

# WASHINGTON WEEKLY



February 1, 2017



## Diversity and Inclusivity: Advocating for AACN's Strategic Priority

On January 25, AACN along with 44 higher education associations issued a joint [letter of support](#) for the passage of the Bar Removal of Individuals who Dream and Grow our Economy Act (BRIDGE Act [S. 128](#), [H.R. 496](#)). The bipartisan legislation was reintroduced in the Senate by Senators Lindsey Graham (R-SC) and Richard Durbin (D-IL) and in the House by Representatives Mike Coffman (R-CO), Luis Gutierrez (D-IL), Carlos Curbelo (R-FL), Lucille Roybal-Allard (D-CA), Jeff Denham (R-CA), Zoe Lofgren (D-CA), Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-FL), and Judy Chu (D-CA). The legislation would protect undocumented young people brought to the U.S. as children, should the [Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals](#) (DACA) program be discontinued under the new Administration. If passed, the BRIDGE Act will provide temporary relief from deportation and employment authorizations to the more than 750,000 individuals who have received DACA status since the program's creation in 2012.



On January 31, AACN along with 46 other higher education associations [sent a letter](#) to the Secretary of Homeland Security, John F. Kelly, that provided insight from the academic perspective on President Trump's Executive Order *Protecting the Nation from Foreign Terrorist Entry into the United States*. The letter outlined our willingness to offer assistance in connection to international students, faculty, and scholars at U.S. institutions of higher education. Within AACN's membership, there are roughly 5,000 non-U.S. resident students. As the association's [strategic plan](#) outlines, AACN will work to maintain an equitable and inclusive workforce, ensuring access to quality education for all students and healthcare for all patients.



## AACN Sends Letter to Congressional Leadership on Health Reform Priorities

On January 27, AACN relayed to the House and Senate leadership and committees of jurisdiction academic nursing's priorities surrounding access, affordability, and quality in future reform measures. This letter marks the most recent of AACN's [communications](#) to the 115th Congress. Read the letter [here](#).



## President Trump's Executive Order on Regulations

On January 30, President Trump signed an [Executive Order](#) requiring that for every new federal regulation implemented, two standing regulations must be rescinded. The executive order calls for agencies to pinpoint two current regulations to be repealed upon proposing a new regulation. The goal of this executive order is to have a net incremental cost of no greater than zero, meaning that the new regulations costs should be offset by rescinding the two existing rules. While this Executive Order came as a means to cutting regulation for small businesses, its impact will affect all federal agencies in the rulemaking process.