

AACN's WASHINGTON WEEKLY

Your Inside Track to Federal Policy

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Student Policy Summit 2019 Registration Opens Next Week

Registration for the [2019 AACN Student Policy Summit](#) (March 24-26) will open on October 22 at 12pm EST. The three-day summit, located in Washington, DC, is open to 200 baccalaureate and graduate nursing students enrolled in AACN member institutions. The summit provides an opportunity for students to immerse themselves in professional advocacy and learn, first-hand, the role of nursing in the broader policy realm. Up to two students per institution may attend. Please note that registration will be first come, first served and cannot be reserved in advance. For more information, visit the [Student Policy Summit's website](#). Sponsorship opportunities are available [here](#). We look forward to seeing you in March!



GAO Provides Recommendations to Improve Information on PSLF Program

In September, the Government Accountability Office (GAO) released a [report](#) on the Public Service Loan Forgiveness (PSLF) program. This report concluded that the Department of Education does not provide key information to PSLF servicer and borrowers. Established in 2007, PSLF forgives borrowers' federal student loans after they make at least 10 years of qualified payments while working for certain public service employers and meeting other requirements. Over a million borrowers have requested to certify their eligibility for PSLF. Due to the low number of borrowers that have had their loans forgiven as of April 2018, the GAO recommends that the Department of Education develop comprehensive and consistent information for the PSLF servicer and borrowers to ease confusion regarding the program. Learn more about the PSLF guidelines [here](#).



Dr. Buerhaus' Presents Report on NPs as Solution to Primary Care Crisis

On October 15, Peter Buerhaus, PhD, RN, FAAN, healthcare economist and professor of nursing at Montana State University, presented his report, "[Nurse Practitioners: A Solution to America's Primary Care Crisis](#)," at the American Enterprise Institute in Washington, DC. Dr. Buerhaus summarized his research on the nursing and physician workforces in the United States, concluding that the supply of primary care physicians will not meet increasing demands for healthcare services, particularly for the vulnerable populations in rural areas. Dr. Buerhaus' report recommends removing state-regulated scope of practice restrictions which limit the ability of nurse practitioners to practice to the full extent of their education and training to help alleviate shortages and improve access to affordable primary care.

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