**AACN Supports Gun Violence Research Act**

On March 7, AACN sent a letter in support of the Gun Violence Research Act (H.R.1478), introduced by Rep. Stephanie Murphy (D-FL), which would amend the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2016 to eliminate restrictions on the Department of Health and Human Services from using federal funds to promote research on gun violence injuries and fatalities. AACN is supporting H.R. 1478 given its emphasis on promoting the science behind this public health threat, especially in light of recent occurrences of gun violence in schools and campuses. Nurses are integral to both researching this issue and caring for victims of gun violence, and their ability to do so is inextricably linked to the evidence behind gun violence. AACN also signed onto a letter with its health professions colleagues urging for federal funding and public health surveillance on firearm-related injuries following the mass shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, FL.

Rep. Stephanie Murphy

**HHS Secretary Outlines Department's Priorities**

Secretary Alex Azar recently outlined the top four priorities for the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) encompassed in an initiative Value-Based Transformation of America's Healthcare System. He emphasized that value-based transformation will decrease costs and increase the quality of our nation's healthcare system. The priorities outlined are:

- Utilize health information technology in order to equip patients with their data so that they are able to manage their healthcare information.
- Promote transparency regarding the cost and the quality of healthcare services. This would allow a market-driven consumer approach to health care.
- Use HHS's ability to leverage $1 trillion in Medicare and Medicaid funding to pay for value-based health care and flexibility for new payment models to drive innovation.
- Reduce government burdens through regulatory reform that allows integrated, collaborative, and holistic care for the patient.

Secretary Alex Azar

**Advance Workforce Data to Drive Better Policy: 2018 National Sample Survey of Registered Nurses**

AACN supports the dedication of the Health Resources and Service Administration to provide transparent and comprehensive data to policymakers, academics, and professionals. The 2018 National Sample Survey of Registered Nurses will be sent to over 100,000 sampled registered nurses in March and can be completed electronically or through a paper questionnaire. The data collected will be used to create descriptions of the registered nurse population at the state and national level, which will provide lawmakers critical information essential in identifying nursing workforce trends. Should you receive this survey, please take the time to complete it. For more information, click here.

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