

AACN's

American Association
of Colleges of Nursing

WASHINGTON WEEKLY

Your Inside Track to Federal Policy



October 4, 2017

Student Policy Summit Registration Opens Next Week



Above: Kelsey Mumford, 2017
SPS participant

“This experience reaffirmed my interest in health policy and helped me understand how I can make a substantial impact in this area, even as an undergraduate student,” said Kelsey Mumford, 2017 Student Policy Summit (SPS) attendee and winner of the Student Ambassador Grassroots Prize. The Summit is a three-day conference held in Washington, D.C. and is open to 200 baccalaureate and graduate nursing students enrolled at AACN member institutions. Students attending the Summit will learn from policy experts in nursing and healthcare about nursing’s role in professional advocacy. Up to two students per institution may attend.

Registration for the [2018 AACN Student Policy Summit](#) (March 25-27) will open on October 11. Please note that registration will be first come, first served, and attendee slots will not be reserved in advance. For more information, [visit the Summit’s website](#), which will be updated regularly. Sponsorship opportunities are available [here](#).

Congress Addresses Children’s Health Insurance Program Expiration



Lawmakers and healthcare stakeholders alike have been anxious to address the future of funding for the [Children’s Health Insurance Program](#) (CHIP), the 1997 Medicaid program that provides coverage to over 8.9 million children in the United States through joint funding from states and the federal government. Both the House and Senate are [marking up two bills](#) today, October 4, which would extend CHIP’s funding. According to the [Kaiser Family Foundation](#), “10 states anticipated that they would exhaust CHIP funding by the end of 2017, and 32 states projected running out of funds by March 2018.” Should funding run dry, states will be forced to make difficult decisions that could result in decreasing or ending coverage. The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services has granted the state of Minnesota \$3.6 million in unspent CHIP funds to bridge coverage, as Minnesota anticipates running out of funds sooner than other states. In the midst of broader health reform discussions, AACN supports legislative proposals that preserve Medicaid’s ability to protect our nation’s most vulnerable populations, including children.

HHS Designates Don Wright as Acting Secretary



Dr. [Don J. Wright](#) was appointed as Acting Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services last week after the resignation of Dr. Tom Price. Dr. Wright has been a long-time presence in the department during the three most recent administrations, serving in many senior positions including Acting Assistant Secretary for Health, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Healthcare Quality, and Director of the Office of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion. Dr. Wright, whose specialty is emergency preparedness and infectious disease, organized and moderated nationwide conferences focused on enhancing hospital emergency preparedness for disasters after 9/11 and Hurricane Katrina. A native of Texas, he received his BS from Texas Tech University, his MD from the University of Texas, and his MPH from the Medical College of Wisconsin.