

AACN's

WASHINGTON WEEKLY

Your Inside Track to Federal Policy



August 2, 2017

Future of Health Care Reform Remains Uncertain

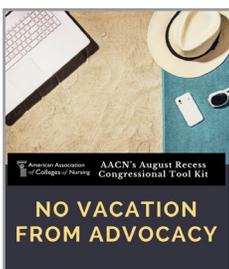
Following the Senate's three day-long [debate](#) on healthcare reform, which resulted in failure to pass a final [bill](#), the future of repealing, replacing, or fixing the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act remains uncertain. While Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) said "it is time to move on" in his floor speech after the amendment was defeated by a vote of 49-51 (with Senators John McCain (R-AZ), Lisa Murkowski (R-AK), and Susan Collins (R-ME) voting against it), President Trump is urging Republicans to continue their repeal efforts. On July 28, Senators Lindsey Graham (R-SC) and Bill Cassidy (R-LA) met with the President to discuss an [amendment](#) that would transfer federal dollars into block grants to states. Additionally, Senators Lamar Alexander (R-TN) and Patty Murray (D-WA) [announced](#) they are holding committee hearings on stabilizing the individual health insurance market the week of September 4. Bipartisanship on health reform is growing in the House as well. The [Problem Solvers Caucus](#), a bipartisan working group of 43 Representatives, unveiled a set of [solutions](#) meant to stabilize the health insurance market. AACN maintains that Congress "[Put Patients First](#)" in any future proposals, and will keep its membership apprised.



Credit: Vox Media

Stay Connected with your Legislators this Month!

AACN's [August Recess Tool Kit](#) is available for members and stakeholders to utilize while their Senators and Representatives return home this month until September 5. August is an opportune time to contact legislators and continue to advocate for nursing education, practice, research, and most importantly, America's patients. The tool kit includes valuable resources for meeting with federal policymakers, including AACN's Congressional requests and information about the legislative process. [Sign up](#) for the Grassroots Network and follow [@AACNPolicy](#) on Twitter to stay informed. View the complete tool kit [here](#).



AACN Supports DREAM Act in Letter to Senate

On July 20, Senators Lindsey Graham (R-SC) and Richard Durbin (D-IL) [introduced](#) the Development, Relief, and Education for Alien Minors (DREAM) Act of 2017 ([S. 1615](#)). This legislation would allow more than one million young people in the U.S. the opportunity to have access to a path toward citizenship based on certain criteria, including passing security checks, enrolling in college, joining the military, or finding a job. First introduced in 2001, the DREAM Act has held broad bipartisan support, but has yet to pass into law. AACN and other higher education colleagues, [supported](#) the Bar Removal of Individuals who Dream and Grow our Economy (BRIDGE) Act ([S. 128](#)), which was introduced to protect undocumented young people brought into the U.S. as children, should the [Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals \(DACA\)](#) be discontinued. To continue these efforts, AACN, along with other higher education associations, signed on to a [letter of support](#) for the DREAM Act, which was sent to Senate leadership acknowledging the need for permanent legislation to support these individuals.

