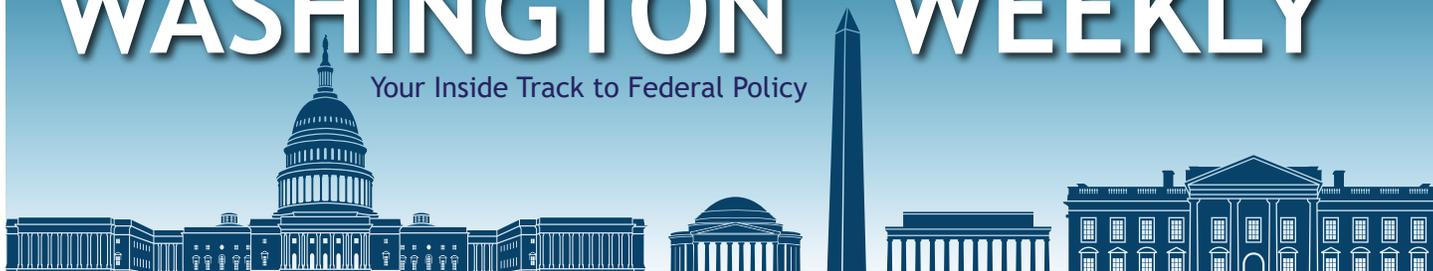


AACN's

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Your Inside Track to Federal Policy



April 11, 2018



AACN Urges Inclusion of all APRNs in Response to Opioid Draft Legislation

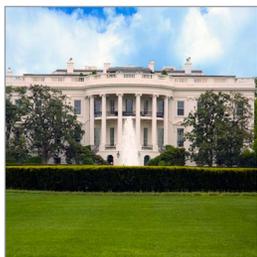
On April 11, AACN [submitted comments](#) on the bipartisan draft legislation, *The Opioid Crisis Response Act of 2018*, proposed by the Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions (HELP) Committee last week. A provision in the draft legislation would permanently allow nurse practitioners and physician assistants to prescribe Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT), which combines medication and behavioral therapy to treat individuals struggling with drug misuse and addiction.

In the comments to HELP Committee Chairman Lamar Alexander (R-TN), AACN addressed the need to incorporate all Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRNs) – nurse practitioners (NPs), certified nurse-midwives (CNMs), certified registered nurse anesthetists (CRNAs), and clinical nurse specialists (CNSs) – in the solution to ensure optimal plans of care for individuals and families. In its letter, AACN reiterates support for the Addiction Treatment Access Improvement Act and provisions in the CARA 2.0 Act of 2018, which expand upon the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery (CARA) Act to allow all four APRN roles to use their clinical training and expertise to provide care to treat opioid addictions in relation to MAT. In addition, AACN voiced its appreciation for investments in the opioid epidemic made by Congress amidst a fiscally constraining climate.

Following a series of hearings on the opioid epidemic, the HELP committee [held a hearing](#) today, focusing on the discussion draft. Committee leadership called for a bipartisan response from the federal government to diagnose, treat, and prevent opioid abuse by giving federal agencies more flexibility in developing non-addictive treatment options, offering mental health services, supporting behavioral health loan repayment for practitioners in underserved areas, and authorizing grants to address provider shortages.

White House Considers Rollback of FY 2018 Federal Spending

President Trump and White House officials are working to propose a procedural move, known as a presidential rescission, to allow cuts to federal spending appropriated in the Fiscal Year 2018 omnibus that passed on March 23. The \$1.3 trillion spending package was no easy feat to accomplish after a series of continuing resolutions and bipartisan negotiations. The rescission would have to overcome other procedural and political hurdles, as Congress is coming up on midterm elections. It is not clear which federal programs would be targeted to receive cuts, however, destabilizing the omnibus has many lawmakers and stakeholder groups urging Congress to resist.



NONPF Recognizes an AACN FPI Fellow for Outstanding Policy Leadership

AACN congratulates [Suzanne Staebler](#), DNP, FAANP, Associate Clinical Professor in the Nell Hodgson Woodruff School of Nursing at Emory University, on receiving the 2018 Outstanding Policy Leader Award from the National Organization of Nurse Practitioner Faculties (NONPF). Dr. Staebler, an AACN 2015 Faculty Policy Intensive (FPI) fellow, is a pioneer in neonatology through her leadership guiding policy development and implementation at both nursing and advanced practice levels. NONPF's annual award recognizes Dr. Staebler for her contributions to the advancement of nurse practitioner role and will be presented during the [NONPF 44th Annual Conference](#) in Indianapolis, Indiana.

