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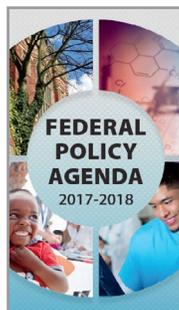
# WASHINGTON WEEKLY

Your Inside Track to Federal Policy



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## AACN's 2017-2018 Federal Policy Agenda Highlights Priorities to Congress and the Administration



AACN is pleased to unveil its [2017-2018 Federal Policy Agenda](#) as the association continues to engage with the 115th Congress and the Trump Administration. The new agenda encompasses four main priority areas for academic nursing in developing sound policies that advance health care and higher education. They include: Higher Education, Research, Workforce, and Models of Care. Each of these priorities incorporates principles put forth by AACN's [Government Affairs Committee](#) and [Health Policy Advisory Council](#), and approved by the [Board of Directors](#). This [new agenda](#) is founded on five core values that cut across all four priority areas to promote policies that are: interprofessional, sustainable, innovative, collaborative, and equitable and inclusive. AACN members will be taking this new agenda to Capitol Hill during our Spring Advocacy Day on Monday, March 20.

## House Releases American Health Care Act



On March 6, the House [Ways and Means](#) and [Energy and Commerce](#) committees released the [American Health Care Act](#) to repeal and replace segments of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) through the budget reconciliation process. Honing in on two areas of the ACA— Medicaid expansion and the mandates (individual and employer)—the proposal would **alter how families can spend their Health Savings Accounts, create a monthly tax credit, freeze new enrollment in Medicaid expansion, and grandfather in current enrollees**. The bill does protect certain ACA provisions, including the requirement that insurance plans **cover dependents up to age 26 and the ban on insurers denying coverage based on preexisting conditions**. Action was swift to start moving this legislation with both committees of jurisdiction holding markups this morning. During a [White House press briefing](#) yesterday, Secretary of HHS Tom Price stressed the need for access, affordability, incentivizing innovation, empowering patients, increasing choice, and decreasing cost. It is important to note that this is only the first stage in the process of health reform. AACN is working closely with our colleagues in the Nursing Community coalition and other stakeholders to thoroughly analyze the proposal and monitor its progress.

## Gainful Employment Rule Compliance Extension



The Department of Education is giving colleges four extra months to comply with the requirements under the Gainful Employment rule, extending its deadline to July 1, 2017. The rule targets career college programs, requiring these academic institutions to provide information on the student loan debt of their graduates relative to earnings after graduation. Programs that fail to comply with the requirements are subject to losing access to federal financial aid programs. [The extension](#) will allow academic institutions more time to submit the required disclosure documents and any alternative earnings appeals for the “debt-to-earnings” rates set by the Obama Administration. While this rule does not specifically impact the nursing profession, there are implications for academic institutions with nursing programs. Therefore, AACN staff has been monitoring this regulation since it was proposed as a rule in 2010.