platform for national tax reform—a priority that Republican leadership is eager to address. The House is set to vote on the budget on Thursday, October 26, where it is expected to pass. The House had passed their own budget resolution earlier this month, which proposed steeper cuts to non-defense discretionary (NDD) spending (including $2 trillion to health care) than the Senate’s version, however, given their intent to take up the Senate’s measure, it will forgo the opportunity to enter into conference negotiations between budget leadership of both chambers. The Senate’s proposal adheres to the spending caps for both defense and non-defense discretionary spending in FY 2018, but would enact harmful cuts to non-defense over a 10-year period.

AACN stands with its colleagues in the non-defense discretionary community, NDD United, representing communities within the health professions, veterans affairs, public safety and law enforcement, housing, and natural resources, among others, in urging Congress to “Raise the Caps” for NDD funding, and to ensure that NDD spending accounts are not used to offset costs for other areas of the budget disproportionately to defense spending. These caps drive federal spending limits for programs subject to the appropriations process, including healthcare and education. Today, October 25, AACN is participating in the NDD United’s Faces of Austerity day to raise awareness about the need to increase support for NDD. Follow #RaisetheCaps and #CutsHurt on Twitter. AACN will continue to keep you apprised as the budget and appropriations processes unfold.

The NIDA Blending Initiative: Moving Science from Research to Practice will award up to $10,000 for a project grant from a graduate student (master’s, doctoral, or post-doctoral) from an accredited program at an AACN member school. This grant is intended to support projects that contribute to a student’s knowledge of Substance Use Disorder (SUD) and advance research, dissemination, and adoption of evidence-based SUD treatment. The award will be disbursed in three equal payments after receipt and acceptance of the required progress reports. Proposals are due January 15, 2018. Awards will be announced on January 31, 2018. For more information on the call for proposals, including the application, click here.