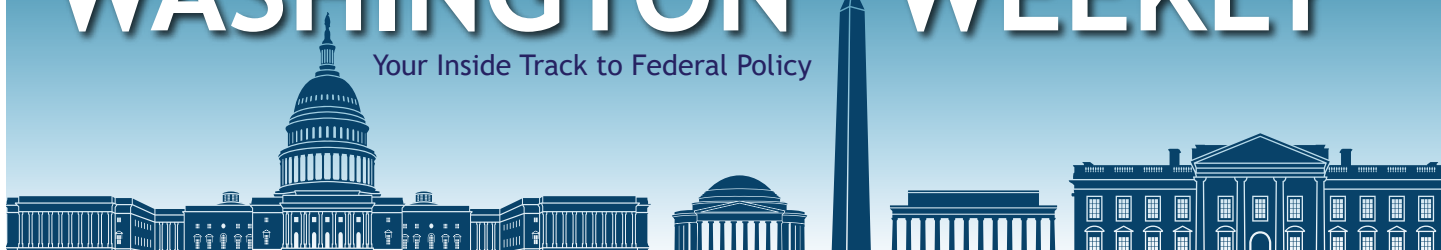


AACN's

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Your Inside Track to Federal Policy



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Mark Your Calendars: AACN's Spring Advocacy Day is March 26!



The 2018 Deans Annual Meeting and Student Policy Summit in Washington, DC will bring together AACN members who will meet with Congressional offices on Monday, March 26. Advocates in [AACN's Grassroots Network](#) are also encouraged to take action online by sending messages to both chambers of Congress reiterating requests advocates are voicing on Capitol Hill. We are set to exceed last year's successful Spring Advocacy Day, when nearly 300 AACN members met with 130 Congressional offices, and the Grassroots Network sent over 700 messages urging Congress to support health priorities. If you are attending AACN's Capitol Hill visits, make sure to view the March 8 webinar, "Capitol Hill Visits: What Deans and Students Need to Know for March 26." The webinar focuses on logistics and top advocacy issues and is open to all AACN Members. [Click here to register](#). Follow @AACNPolicy on Twitter and use Spring Advocacy Day's hashtags #AACNAdvocate and #StudentPolicySummit18!

Dr. Alexis Bakos to Deliver Keynote Speech at AACN's 2018 Student Policy Summit



[Alexis D. Bakos](#), PhD, MPH, RN, will serve as the keynote speaker to kick off [AACN's 2018 Student Policy Summit](#) on March 25. Dr. Bakos serves as the Senior Advisor to the Deputy Assistant Secretary in the Office of Minority Health at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. In this capacity, she provides advice on programmatic, legislative, research, and public affairs matters aimed at improving the health of minority populations and eliminating racial and ethnic disparities in health and health care. She also serves as Acting Director of the Division of Policy and Data within the Office of Minority Health. Her session, "Transforming a Culture of Health Equity: Putting Policy into Action," will give the attendees first-hand insight into her dynamic and inspirational leadership.

Expanded CARA Bill Includes APRNs in Solution to Opioid Crisis



The Senate recently announced a bill to reauthorize and expand the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act (CARA), originally passed into law in July 2016. Known as "CARA 2.0 Act of 2018," this expanded iteration of CARA is a bipartisan effort that seeks to address identified gaps in the original legislation. This bill would authorize \$1 billion in dedicated resources to counter the national opioid epidemic. Supported activities would include a national education campaign, evidence-based prevention, legal enforcement, treatment, and recovery programs, with special emphasis on including pregnant women, infants, children, and veterans. This legislation would also make permanent Section 303 of CARA, which permits nurse practitioners and physician assistants to prescribe buprenorphine as part of Medication Assisted Treatment and clarifies the definition of provider to include all four roles of advanced practice registered nurses in the definition of qualified providers. Both the House and Senate continue to critically examine the opioid epidemic through legislation, hearings, and working with public stakeholders. AACN recently [submitted comments](#) to the House Ways and Means Committee in response to a hearing titled, Removing Barriers to Prevent and Treat Opioid Abuse and Dependence in Medicare, and has [supported legislation](#) to amplify AACN roles in the crisis.