

AACN's

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Your Inside Track to Federal Policy



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President Trump's First SOTU Addresses Opioid Crisis in Healthcare Agenda



President Trump delivered his first formal [State of the Union address](#) on January 30 before a joint session of Congress. In his [speech](#), the President set his healthcare priorities: lowering drug prices, combatting the opioid crisis, and expanding “right-to-try laws.” Although addiction treatment was not a major talking point, the President emphasized the need for tougher actions on illegal suppliers. He also acknowledged his invited guests Ryan Holets, a police officer from New Mexico, and his wife, who adopted a baby from a pregnant homeless mother struggling with opioid addiction.

In response to the speech, the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Alex Azar made a [statement](#) commending the President on the economy and his leadership in addressing the opioid crisis, “bringing a new level of awareness and commitment to this cause.” During 2017, HHS took several actions to battle the opioid crisis, including declaring a nationwide Public Health Emergency, disbursing more than \$800 million in grants, and releasing a comprehensive strategy encompassing treatment, prevention, and recovery services. The President has not yet requested new funding from Congress to aid states in their response. AACN remains committed to educating future nurses on how to provide quality care for patients suffering from substance use disorders.

In regard to immigration reform, the President remained staunch on his priorities for strengthening border security and ending chain migration. Meanwhile, the fate of 1.8 million “Dreamers” and those undocumented immigrants who would otherwise qualify for the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program remains unclear.

Is your Member of Congress Supporting the Title VIII Nursing Workforce Reauthorization Act?



The Title VIII Nursing Workforce Reauthorization Act of 2017 ([H.R.959/S.1109](#)), introduced by Representative David Joyce (R-OH) and by Senator Jeff Merkley (D-OR) respectively, has 64 Representatives and 10 Senators cosponsors. The legislation would reauthorize Nursing Workforce Development programs through FY 2022, bolstering the pipeline of nurses needed to meet future healthcare needs, and makes technical changes to modernize the programs.

Are your Members of Congress cosponsors? Check the list of cosponsors in the [House](#) and the [Senate](#). If you do not see your Members' names, [please take action now](#) to request their support of nursing education programs! For more on the impact Title VIII has had across the nation, see [AACN's fact sheet](#) and [story map](#).

Submit your Abstract for the 2018 Healthy Aging Summit



There is still time to [submit an abstract](#) for the [2018 Healthy Aging Summit](#), which will be held July 16-17 in Washington, DC. The Office of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion and the Office of Women's Health within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, together with the American College of Preventative Medicine request submissions that explore science in healthy aging, identify knowledge gaps, promote prevention, and support people aging in place and in their community. The deadline for [submitting abstracts online](#) is February 5. More details on the submission process, presentation options, and evaluation criteria can be found [here](#).