

AACN's

WASHINGTON WEEKLY

Your Inside Track to Federal Policy



January 24, 2018

Countdown Reset as Short-Term CR Reopens Government through Feb. 8



On January 22, following a three-day shutdown, Congress voted to pass a fourth Fiscal Year (FY) 2018 [Continuing Resolution \(CR\)](#) to fund the federal government through February 8. Through this measure, the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) is reauthorized for another six years. AACN commends the bipartisan Congressional action to extend funding for CHIP to restore affordable, accessible health care to nine million low-income children. However, other pressing issues that were not addressed in the CR include a solution for the "DREAMers" (including individuals with Deferred Action for Childhood Arrival, or "DACA" status) and the reauthorization of certain public health programs such as the National Health Service Corps (NHSC). Now, Congress and the Administration are yet again on the clock to address these issues. AACN continues to urge Congress to work towards a final FY 2018 bipartisan deal, as well as find a permanent solution to DACA and extend funding for the NHSC.

RAISE Family Caregivers Act Signed Into Law



The President signed the Recognize, Assist, Include, Support, and Engage (RAISE) Family Caregivers Act of 2017 ([H.R. 3759/S. 1028](#)) into law on January 23. This allows the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services to convene a Family Caregiving Advisory Council, which in consultation with the Secretary and other federal offices, is to develop a Family Caregiving Strategy to identify actions that the government, communities, providers, and employers may take to recognize and support caregivers in a manner that reflects their diverse needs. The legislation, first introduced on May 3, 2017 by Senator Susan Collins (R-ME), was introduced in the House last September by Representative Gregg Harper (R-MS) and Kathy Castor (D-FL) and presented to the President on January 10, 2018.

AACN [supported](#) the RAISE Family Caregivers Act while in Congress and will work with the Administration to see the full implementation of this law, specifically around nominations to the Advisory Council. Family caregivers are instrumental members of a patient's healthcare team, and nurses often collaborate with them to provide education and coordinate a plan of care. Family caregiving is a holistic approach to ensure both the patient's and family's needs are met.

Are You a Graduate Nursing Student? Attend the GNSA Conference!

Master's and Doctoral nursing students interested in attending the national Graduate Nursing School Academy (GNSA) Conference now have until January 31 to register at the early-bird rate of \$149. [Seizing the Opportunity to Lead and Shape the Future of Health Care](#) is the first of its kind, featuring sessions on publishing, mentoring, nursing innovation, transition to careers in education, practice, and leadership, as well as health policy and advocacy. Don't miss this opportunity to meet with national experts, grow your professional network, and expand your career horizons. Students are encouraged to check with their faculty advisors and/or deans to see if funding to attend this conference is available. The conference will be held February 22-24 at the Atlanta Marriott Marquis in Atlanta, Georgia. Registration information can be found [here](#).

