

AACN's

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Your Inside Track to Federal Policy



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AACN Sends Letter to VA Secretary Shulkin



Last week, through a unanimous vote, the Senate confirmed David Shulkin, MD as Secretary of the United States Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). Secretary Shulkin was sworn into office on February 14, 2017. Acting quickly to engage with the new Secretary, AACN Board Chair Dr. Juliann Sebastian and President and Chief Executive Officer Dr. Deborah Trautman [sent a letter](#) of congratulations. Noted in the letter was AACN's interest in offering our expertise as they work to implement the recent ruling on advanced practice registered nurses' role in the VA and our joint interest in improving the lives of veterans and their families.

Discussions on Health Reform Continue in the House



Last week, Republican leadership in the House of Representatives released [Obamacare Repeal and Replace Policy Brief and Resources](#), a document which outlines the majority party's priorities for a repeal and replacement plan of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA, P.L. 111-148). It draws from Speaker of the House Paul Ryan's (R-WI) "[A Better Way](#)" plan, released on June 22, 2016. More specifically, this newly-released document includes recommendations to address modernizing Medicaid, utilizing State Innovation grants, enhancing Health Savings Accounts, and providing portable, monthly tax credits. It does not address other provisions of the ACA such as essential health benefits and allowing individuals to stay on their parents' insurance until age 26.

Implementation Memos on Immigration Could Impact DACA Recipients



In light of the [recent detainment](#) of a DACA recipient, the fate of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) has been a pressing policy priority for the higher education community. The Trump Administration has not taken action to support or reverse President Obama's Executive Order to date. Yesterday, the Administration issued [two immigration guidance memos](#) that could possibly impact DACA individuals depending on how they are implemented. While the guidelines do not specifically target DACA recipients, they do state that all "removable aliens" could be subject to immigration enforcement. Earlier this year, the Bar Removal of Individuals who Dream and Grow out Economy Act was introduced in Congress to provide legal protections for DACA recipients, which AACN supports. To learn more about this important piece of legislation, please read AACN's [Policy at a Glance](#).

Mark Your Calendar for AACN's Virtual Advocacy Day



On Monday, March 20, AACN member deans and students will be in Washington, D.C. for AACN's [Spring Annual Meeting](#) and [Student Policy Summit](#). They will be meeting with members of Congress and their staff to educate them on academic nursing's legislative priorities. AACN invites you to echo these efforts by responding to a virtual call-to-action that will be emailed to the Grassroots Network that morning, prompting you to send a message to your federal legislators. Visit AACN's [Take Action page](#) for more information about the association's grassroots advocacy and sign up to take part.