

AACN's

# WASHINGTON WEEKLY

Your Inside Track to Federal Policy



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## AACN Submits Comments on Medicare Red Tape Relief Project

On August 25, [AACN responded](#) to a request from the House Ways and Means Subcommittee on Health for solutions on how to reduce Medicare “Red Tape” through regulations and mandates to ultimately improve seniors’ health care. AACN delineated four barriers that inhibit efficiency in the Medicare system including, membership on Medicare Advisory Committees, accurate provider attestation, Accountable Care Organization assignment, and Medicare patient access to home health services. AACN articulated to the subcommittee that addressing these barriers would lower costs and improve the quality of care.

## Support the NIH! Join Rally for Medical Research National Day of Action

For the fourth year in a row, AACN is proudly sponsoring the [Rally for Medical Research](#) on September 14. Initiated by the American Association for Cancer Research, the rally brings hundreds of organizations together annually in support of the National Institutes of Health (NIH). Advocates will arrive on Capitol Hill to call upon Congress to increase NIH funding and support investment in scientific research, which is extremely important in this fiscal climate. The Hill Day comes just two weeks before Congress must pass the 2018 fiscal year spending package. You can raise awareness of NIH’s lifesaving research from home by participating in the National Day of Action. [Join the Thunderclap](#).

## NINR Director’s Lecture on Communication with Critically Ill Patients

On September 20, the National Institute of Nursing Research (NINR) will hold this year’s third Director’s Lecture. The NINR Director’s Lecture series is designed to bring the nation’s top nurse scientists to the NIH campus to share their work and interests with a transdisciplinary audience. Mary Beth Happ, PhD, RN, FAAN, FGSA, Nursing Distinguished Professor and a critical care researcher at The Ohio State University College of Nursing, will present from 1:30-2:30pm ET on the National Institutes of Health campus in Bethesda, Maryland. In her presentation, [“Giving Voice to the Voiceless: Improving Communication with Critically Ill Patients,”](#) Dr. Happ will describe her program of research, which addresses family bedside presence during critical illness, end-of-life care and treatment decision making in the ICU, and patient and family outcomes in acute-critical illness. This event is free, open to the public, and will be available on [YouTube](#) a few weeks following the lecture. Read more information about the event and speaker [here](#).

## Join the Twitter Storm to Support Nursing and Health Professions Education Funding!

The Senate Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Appropriations Subcommittee and Full Appropriations Committee are rumored to be marking up their Fiscal Year 2018 bill the week of September 4 when they return from August Recess. The Health Professions and Nursing Education Coalition, comprised of health professions education associations, of which AACN is a member, is hosting a Twitter Storm on Tuesday, September 5, from 11:00am-1:00pm ET urging Senate appropriators to protect funding for the Title VII Health Professions and Title VIII Nursing Workforce Development programs. This interprofessional advocacy effort underscores the critical need to ensure these programs continue to thrive. AACN Grassroots Network members are encouraged to participate through these two easy steps:

1. Check to see if your Senator(s) sits on the [Appropriations Committee](#).
2. Look up their [Twitter handle](#) to Tweet them the following message: *#Titles7&8 funding supports the future healthcare workforce and America’s patients. Maintain strong funding in FY 2018.*