

AACN's

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### Congress to Vote on FY 2017 Omnibus Deal



On April 30, Congress reached a deal on a final Fiscal Year [\(FY\) 2017 Omnibus Appropriations](#) bill to fund the federal government through September 30, 2017. In total, the omnibus provides \$161 billion in discretionary funding for Labor, Health and Human Services and Education programs, which is \$934 million less than in the FY 2016. The omnibus includes \$150 million (an increase of \$3.8 million) for the National Institute of Nursing Research (NINR) and \$229 million (level funding with FY 2016) for the Title VIII Nursing Workforce Development Programs. AACN is encouraged to see additional investments in NINR and will continue to urge increased support for Title VIII programs in FY 2018. The association commends the additional funding for activities that address the opioid epidemic and the inclusion of year-round Pell grants for students who rely on these dollars to complete their education. The legislation must still pass both chambers and will need to be signed by President Trump. A vote is likely to be held this week. For more information, visit AACN's [Appropriations Advocacy](#) page and [funding chart](#) for additional programmatic funding levels.

### House Republicans to Revisit a Repeal Bill



House Republican leadership is considering moving forward with a revised legislative proposal to repeal and replace components of the Affordable Care Act (ACA, P.L. 111-148). Last month, Speaker of the House Paul Ryan (R-WI) opted to forgo putting the [American Health Care Act](#) to a vote after acknowledging that the GOP did not have the necessary number of votes to pass it. The new proposal includes the MacArthur-Meadows Amendment, which was drafted by Reps. Tom MacArthur (R-NJ) and Mark Meadows (R-NC). It would allow states to waive certain ACA provisions, including minimum coverage and protections for pre-existing conditions. The House will leave for a week-long recess on May 5. The Republican leadership is determining the level of support for this new proposal.

### HRSA Announces New Administrator Dr. George Sigounas



The agency tasked with bolstering the workforce for rural and underserved communities, the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), announced a new Administrator on May 1. Prior to joining HRSA, [Dr. Sigounas](#) was a Professor at East Carolina University's Brody School of Medicine where he developed a bone marrow transplantation program. He received his masters from Northeastern University, his PhD from Boston University, and had a Post-Doctoral Fellowship at the National Institutes of Health and Naval Medical Center. His research has focused on cancer initiating cells, stem cell microenvironment, and DNA damage. AACN looks forward to working with Dr. Sigounas as he begins his leadership at HRSA.