AACN’s 2017 Fall Advocacy Day Sets Record Footprint on Capitol Hill
On October 30, academic nursing leadership established a record presence on Capitol Hill, with over 270 deans and associate deans from all 50 states and the District of Columbia meeting with Congressional offices. AACN’s Fall 2017 Advocacy Day, part of AACN’s the Academic Nursing Leadership Conference in Washington, D.C., had members meet with their federal legislators to connect on pressing national priorities impacting patients’ health and nursing education.

During visits with 126 offices (75 Senate and 51 House offices), members discussed AACN’s Congressional requests, urging legislators to: co-sponsor the Title VIII Nursing Workforce Reauthorization Act (H.R. 959/S. 1109); uphold AACN’s principles and put patients first in health reform; find a permanent, legislative solution to protect individuals under Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals; and preserve the Public Service Loan Forgiveness program.

AACN’s Grassroots Network members advocated virtually through an Action Alert, sending nearly 300 messages to Senators and Representatives requesting them to co-sponsor the Title VIII Nursing Workforce Reauthorization Act. As of today, the bill has 58 co-sponsors in the House and 5 co-sponsors in the Senate. Sign up for the Grassroots Network to receive future AACN Action Alerts and our newsletter, Washington Weekly! Follow us on Twitter at @AACNPolicy.

Susan Reinhard Receives the 2017 AACN Lois Capps Policy Luminary Award
On October 31, Dr. Susan Reinhard, Senior Vice President and Director, AARP Public Policy Institute and Chief Strategist, Center to Champion Nursing in America, was recognized with the association’s 2017 AACN Lois Capps Policy Luminary Award. Dr. Reinhard’s past achievements and current endeavors to advance the profession through policies that promote care at the state and federal levels were celebrated during this year’s Academic Nursing Leadership Conference. During the presentation of the award, Chair of the Government Affairs Committee, Anita Hufft, noted to Dr. Reinhard “You empower patients, their caregivers, and nurses to be advocates every day, and you work tirelessly to make your vision of nurses as change agents a reality.” AACN sincerely thanks Dr. Reinhard for her inspirational leadership and commitment to ensuring that Americans lead healthy, fulfilling lives.