

# AACN's WASHINGTON WEEKLY

Your Inside Track to Federal Policy

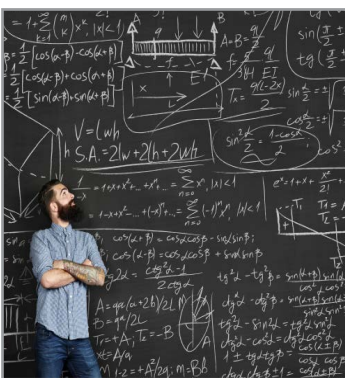
November 28, 2018



## Deadline to Reauthorize Title VIII Programs this Congress Approaches

With about a month remaining in the 115th Congress, there is limited opportunity to pass the Title VIII Nursing Workforce Reauthorization Act this year. Following the passage of Title VIII Reauthorization in the House in July, AACN has been working tirelessly to advocate for the Senate to take up their version of the bill. On November 27, AACN sent a targeted message to members of the Grassroots Network who have Senators on the Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP) Committee. The Title VIII bill is currently pending before the HELP Committee, and we need you to ask your Senators to immediately take up and pass the reauthorization bill.

Even if you have not received a personalized email, your voice is still vital. Your Senators need to hear from you. Let your Senator know [how essential](#) Title VIII Nursing Workforce Development programs are to you, your school, your students, the nursing profession, our patients, and our communities. It is especially important that our deans in Tennessee and North Carolina reach out to HELP Committee Chairman Lamar Alexander (R-TN) and Senator Richard Burr (R-NC)—a lead sponsor of this bill—and urge them to push the legislation across the finish line. [Please reach out to your Senators TODAY!](#)



## Information Collection Request: Healthcare Workforce Data

If you or your school is an awardee of a Bureau of Health Workforce (BHW) health professions grant, including Title VIII Nursing Workforce Development programs, you can submit public comments on the BHW's Information Collection Request. Currently, awardees submit annual evaluation reports allowing the BHW to show outcomes associated with the health professions programs. The revisions would include the collection of data on training in telehealth, substance use treatment, and/or medication-assisted treatment. The data helps to inform policymakers on the barriers facing the healthcare workforce and focus on key outcomes, including increasing the workforce supply of well-educated practitioners in needed professions. For more details about the information request, [click here](#).



## CMS Policy Proposal to Bring Down Drug Costs

On November 26, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) [announced](#) proposed changes to Medicare Advantage, or Part C, and Part D programs, which ultimately lowers drug costs for patients. Using new negotiation tools to drive down costs of prescription-drug prices and out-of-pocket costs was one of the strategies laid out in the President's drug-pricing blueprint [unveiled](#) earlier this year. CMS is requesting comments on these proposals and other related policies under consideration. The [proposed rule](#) is scheduled to be published in the Federal Register on November 30.