

AACN's

WASHINGTON WEEKLY

Your Inside Track to Federal Policy



February 28, 2018



Honoring Black History Month: Spotlight on Nurses in Policy

AACN honors Lawrence C. Washington, MSN, RN, whose dedication to service and health care shaped endless opportunities for African Americans in the field of nursing. Mr. Washington was the first male Army Nurse Corps officer to acquire a commission in the United States Army and the first African-American male Army Nurse Corps officer to receive the rank of Colonel. In addition to serving his country, Mr. Washington's dedication to academia has elevated the education of several generations of nursing students. He served in faculty appointments for multiple institutions, including the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio, Washington Adventist University, Howard University, the Louisiana State University, and George Mason University. He received a Diploma in Nursing from the Freedmen's Hospital School of Nursing, a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from the University of Maryland in

Baltimore, and a Master of Science in Nursing from The Catholic University of America. Mr. Washington's influence continues to be prominent to his students, mentees, and the nursing profession.

Supreme Court Decision Protects Current DACA Recipients

On February 26, the Supreme Court [denied](#) the Trump Administration's request to review a California federal judge's ruling that blocked the termination of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program. In addition to this case, a federal judge in New York issued a decision on February 13 that imposed a nationwide injunction requiring the Administration to resume DACA renewals. The Supreme Court's decision effectively puts the March 5 expiration date—set by the Administration last September when it announced the rescission of the program—on hold. It also diminished pressure on Congress to reach an immigration deal by the deadline, although legislators have floated the idea of adding a temporary extension of DACA to the omnibus spending package for Fiscal Year 2018. While the case works its way through the legal system, and until Congress acts, current DACA recipients will be able to [continue to renew](#) their DACA protections. At this time, however, the government is not required to allow new DACA registrations.

White House to Hold Opioid Summit

The White House is expected to hold a three-hour opioids summit on March 1 focused on Congressional action, education, prevention, and treatment. Top Administration officials are slated to discuss steps taken to address the opioid crisis, including Department of Health and Human Services Secretary Alex Azar, Attorney General Jeff Sessions, Department of Homeland Security Secretary Kirstjen Nielsen, and Housing and Urban Development Secretary Ben Carson. The summit follows several committee hearings in the House and Senate intending to reach bipartisan legislation to combat the opioid crisis. AACN [supports](#) the \$10 billion proposed in the [President's Budget for Fiscal Year 2019](#) to address the opioid crisis and pledges to work with Congress to restore funding for nursing workforce, research, and education programs in FY 2019 and beyond. Additionally, AACN supported the Addiction Treatment Access Improvement Act of 2018 ([H.R.3759/S.1028](#)) to allow all advanced practice registered nurses the ability to practice medication-assisted treatment for opioid use disorders.