

AACN's WASHINGTON WEEKLY

Your Inside Track to Federal Policy

December 20, 2017

A Year In Review: 2017 AACN Advocacy

A YEAR IN REVIEW

2017 AACN
ADVOCACY

AACN would like to thank its advocates for making this year a success. “[A Year in Review: 2017 AACN Advocacy](#)” provides a summary of academic nursing’s progress in championing AACN’s [2017-2018 Federal Policy Agenda](#). The [infographic](#) highlights the association’s major accomplishments across grassroots advocacy, legislative actions, and digital advocacy.

Grassroots and Digital Advocacy

Connecting with Congress enables academic nursing leaders to be heard on pressing federal priorities. In 2017, AACN’s deans, associate deans, and students made 260 Capitol Hill visits while in Washington, D.C. These efforts would not have been possible without the leadership of AACN’s [Government Affairs Committee](#) and support from AACN’s 72 [State Grassroots Liaisons](#). In addition, government affairs staff made 133 visits to Capitol Hill to discuss our Federal Policy Agenda priorities: workforce, research, models of care, and higher education.

The 11,500 members in the association’s [Grassroots Network](#) increased year-round engagement with Congress. Nineteen AACN action alerts yielded 4,746 messages sent to Congressional offices and the Administration (a 36% increase from 2016). Health reform and the healthcare budget accounted for more than half of messages sent (2,422), followed by action alerts surrounding the [Title VIII Nursing Workforce Development](#) programs and their reauthorization, which made up 43% of messages. Other action alerts included AACN’s position on the Department of Veterans Affairs’ final rule on Advanced Practice Registered Nurses and Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals. Additionally, the [@AACNPolicy](#) Twitter account saw an 89% increase in followers.

Leadership on Capitol Hill

In September, AACN Board Chair Dr. Juliann Sebastian [testified](#) before the House Energy and Commerce Committee, Subcommittee on Health, on H.R. 959: Title VIII Nursing Workforce Reauthorization Act of 2017. Dr. Sebastian pointed to the programs’ longstanding success in ensuring a highly-educated and diverse nursing pipeline to care for patients in all communities, including rural and underserved areas. The Subcommittee members expressed strong bipartisan support for the programs.

AACN Partners to Advance Advocacy

Throughout 2017, AACN partnered with healthcare and higher education coalitions to advance 55 sign-on letters, eight letters nominating nurses to serve in federal agencies, and five Congressional briefings on a range of issues. The association also weighed in on 16 pieces of legislation.

We look forward to engaging with you in the new year. In the meantime, stay up to date by following [@AACNPolicy](#) on Twitter. Have a safe and happy holiday season!