

WASHINGTON WEEKLY

Your Inside Track to Federal Policy



July 12, 2017

House Scheduled to Markup FY 2018 Spending Bill for Health and Education Programs

The House Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education (LHHS-ED) [Subcommittee](#) on Appropriations released a notice for a [scheduled markup](#) of their Fiscal Year (FY) 2018 bill on July 13. A series of other FY 2018 appropriations bills are slated to be marked up and/or put to a subcommittee vote this week, including those that fund agricultural and rural development, the Food and Drug Administration, energy and water development, and veterans affairs. For the past several years, the LHHS-ED bill has been one of the last—if not the last—of the 12 appropriations bills in either Congressional chamber to be advanced through the appropriations process (if at all due to the omnibus and continuing resolutions), due to the complexity of healthcare funding. AACN continues to urge appropriators to maintain and strengthen support for a multitude of programs that invest in our nation's nursing workforce, research development, care delivery, and higher education.



What can AACN Grassroots Members do? If your Representative sits on the House LHHS-ED Subcommittee or full Appropriations Committee, AACN will email you a call to action this week asking you to contact your Representative with a specific request based on the bill's proposed funding levels for AACN programs of interest. Please respond to this message and share it with colleagues in your district. Visit [AACN's Appropriations Advocacy](#) for more information.

The Administration Appoints New CDC Director, Dr. Brenda Fitzgerald

On July 7, Health and Human Services Secretary Tom Price appointed Brenda Fitzgerald, MD, to serve as Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Her predecessor, Tom Frieden, served as Director from 2009 to January 2017, at which time Ann Schuchat served as Acting Director in the interim before Dr. Fitzgerald's appointment. Complementing this role, Dr. Fitzgerald will serve as Administrator for the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry. Dr. Fitzgerald has been practicing medicine for thirty years as an obstetrician-gynecologist and has led the Georgia State Health Department as Commissioner for the past six years. She is known for overseeing prevention efforts for the Zika virus, as well as coordinating the state response to Ebola. Previously, she served as a healthcare policy advisor to former House Speaker Newt Gingrich and the late Senator Paul Coverdell. [Read more](#) about Dr. Fitzgerald.



Source: [dnh.georgia.gov](#)

AACN Attends Veterans Affairs NAAC Meeting

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) [National Academic Affiliations Council](#) (NAAC) [convenes July 12-13](#) in Washington, DC. AACN Members **Dr. Eileen Breslin, Dean and Professor of the School of Nursing at the University of Texas Health Science Center San Antonio, and Dr. Doreen Harper, Dean of the University of Alabama School of Nursing**, currently serve on the 14-member council of academic leaders across the country. NAAC advises the VA Secretary and the Under Secretary for Health on matters affecting the unique partnership between the VA and the nation's universities and health professional schools. On July 10, AACN submitted comments on behalf of the association and will offer oral comments concerning specific recommendations made by the NAAC during their [November 2016 meeting](#) as well as requesting continued expansion of current training programs, including a focus on supporting research and workforce diversity.



Source: [www.va.gov](#)