

AACN's

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## AACN Celebrates National Nurses Week

National Nurses Week is celebrated annually from May 6–12, recognizing the contributions nurses make to improving health and healthcare. Advancing AACN's [Nursing Science Transforms campaign](#), AACN is celebrating this year by elevating nursing scientists, nursing research within federal agencies, and our research partners, including Research!America. On May 9 and May 11, the Nursing Community, in collaboration with the House and Senate Nursing Caucuses, is hosting a two-part [briefing series](#), *Transforming Health and Health Care: Nursing Workforce and Research*, on Capitol Hill. The briefings will feature experts who share their personal stories, helping to educate Congressional staff on the impact of nursing.



## Senate Hears Testimony on Telemedicine in the VA

On May 4, the Senate Committee on Appropriations, Subcommittee on Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies held a [hearing](#) titled *Telemedicine in the VA: Leveraging Technology to Increase Access, Improve Health Outcomes, and Lower Costs*. In his [testimony](#), Kevin Galpin, MD, Director of Telehealth Services at the Veterans Health Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), said telehealth technologies would allow nurses to monitor patients remotely, reducing complications and hospitalizations and lead to better long-term outcomes for patients. On behalf of the VA, Dr. Galpin requested that Congress pass legislation to remove barriers for health professionals practicing telemedicine across state borders.

On April 25, the [House](#) and [Senate](#) both introduced bills that authorize VA health professionals to practice telemedicine across state borders if they are qualified and practice within the scope of their authorized federal duties. The Senate's version of the bill includes Congressional oversight of the VA's telehealth program.



## Martha Carter Announced as New MACPAC Commissioner

Martha Carter, DHSc, MBA, APRN, CNM has been named as a new commissioner for the Medicaid and CHIP Payment and Access Commission (MACPAC) through 2020. Dr. Carter is the Chief Executive Officer of FamilyCare Health Centers in Scott Depot, West Virginia. FamilyCare is supported through federal and state funds and serves over 28,000 people in four counties. Having dedicated her career to serving low-income, uninsured, and underinsured families, Dr. Carter is an expert addition to MACPAC. Dr. Carter is a member of the American College of Nurse Midwives and a 2005 Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Executive Nurse Fellow. Dr. Carter received her Doctor of Health Sciences from A.T. Still University in Mesa, Arizona, and her Master of Business Administration from West Virginia University.