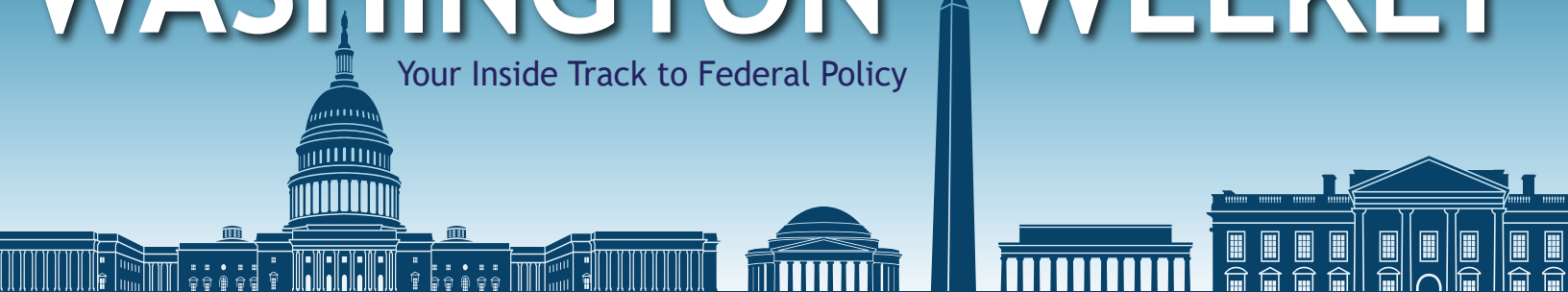


AACN's

WASHINGTON WEEKLY

Your Inside Track to Federal Policy



October 3, 2018

Finalized Opioids Package Awaits President's Signature

The Senate passed the finalized comprehensive [opioid package](#) today by a vote of 98-1, which includes a provision that would permanently authorize NPs and PAs to prescribe Medication-Assisted Treatments (MATs) and provide a five-year authorization for the other three APRN roles to prescribe MATs. The legislative package also includes student loan repayment for the substance use disorder workforce in areas of national need. The House passed the conferenced opioid package by a vote of 393-8.

U.S. Surgeon General Calls for Nursing Voices in Public Health, Requests Comments

On October 1, the U.S. Surgeon General, VADM Jerome Adams, MD, MPH, spoke at The George Washington University School of Nursing on the importance of destigmatizing opioid use disorder and encouraged nurses and nursing students to continue their advocacy on these vital public health issues. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention issued a [call for comments](#) on the upcoming Surgeon General's Call to Action, "[Community Health and Prosperity](#)." The recommendations focus on how investing in communities can improve health and well-being for its residents, including ways to combat the opioid crisis. Written comments must be submitted before November 5. **Please submit any feedback to help inform AACN's comments to Dr. Colleen Leners, Director of Policy, at cleners@aacnnursing.org by October 15.**

Fiscal Year 2019 LHHS-ED/Defense Appropriations Signed into Law

On September 28, President Trump signed the Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education (LHHS-ED) and Defense Fiscal Year (FY) 2019 "minibus" ([H.R. 6157](#)) into law. This [FY 2019](#) spending package provides level funding, \$249.472 million, for the Title VIII Nursing Workforce Development Programs and \$162.992 million for the National Institute of Nursing Research (a \$4.989 million or 3.16% increase from FY 2018).

AACN's Policy Update: Advancing the Nursing Profession

AACN continues its efforts in advancing critical policy issues that impact nursing education, practice, and research. Recent events within the Administration include:

- September 25-26: AACN attended the second meeting of the [Pain Management Best Practices Inter-Agency Task Force](#). AACN submitted [comments](#) following the inaugural meeting of the Task Force and continues to monitor their recommendations, which are expected to be released in the next 90 days.
- September 26: AACN attended and sponsored the [Friends of VA Medical Care and Health Research \(FOVA\) Coalition](#) reception celebrating 30 years of the Department of Veterans research. AACN supports the Veterans Health Administration in implementing [full practice authority](#) to its APRNs in all VA healthcare facilities.
- September 26-27: AACN attended the [National Advisory Council on Nurse Education and Practice \(NACNEP\)](#) meeting on nursing's leadership role in the transition of the healthcare system to value-based care. AACN supports NACNEP in the development of their 15th report.

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