



## U.S. Cadet Nurse Corps Service Recognition Act Introduced in the Senate

On December 6, Senator Elizabeth Warren (D-MA), along with Senators Susan Collins (R-ME), Angus King (I-ME), Steve Daines (R-MT), Christopher Murphy (D-CT), Edward Markey (D-MA), and Robert Menendez (D-NJ), introduced the **United States Cadet Nurse Corps Service Recognition Act (S. 3729)**. This legislation comes as we mark the 75th Anniversary of the U.S. Cadet Nurse Corps and recognize the nearly 120,000 nurses who honorably served during World War II. S. 3729 offers these servicewomen veteran burial benefits, honorable discharges, and permits the Secretary of Defense to award service medals for honorably discharged Cadet Nurses. AACN has supported this legislation and continues to work with the Nursing Community Coalition along with the [Friends of the U.S. Cadet Nurse Corps](#) to ensure passage and recognition of those who served in the U.S. Cadet Nurse Corps.



## MedPAC Proposed Recommendations on Provider Attestation for APRNs

The Medicare Payment Advisory Commission (MedPAC) proposed two policy options as potential recommendations to Congress regarding Medicare payment policies for APRNs and PAs. MedPAC's first policy recommends that Congress should require APRNs and PAs to bill "directly" and eliminate "incident to" billing. Under "incident to" billing, the provider bills using the physician's identification number at 100% of fee schedule amount, as opposed to "direct" billing, where the provider uses their own identification number and bills at a lower rate. The second proposed policy recommends that the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services should redefine Medicare's specialty designations for APRNs and PAs.

MedPAC is scheduled to vote on final recommendations at their January 2019 meeting. These proposed policies align with AACN's support of accurate provider attestation which ensures that all practitioners who bill under their unique identification number, or National Provider Identifier (NPI), are properly acknowledged for services they provide.



## U.S. Surgeon General Emphasizes Opioid Misuse Prevention and Pain Management

On December 7, Dr. Jerome Adams, U.S. Surgeon General, discussed the opioid crisis facing our nation. He highlighted the risk of substances, such as fentanyl, and how this epidemic is a "once in a generation type of problem" that affects all geographies, socio-economic levels, and ages. Dr. Adams also released the [Opioid Misuse Prevention digital postcard](#), which emphasizes the importance of educating others on pain treatments and understanding addiction. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) 2018 Annual Surveillance Report of Drug-Related Risks and Outcomes reports that 17,000 deaths related to prescription overdose have occurred in 2016. Read the full [CDC report](#).